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Rain Likely Across J&K From Oct 13 To 15

Farmers Advised To Stor Harvested Crops Safely

Snowfall Possible Over Higher Reaches



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience light to moderate rainfall, thunderstorms and gusty winds at many places from October 13 to 15, with light snowfall expected over higher reaches, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said on Monday.

The Meteorological Department said generally cloudy weather with light rain at isolated places was expected on Monday, while higher reaches may receive light snowfall.

It has forecast generally dry weather with a brief spell of

light rain at isolated places on October 16, followed by dry conditions from October 17 to 24.

In an advisory, the department urged farmers to ensure the safe storage of harvested apples, paddy and other crops during October 13-15 in view of the possibility of rainfall and gusty winds.

The department also warned of light snowfall over important mountain passes and roads during the forecast period. Travellers, transporters and the general public were advised to plan their journeys accordingly and follow traffic advisories.

People, | [More on P6](#)

Delhi Rewrites Its Protest Map, Drops Jantar Mantar

3 New Venues Designated; Opposition Calls Move A Crackdown On Dissent

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Delhi Police has de-notified Jantar Mantar as a designated site for protests and demonstrations, naming Ramliila Maidan, Burari Ground and CBD Ground in east Delhi as the new venues for public gatherings, according to an official order.

Delhi Police Commissioner Anurag Kumar issued the standing order on October 11, stating that the decision had been taken on the recommendations of a committee constituted by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to examine alternative venues for citizens to organise protests and demonstrations.

The move has drawn criticism from the Congress and the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), whose leaders have



questioned the decision to remove Jantar Mantar from the list of designated protest sites and alleged that it undermines the right to peaceful assembly.

The decision comes amid heightened security arrangements in the national capital

The Rise & Receding of Jantar Mantar

For decades, citizens from across the country have reached the capital to exercise their right to dissent. Delhi offered them several addresses; among them was Jantar Mantar, a stretch of road that became synonymous with protests that often changed the course of governance and policy.

Now, after decades of serving as one of India's best-known locations for voicing dissent, the site seems to have been relieved of its role as a designated protest venue. In a standing order issued on October 11, Delhi Police Commissioner Anurag Kumar de-notified Jantar Mantar Road as a designated | [More on P6](#)

Oppn Marches To SC, Files Plea Over 'Irregularities'

The raging protests over "vote chori" charge reached the Supreme Court's doorstep on Monday as opposition stalwarts, joined by activists and civil society members, undertook a "March for Democracy" on a heavily barricaded route and filed a joint petition against SIR and alleged poll irregularities, in a major show of strength in the national capital. | [More on P6](#)

J&K's Mountain Policy Must Be Grounded In Reality: CM

Calls for actionable recommendations, sustainable tourism & climate-resilient infrastructure

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday called for a practical and actionable mountain development policy for Jammu and Kashmir, stressing that environmental protection, economic growth and people's livelihoods must go hand in hand.

Addressing the 13th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Shalimar, the Chief Minister said recommendations emerging from the deliberations must reflect the ground realities of the region rather than remain confined to academic discussions.



The three-day summit, jointly organised by SKUAST-Kashmir and the Integrated Mountain Initiative, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC), is being held under the J&K Agriculture Science Congress-2026. Its theme focuses on sustainable

Blast Near LoC In Poonch Triggers Security Alert

Four PoJK Residents Killed; Around A Dozen Landmines Defused In Mendhar In A Week

Observer News Service

Jammu: At least four residents of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) were killed in a suspected improvised explosive device (IED) blast near the Line of Control (LoC), adjacent to the Krishna Ghati sector of Poonch district, on Monday, officials said.

The explosion reportedly occurred in the Satwal-Naki area of Hajira tehsil in PoJK when a group of people was laying water pipes along the Pakistan side of the LoC, according to preliminary information received by officials from across the border.

The deceased were identified as Faizan Sagheer, Ishtiaq, Waqas Sharief and Asim Rafiq, all residents of Battal Mandhol village in PoJK. The four were reportedly cousins.



Officials said the circumstances leading to the explosion were yet to be established, although preliminary inputs suggested that an IED might have triggered the blast.

The involvement of any of the deceased in terror-related activities was not immediately known, officials added.

Following the explosion, security forces sounded an alert across the | [More on P6](#)

Protect Children From Drugs: DGP Urges Collective Action

Agencies

Srinagar: Calling children the future of the nation, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Monday urged society to unite against drug abuse as he flagged off a joint J&K-Ladakh Police motorcycle rally from Srinagar to Gujarat for Rashtriya Ekta Diwas.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the function, Prabhat, said the anti-drug campaign was gaining momentum in Jammu and Kashmir under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

"These small children are the future of our country," he said, stressing that protecting



the younger generation from drug abuse was a collective responsibility.

Referring to recent action against drug trafficking in Srinagar, the DGP said significant progress had been made, with several arrests during the crackdown.

"This is a | [More on P6](#)

HC Sets Aside Order To File FIR Against Police Personnel

Agencies

Srinagar: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has set aside a Magistrate's order directing registration of an FIR against police personnel in two complaints alleging an attempt to kill a man and his family by setting their premises ablaze, holding that the order failed to demonstrate the judicial application of mind required before directing a police investigation.

Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, while deciding two connected petitions filed by Rohit Sharma and others and Khalid Ashraf and others, observed that the Magistrate's order did not discuss the allegations, refer to any prima facie material or explain why a police investigation was necessary, | [More on P6](#)

J&K FDA: Misleading Food Claims May Cost ₹10 Lakh

Food Firms Told To Review Labels, Packaging And Advertisements

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has cautioned food business operators against the misleading use of terms such as "natural", "pure", "fresh" and "authentic" on product labels, packaging and advertisements, warning that violations could attract penalties of up to Rs 10 lakh.

In an advisory issued by the Drugs and Food Control Organization, J&K, the Commissioner, Food and Drugs Administration, has directed manufacturers, importers, marketers,

distributors and advertisers to strictly comply with the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018.

The advisory states that all claims made on food labels, packaging, advertisements, websites, social media platforms and other promotional material must be truthful, clear, meaningful, scientifically substantiated and not misleading.

It also requires nutrition, health and disease-risk reduction claims to comply with prescribed regulatory conditions and be supported by adequate scientific evidence.

Particular | [More on P6](#)

'Why Not Cap Prices Of All Medicines?' SC Asks Centre

Questions Drug Markups, Seeks Pricing Plan By Oct 27

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday said the Centre's response on capping the trade margin of anti-cancer drugs at 30 per cent of the maximum retail price (MRP) is "hardly anything to be happy about" and questioned why the government cannot cap trade margins of other medicines.

The Centre, which has earlier come under severe criticism from the top court for steep markup of cancer drugs by hospitals, said that the government has taken an important decision to cap the trade margin on anti-cancer



drugs at 30 per cent of the MRP, which is expected to result in annual savings of approximately Rs 2,500 crore to patients.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said

that the Centre's response was insufficient and flagged that a single saline drip was sold in market for Rs 270 while its actual cost was Rs 11.

"There is hardly anything to be happy | [More on P6](#)

Mamta Yadav Takes Charge As Dir Information

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Mamta Yadav, IAS, on Monday assumed charge as Director Information, Jammu and Kashmir, and interacted with officers and officials of the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR).

During the interaction, Yadav emphasised the need for transparent, accurate and timely dissemination of information regarding government policies, developmental initiatives and public welfare programmes.

She highlighted the Information Department's role in strengthening communication between the government and the public, stressing the importance of wider outreach and effective public engagement.

Underlining | [More on P6](#)



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No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Delhi-NCR's Toxic Air May Have Role In Gynaecological Cancers, Say Experts

Press Trust Of India

Long-term exposure to air pollution may have a role in development of gynaecological cancers, Delhi-NCR experts said, citing emerging research on the possible links between PM2.5 exposure, reproductive health and cancers of the female reproductive system. Experts explained that gynaecological cancers do not have a single cause, adding that environmental factors may contribute to the biological processes involved in cancer development. "PM2.5 is of interest because prolonged exposure is associated with inflammation, oxidative stress and systemic biological effects," Dr Rama Joshi, gynae onco surgeon and chairman, Gynae Oncology and Robotic Surgery, Fortis Gurugram, said. She said recent studies have reported associations between air pollution and certain aspects of women's reproductive health, raising questions about whether environmental

exposure may also have a role in the broader cancer-risk environment. She said an association between pollution exposure and cancer does not mean that pollution directly causes cancer, adding that such evidence in gynaecological cancers is still evolving and findings have not been uniform across studies. More India-specific data is needed before drawing conclusions about causation, she said. "Women should focus on the risk factors that we already know can be modified or monitored. Maintaining a healthy weight, staying physically active, managing diabetes and other metabolic conditions, understanding family history and seeking timely evaluation for abnormal bleeding remain important. Environmental pollution is an additional concern that deserves further scientific investigation," Joshi said. The experts also referred to a recent India-wide study that examined the relationship between environmental exposure and reproductive health among Indian women. The study reported that women

exposed to PM2.5 levels above 40 micrograms per cubic metre had 24 per cent higher odds of delayed menarche and a 23 per cent higher hazard of early menopause. The researchers analysed National Family Health Survey data along with satellite-derived PM2.5 estimates and other environmental indicators. The analysis included nearly 1.8 lakh women aged 15-24 for menarche and nearly 3 lakh women aged 30-49 for menopause, with stronger associations reported in northern India, including areas such as Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and parts of Uttar Pradesh. Such findings are adding to scientific interest in how prolonged exposure to air pollution may influence hormonal and reproductive pathways in women. Researchers are also examining whether biological effects associated with PM2.5, including chronic inflammation, oxidative stress and cellular damage, could potentially contribute to conditions affecting hormone-sensitive tissues and the female reproductive system.

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

NIT NO.STDS/ 25 of 2026-27

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Dated: 12/10/2026

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

1.	Name of the Work	Augmentation of Receiving Station Watlab from 2X6.3 MVA to 2X10 MVA under UT Capex
2.	Estimated Cost (in Lakhs)	35.20
3.	Cost of tender document in Rs. (Non-refundable)	1005/-
4.	Cost of EMD@2% in Rs.	70,400/-

Critical Dates

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document/ Sale of Bid Document (Start) / Clarifications start date	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 12th October, 2026; 04:00 PM
B	Clarifications end date / e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	14th October, 2026; 04:00 PM
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)/ e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)/ Submission of Hard Copy (end) Date	04th November, 2026; 02:00 PM
D	Online Technical and Commercial e-Bid opening date & Time	06st November, 2026; 03:00 PM
E	Financial Bid opening	After completion of process of evaluation of Technical & commercial Bids
F	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER STD SOPORE

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

Sd/
Executive Engineer, KPDC
Sub Transmission Division Sopore

No: STDS/TS/1154-57
DIPK-NB-1862/26
Dated: 12/10/2026

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

Fax No: - 01954-222626

NIT NO.STDS/24 of 2026-27

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Dated: 10/10/2026

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC), the Executive Engineer STD Sopore invites e-bids from registered SSI Unit holders / Transformer manufacturers as per terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules of SBD forming part of this document. The detail of works is as under

1.	Name of the Work	Annual Rate Contract for Reclamation of Power Transformers through SSI Units under the jurisdiction of Sub Transmission Division Sopore for the Year 2026-27 or till next Rate Contract is finalized
2.	Cost of tender document in Rs. (Non-refundable)	2000/-
3.	Cost of EMD@2% in Rs.	1,60,000/-

Time Schedule:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document/ Sale of Bid Document (Start) / Clarifications start date	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 10th October, 2026; 04:30 AM
B	Clarifications end date / e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	14th October, 2026; 04:30 AM
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)/ e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	04th November, 2026; 02:00 PM
D	Online Technical and Commercial e-Bid opening date & Time	06th November, 2026; 03:00 PM
E	Financial Bid opening	After completion of process of evaluation of Technical & commercial Bids
F	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER STD SOPORE

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

Sd/
Executive Engineer, KPDC
Sub Transmission Division Sopore

No: STDS/TS/1150-53
DIPK-NB-1857/26
Dated: 12/10/2026

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Housing and Urban Development Department Civil Secretariat, Jammu/ Srinagar

Subject:- Notification of the "Common Duct Policy, 2026" for UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Reference: Council of Ministers Decision No. 125/11/2026 dated 10.09.2026.

Government Order No. 199-JK (HUD) of 2026
Dated: 22.09.2026

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir hereby notifies the "Common Duct Policy, 2026" for UT of Jammu and Kashmir forming 'Annexure-A' along with 5 years action plan as 'Annexure-AI' to this Government Order.

By Order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sd/-
(Mandeep Kaur) IAS
Commissioner/ Secretary to the Government
Housing & Urban Development Department

No. HUD-ADMOMISC/1/2025 (C.No. 7619246)
DIPK-6626/26
Dated: 12.10.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my name has been inadvertently recorded as Maryam Begum in my account records maintained with Jammu and Kashmir Bank Branch Delina, Account No. 0140040800007136, whereas my correct name, as per my Aadhaar Card, is Maryam Akhter. I intend to get my name corrected in the bank records from "Maryam Begum" to "Maryam Akhter". Any person having any objection to the proposed correction may submit their objection, along with relevant grounds, to the Branch Manager, J&K Bank, Delina Branch, Baramulla, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period. Maryam Akhter W/o Jamsheed Abdullah R/o Delina, Baramulla jma

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Bashir Ahmad Dar R/O:- Chamardoori Zaina Kadal, Srinagar hereby inform through this public notice that my son namely Mursaleen Dar is presently studying in Class 9th, Section Blue, Roll No. 13 at Motherland High School, Kaka Mohalla, Khawaja Bazar, Nowhatta, Srinagar. It has been found that in the school records, the name of his mother has been wrongly mentioned as "Khalida" instead of the correct name "Sabiha Bashir". Now I have applied for the correction of my son's mother name in his school records. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the office of the Principal, Motherland High School within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, after which no objection shall be entertained. Bashir Ahmad Dar F/O:- Mursaleen Dar R/O:- Chamardoori Zaina Kadal, Srinagar Media line adrt

PUBLIC NOTICE

TALAB Hussain S/o Jamal Din R/O Govt High school tharal Shikari Reasi it is the information for general Public that I want to apply for BEE Class Contractor Card if anybody is He/she may contact at Chief Engineer. CI&D Wing JKPDC Bemina within a Period of Seven days No objection Shall be entertained AB

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied online for the issuance of RBA certificate . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the Tehsil Office Kwarhama within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Wasif Ahmad Shah S/o Abdul Hameed Shah R/o Wussan Bangil Tehil Kwarhama bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Nazeer Ahmed Reshi to (new name) Nazeer Ahmad Reshi . In future i will be known as (new name) Nazeer Ahmad Reshi. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact passport office srinagar, within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted. Media line adrt

PUBLIC NOTICE

Syed Shahid Akbar S/O Syed Mohd Akbar Qadri R/O. Patli Pora Bala. Chattabal , PO Karan Nagar Srinagar it is the information for general Public that I want to apply for DEE Class Contractor Card if anybody is he/ she may contact at Chief Engineer CI&D Wing JKPDC Bemina within a period of seven days No objection Shall be entertained AB

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for information of the general public that the name of the mother of Ms. Saida Sajad, bearing Roll No. 23333010000170004 has inadvertently been recorded as "Shameema Bano" in the academthe records. The same is required to be corrected and changed to "Shameema Akhter". Any person having any objection to the aforesaid correction may approach the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained thereafter. Name: Sajad Ahmad Bhat father of: Saida Sajad R/O Tral-i-Payeen ifno mob: 9797112515

NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) riyen jahan to (new name) Mohammad Rayyan in future i will be known as (New name) Mohammad Rayyan. if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact passport Office, Srinagar within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be a c c e p t e d . ab



भारतीय विमानपत्तन आर्थिक विनियामक प्राधिकरण Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) भारत सरकार/Government of India

3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi – 110003
Ph.: 011-24695044

PUBLIC NOTICE

STAKEHOLDERS' CONSULTATION MEETING ON DETERMINATION OF TARIFF FOR THE AERONAUTICAL SERVICES FOR MANGALURU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, MANGALURU (IXE) FOR THE SECOND CONTROL PERIOD (01.04.2026 – 31.03.2031)

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) has issued Consultation Paper No. 05/2026-27 on 30.09.2026 (which is available on AERA website at URL www.aera.gov.in) w.r.t the Tariff Determination for the Aeronautical Services for Mangaluru International Airport, Mangaluru (IXE) for the Second Control Period (01.04.2026 – 31.03.2031).

In accordance with the provision of Section 13(4) of the AERA Act, 2008, the various tariff proposals of the Authority contained in the Consultation Paper, are put forth for Stakeholders' Consultation. A Stakeholders Consultation Meeting in hybrid mode (Physical/Online) in this regard is scheduled on 15th October, 2026 (Thursday) at 3:30 PM at:

Stakeholders Room, 3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan,
Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi – 110003.

All stakeholders like Passengers/Passengers' Associations, General Public, Airport Operators, Airlines, Industry Associations/Bodies, Independent Service providers for Cargo, Ground Handling Fuel Farm etc., are requested to join the said meeting and give their valuable suggestions/comments/views on the aforesaid Consultation Paper on tariff proposal of Mangaluru International Airport, Mangaluru (IXE).

Participants joining in person may send their confirmation to AERA before the above mentioned date of meeting with Name, email address, mobile number, vehicle number by email (to director-ps@aera.gov.in and rajan.gupta1@aera.gov.in). Online link will be shared on AERA website (<https://aera.gov.in>) before the Stakeholders meeting under Tab "News and Announcements".

CBC 03112/11/0015/2627

Sd/-
Secretary, AERA



CITY

BJP, Congress Workers Trade Slogans during Srinagar Protest

Agencies

Srinagar: Slogans like, Ek Kachori, Do Samosa, Rahul Gandhi Par Kya Bharosa echoed around Pratap Park in Srinagar on Monday as BJP Mahila Morcha activists staged a protest against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party, accusing them of “vote chori”.

The protesters, as per KNO, assembled outside the Congress office around noon and raised slogans against Rahul Gandhi and the Congress leadership.

They also burnt an effigy of Rahul Gandhi during the demonstration at Pratap Park in Srinagar.

The protest soon saw a face-off between workers of the two parties, with Con-

“The protest soon saw a face-off between workers of the two parties, with Congress workers coming out of their office and raising counter-slogans.

gress workers coming out of their office and raising counter-slogans.

The BJP protesters accused the Congress of electoral irregularities, while Congress workers responded with counter-slogans targeting the BJP.

The protest comes amid an ongoing political row over allegations of “vote chori”, with the BJP and Congress trading accusations over electoral practices.

DC Inspects Progress in Construction of District Circuit House

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Monday conducted an on-site inspection of the construction work of District Circuit House, Srinagar at Bemina.



He also inspected the progress of ongoing works on the Additional Accommodation Block of the Zila Sainik Welfare Bhawan at Batamalo.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir, Intiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, IAS Probationer, Sai Kiran, Superintending Engineer R&B North, Shabir Ahmad, Superintending Engineer R&B, South, Tatheer Manzoor, SDM West, Seerat Baji, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, ACR, Umar Gulzar, Executive Engineer R&B, Fareed Khan, Executive Engineer R&B, Abdul Qayoom, Executive Engineer, KPDCI 3rd, Abrar Hussain, Executive Engineer, Water Works, Aijaz Rafiq, Tehsildar South, Sajad Rasool, Tehsildar North, Syed Shahid and other concerned Officers.

At the construction site of the District Circuit House at Bemina, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the progress of ongoing works and reviewed various components of the project, aimed at augmenting cost effective accommodation & reasonable facilitation amenities in the District.

On the occasion, the DC underscored the significance of the facility in strengthening cost effective accommodation and facilitation infra-

structure in Srinagar and improving the availability of suitable accommodation for public, official and other designated purposes.

The DC directed the concerned executing agency to expedite the pace of work while ensuring strict adherence to prescribed qual-

ity standards and stipulated timelines, stressing that all components of the project must be completed in a time-bound manner without compromising on quality.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress on the construction of the Additional Accommodation Block at Zila Sainik Welfare Bhawan, Batamalo aimed to enhance the accommodation capacity of the facility and strengthen the delivery of welfare services to eligible beneficiaries, particularly the wards of ex-servicemen and martyrs who visit or temporarily reside in Srinagar for educational purposes.

During an interaction with Officers and Officials of Zila Sainik Welfare Bhawan, the DC was informed that more than 40 percent of the civil works had been completed, with the ground floor completed and work underway on the first floor.

The DC stressed the need for expeditious execution of the remaining works, directing the concerned Officers to ensure timely completion of the project so that the facility can be made functional at the earliest. He emphasized that the timely completion of the Accommodation Block would enhance facilities for beneficiaries and contribute to the more effective delivery of welfare services to the wards of ex-servicemen

Srinagar Civic Services under Review as SMC Commissioner Seeks Greater Efficiency

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Commissioner Dr. Basharat Qayoom on Monday reviewed the functioning of various wings of the Corporation, emphasising the need for efficient civic services, improved sanitation, timely completion of developmental works and prompt redressal of public grievances.

Chairing an introductory-cum-review meeting with officers representing all wings of the Corporation, Qayoom took stock of ongoing developmental projects, departmental responsibilities, operational challenges and existing service delivery mechanisms.

He stressed that citizen welfare, administrative accountability and efficient delivery of municipal services must remain central to the Corporation's functioning. Emphasising the need for a proactive and time-bound approach to public grievance redressal, the Commissioner directed officers to ensure that complaints received through various channels are addressed promptly and followed through to their logical conclusion.

He said municipal administration must translate its efforts into tangible improvements in the daily lives of citizens, with particular emphasis on transparency, responsiveness and accountability.

Reviewing sanitation and cleanliness mechanisms, Qayoom called for stronger coordination among the concerned wings to ensure effective sanitation operations, improved waste management and sustained cleanliness across Srinagar.

He underscored the importance



of field-level monitoring and timely intervention in addressing sanitation-related issues and maintaining public spaces. The Commissioner also stressed the need for close monitoring of developmental works, adherence to prescribed timelines and optimal utilisation of available resources. He directed officers to identify bottlenecks, expedite pending projects and ensure that development initiatives deliver visible benefits to residents.

Calling for coordinated functioning across departments, Qayoom asked all wings to strengthen internal monitoring mechanisms and adopt a result-oriented approach to municipal administration. He emphasised that accountability should be reflected in measurable outcomes, timely service delivery and effective resolution of public concerns.

He further urged departmental

heads to identify gaps in service delivery and propose practical measures to improve institutional efficiency, operational performance and public trust in the Corporation.

The meeting concluded with an emphasis on inter-departmental coordination, professional accountability and effective implementation of civic priorities, aimed at ensuring cleaner neighbourhoods, improved civic infrastructure and more responsive municipal governance across Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by the Joint Commissioners for Administration, Revenue and Enforcement, Works, Sanitation and Planning; Secretary, SMC; Financial Adviser/Chief Accounts Officer; Superintending Engineer, Drainage Circle; Health Officer; Municipal Veterinary Officer; Deputy Director, Planning and Monitoring; and Divisional Forest Officer, SMC.

KU's CWSR Marks 'International Day of Girl Child'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Centre for Women's Studies and Research (CWSR) at the University of Kashmir (KU) held a day-long programme at the Main Campus to mark the International Day of the Girl Child. School students from Class 8 onwards, teachers and University faculty members took part in discussions on girls' rights, education and well-being.

The programme gave students an opportunity to learn about issues affecting their lives, share their views and take part in conversations about their rights and future.

In her presidential address Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof Nilofer Khan, said every girl should have equal opportunities to learn, grow and realise her potential. She stressed the need for girls to feel safe, confident and supported as

they pursue their aspirations.

“Empowering every girl through education and equal opportunities is essential for building a more inclusive and progressive society,” she said.

Prof. Khan also noted that educational institutions have an important role in raising awareness among young people and helping them develop the knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the District Sheep Husbandry Officer Mini-Secretariat Ganderbal

Tele/fax No.- 0194-2 416040(Email :- dshoganderbal-shdk@jk.gov.in)

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications on prescribed formats are invited from interested individuals/Group of individuals /Self Help Groups/Cooperative Societies /Farmer Producer Organizations of district Ganderbal for establishment of sheep/goat units for the below mentioned schemes , shown in Annexure –A for the financial year 2026-27.

..

IMPORTANT DATES:

Date of commencement for issuance of application forms: 16-10-2026.

Last date for submission of applications: 31-10-2026.

HOW TO APPLY:

The application forms can be obtained and then submitted on working days during office hours (10.00 A.M - 4.30 P.M) at below mentioned offices.

- Office of the undersigned (Room no. 358, Mini Secretariat Ganderbal)
- Sheep Development Block Office Kangan, Haripora, Gratbal, Naranag, Lar, Shuhama, Nunner, Haknar and Tulmulla.

DOCUMENTS TO BE ENCLOSED WITH THE APPLICATION FORM:

- Aadhar Card.
- Ration Card.
- ST/SC Certificate of the beneficiary belonging to tribal Community.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR ALL SCHEMES:

- Applicant must be within the age group of 18-55 years as on 31-10-2026.
- Beneficiaries/households who have already availed benefit under any income generation scheme of Sheep Husbandry Department are not eligible
- More than one application shall not be entertained from same household.
- The selection will be made through draw of lots procedure.
- The final allotment of units shall be subject to techno feasibility report from the concerned authorities.
- APL Category are not eligible in these Schemes.
- No application shall be entertained after cut off date : 31-10-2026.
- For ABDP scheme only persons from CD Block Lar and Gund are eligible.

ANNEXURE A

S.No	Name of scheme	Salient features	Tentative No. of units
1	Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)	Establishment of 10 sheep/ goat unit out of animals received from already established RKVY 10 Ewes/ Does unit. Equal number of animals from progeny shall be retrieved from 3rd year on wards for the next five years. The progeny to be received should be 1.2 to 2 years of age with a minimum body weight of 25 kgs.	15
2.	Infrastructure for the welfare of Tribals (TSP)	Establishment of 10 sheep/ goat unit out of animals received from already established RKVY 10 Ewes/ Does unit. Equal number of animals from progeny shall be retrieved from 3rd year on wards for the next five years. The progeny to be received should be 1.2 to 2 years of age with a minimum body weight of 25 kgs.	40
3.	Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP)	Establishment of 10 sheep/ goat unit out of animals received from already established RKVY 10 Ewes/ Does unit. Equal number of animals from progeny shall be retrieved from 3rd year on wards for the next five years. The progeny to be received should be 1.2 to 2 years of age with a minimum body weight of 25 kgs.	10

Note : 1. The Number of units is tentative and the actual number shall depend upon the number of animals retrieved during 2026-27.

2. In case funds under any scheme as mentioned above at S.No 1,2 & 3 are released to this office selection of beneficiaries shall be done out of these invited applications through an established procedure.

No: DSHOG/Tech/2026-27/2374-78

DIPK-6622/26

Dated: 12 /10/2026.

Sd/

District

Sheep Husbandry Officer Ganderbal

- 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
- BIJBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 11
ZUHR	12: 17
ASR	4: 22
Magrib	6: 04
ISHA	7: 23

This Day In History

- 1213 - Battle at Steppes-Bishop Pierrepont & Louis II beat Henry I of Brabant
- 1501 - Maximilian of Austria & Louis XII sign Treaty of Trente
- 1760 - Russian and Austrian army evacuates Berlin
- 1943 - Italy declares war on former Axis partner Germany
- 1944 - US 1st army begins battle of Aachen, first German city captured during WWII
- 1960 - Opponents of Fidel Castro executed in Cuba
- 1964 - Voskhod 1 crew returns
- 1966 - 173 US aircraft bomb North Vietnam
- 1969 - 1st time 7 people in space
- 1972 - Aeroflot Il-62 crashes in large pond outside Moscow, 176 die
- 1973 - Jordan enters Yom Kippur war
- 1976 - A Bolivian Boeing 707 cargo jet crashes in Santa Cruz, Bolivia killing 100 (97, mostly children, killed on the ground).
- 1976 -First electron micrograph of an Ebola viral particle obtained by Dr. F.A. Murphy, working at the C.D.C.
- 1981 - Vice President Hosni Mubarak elected President of Egypt
- 1983 - Ameritech Mobile Communications (now Cingular) launched the first US cellular network in Chicago, Illinois.
- 1984 - STS 41-G mission; lands at Kennedy Space Center
- 1993 - Nobel prize for chemistry awarded to Kary Mullis & Michael Smith
- 1993 - Nobel prize for physics awarded to Russel Hulse & Joseph Taylor
- 2010 - The 2010 Copiapó mining accident in Copiapó, Chile comes to an end as all 33 miners arrive at the surface after surviving a record 69 days underground.

From KO Archives

RSS Launches JK Trifurcation Campaign

Observer News Service

S RINAGAR- The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has formally launched its campaign for the trifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir coming out in the open, for the first time, in support of the division of the only Muslim majority state. Advocating Reorganisation of the state by what it perceives as isolation of the Muslim majority valley from rest of the state, the organisation (visualizes the move as a step towards early solution of the Kashmir problem).

According to a report earned by The Times of India today, the RSS has planned 'mass action programme' and has floated an umbrella organisation - the Jammu and Kashmir Nationalist Front (JKNF) - and was 'subtly' promoting groups to organise mass agitations to get the state divided into Hindu Jammu, Muslim valley and Buddhist Ladakh. The Front held its first dharna in Jammu interestingly on Gandhi Jayanti.

In fact, according to the report, the RSS plan would not stop at the mere 'trifurcation' of the state. It favours further division of the Muslim dominated valley by carving out a separate homeland for the migrant Kashmiri Pandits. The movement envisages mobilisation of public opinion in the Muslims majority districts of Poonch, Rajouri and Doda, besides the Gujjar community against what it describes as 'Kashmiri hegemony'.

Quoting M G Vaidya, an RSS spokesman in New Delhi, the report said, Trifurcation doesn't mean surrender to the Two-Nation theory. The reorganisation is basically an administrative measure." The Sangh Parivar believes that Kashmiri extremism can be dealt with only by separating the valley from rest of the state and focussing on the insurgency operations in the Muslim majority valley, the report said.

While the RBS-backed JKNF was gaining ground, the report said, the BJP had, curiously, kept itself away so far. The recent dharna in Jammu was joined by even the mainstream parties like the Janata Dal (U) and Bhin Singh's Panther's party. Explaining the reasons, the co-convenor of the JKNP, Yesh Bhasin, a former RSS Parcharak and state BJP leader, told the newspaper, "The BJP is not openly supporting us since they are bound by the NDA's policies."

(Kashmir Observer, October 13, 2000)

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-Tender Notice	
For and on behalf of President of India, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, DMU CAR SHED JALANDHAR CITY invites open Tender through e-tendering system from reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work	
Name of Work	Upkeep and Maintenance of DEMU Coaches at DMU Car shed Jalandhar City for a period of 03 years.
Estimated Cost of work (Approximate)	₹ 4,13,12,297/- (Rs. Four Crore Thirteen Lakh Twelve Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Seven only)
Tender Security Amount (Earnest Money Deposit)	₹ 8,26,300/- (Rs. Eight lakh Twenty Six thousand three hundred Only)
Tender document available for sale on website	10.10.2026
E-Tender closing Date & Time	02.11.2026 at 15:00 Hrs
Date and time of opening of E-Tender on IREPS website	02.11.2026 at 15:15 Hrs
Validity of Tender	60 Days from the last date of submission of tender
Type of Tender	Open Tender (Single Packet System)
Contract Period	36 Months
Website	www.ireps.gov.in
Tender No: 03-2026-27-DEMU-JUC Date: 10.10.2026 3535/2026	
Serving Customers With A Smile	

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Bureaucracy Must Answer

Administrative independence is essential, but it cannot become an excuse for discourtesy, opaque decisions or disregard for elected representatives and citizens.



Dr S Bashir Ahmad Veeri

An effective administration derives its authority from the Constitution, its legitimacy from accountability, and its enduring purpose from public service. But when administrative hierarchy begins to resemble inherited privilege, democratic governance suffers, and citizens become its unintended casualties.

In a constitutional democracy, the civil service exercises considerable authority, but that authority is neither sovereign nor self-derived. It flows from the Constitution and the law, and its legitimacy rests on impartiality, accountability and responsiveness to the public. The distinction between authority and arrogance is therefore fundamental: the former enables governance, while the latter undermines its democratic purpose.

In Jammu and Kashmir, concerns about the conduct of certain field-level officials, including those occupying positions of considerable authority in district administration, merit serious reflection. Perceived discourtesy towards elected representatives, disregard for scheduled appointments, opaque decision-making and restrictive approaches to public access raise questions that extend beyond individual encounters. They point to an administrative culture in which institutional hierarchy can sometimes appear to outweigh the democratic obligations of public office.

The issue is not a confrontation between the bureaucracy and political leadership. It is about restoring the constitutional balance between administrative authority and democratic accountability.

India inherited an administrative tradition substantially shaped by colonial priorities, under which officials were expected to preserve imperial authority rather than facilitate popular participation. Independence transformed the source and purpose of governance, but institutional attitudes do not invariably change at the same pace as constitutional arrangements. Hierarchical habits, official aloofness and an exaggerated sense of administrative entitlement can survive long after their original justification has disappeared.

Jammu and Kashmir's reorganisation in 2019 altered its institutional framework, but it did not diminish the fundamental obligations of public administration. Whatever the prevailing institutional arrangements, executive authority remains subject to the law, established procedures and democratic scrutiny. A district office is not a private domain, nor does the seniority of its occupant confer immunity from legitimate questioning.

The Deputy Commissioner occupies a particularly consequential position within this framework, coordinating district administration and overseeing the implementation of government programmes. The office demands authority, impartiality and decisiveness, but equally requires accessibility, institutional restraint and sensitivity to public concerns. Its stature is strengthened, not diminished, when authority is exercised without unnecessary distance or displays of superiority.

Members of the Legislative Assembly are elected to articulate public grievances, scrutinise executive performance and pursue legitimate developmental priorities. Their engagement with district adminis-

trations is therefore an essential component of representative governance, not a courtesy that officials may extend or withdraw at their personal discretion.

This does not entitle legislators to demand unlawful decisions, interfere arbitrarily in professional administration or bypass established procedures. Civil servants must retain the independence necessary to resist political pressure and protect the integrity of public institutions. However, professional independence cannot become a convenient justification for discourtesy, avoidable obstruction or the marginalisation of elected representatives seeking legitimate redress.

Equally troubling is the reported conduct of an officer who, when questioned by an elected representative about being denied a meeting despite a scheduled appointment, allegedly retorted that "it is the DC's office, not the Civil Secretariat" and directed his aide to summon security. Is such conduct befitting a civil servant entrusted with public authority?

Scheduled meetings should be honoured, while unavoidable cancellations should be communicated with reasonable notice. Disagreements should be resolved through institutional channels. Where security arrangements are necessary, they must remain proportionate and should never become instruments of needless humiliation. Any credible allegation of improper conduct warrants impartial examination, irrespective of the position held by those involved.

Constitutional etiquette is not merely ornamental protocol. It reflects an understanding that different institutions have distinct mandates, each deserving respect within the limits of the law.

A further concern arises when the projection of

tion directed towards public welfare.

As the first point of contact between the Government and the public, district offices require experienced, accessible and courteous officers who understand that authority is a public trust, not a personal privilege.

The accessibility of district headquarters provides another test of administrative culture. Citizens approaching government offices with genuine grievances should encounter a predictable and transparent system, rather than uncertainty over entry, appointments or access to responsible officials.

Security requirements, orderly scheduling and the need to ensure uninterrupted official work are legitimate considerations. However, restrictions must be reasonable, proportionate and clearly communicated. Regular public-hearing hours, time-bound grievance redressal, transparent appointment procedures and effective escalation mechanisms can reconcile administrative efficiency with citizens' legitimate expectations.

Rule 3 of the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968, requires integrity, devotion to duty and conduct consistent with the responsibilities of public office. These obligations are incompatible with arbitrary privilege or indifference to legitimate public concerns. Courtesy alone does not constitute good governance, but its absence can undermine even otherwise competent administration.

Corrective measures must be institutional rather than personalised. Clear protocols should govern official engagement between legislators and district authorities; unexplained failures to honour con-

The civil service must be protected from illegitimate political pressure, just as elected representatives and citizens must be protected from arbitrary administrative conduct. Neither institution should claim supremacy beyond its lawful mandate.

authority appears to overshadow the less visible but more consequential work of administration. The effectiveness of a district administration cannot be measured solely by official appearances, public audiences or the visibility of its leadership. It must be assessed through timely disposal of files, transparent expenditure, effective field supervision, grievance redressal and measurable delivery of public services.

When constituency development allocations remain unutilised, projects face unexplained delays or departmental coordination falters, the consequences are borne by ordinary people. Farmers awaiting irrigation, households requiring safe drinking water, patients dependent on public healthcare and communities seeking roads or drainage cannot be served by administrative visibility in the absence of effective delivery.

The Government must also reconsider the repeated rotation of a select group of officers through district postings, a practice that risks administrative stagnation and denies other capable officers opportunities to demonstrate their merit.

Deputy Commissioners and other field-level officers must therefore be evaluated on the basis of institutional outcomes, financial discipline and implementation efficiency, alongside their compliance with established procedures. Equally, elected representatives must respect technical assessments, financial rules and lawful administrative discretion. The objective should be neither bureaucratic dominance nor political interference, but accountable collabora-

firmed appointments should invite review; and persistent delays in developmental expenditure should be examined through established accountability mechanisms. Citizens, meanwhile, must have reliable access to grievance redressal without unnecessary procedural barriers.

The civil service must be protected from illegitimate political pressure, just as elected representatives and citizens must be protected from arbitrary administrative conduct. Neither institution should claim supremacy beyond its lawful mandate.

Ultimately, public office is a public trust. A Deputy Commissioner or any other field-level official is not a colonial authority dispensing favours, just as an elected representative is not above the law. Jammu and Kashmir needs an administration that exercises authority without arrogance, preserves professional independence without institutional aloofness, and treats public accessibility as a responsibility rather than a concession.

The true measure of administrative stature lies not in the distance maintained from the people but in the confidence, dignity and trust with which that distance is overcome.

The author is a serving legislator from South Kashmir and contributes occasionally on public policy and governance in Jammu and Kashmir. He can be reached at dvrueer2@gmail.com.



Badrul Duja

Beyond the Landfill

Bandipora's order and Srinagar's new directive point towards a more decentralised approach to waste management.

A recent order issued by the Secretary, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), directing gazetted officers to adopt home composting has drawn a positive response from environmental groups and civil society organisations.

The directive, among the first of its kind in Jammu and Kashmir, requires senior municipal officials to manage biodegradable household waste through composting at their residences. It represents an important step towards encouraging individual and collective responsibility in tackling the growing problem of solid waste pollution.

At a time when Srinagar continues to grapple with the foul stench emanating from the Achan landfill in Soura, the SMC's initiative offers a promising approach to waste management at the household level.

Environmental activists and civil society members have long advocated decentralised waste management. In a similar initiative, the Deputy Commissioner of Bandipora recently made home composting of biodegradable wet waste mandatory for households with adequate space, effective September 1, 2026.

The Bandipora administration's order places responsibility for managing household waste directly on those who generate it, marking a significant shift towards waste management at source. Kashmir Observer also highlighted the importance of this initiative in its editorial, Waste Comes Home.

My own understanding of household composting and its environmental benefits has largely been shaped by the writings and videos of noted environmentalist Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat, who has consistently advocated sustain-

able waste management practices across Jammu and Kashmir.

Composting is an environmentally beneficial method of recycling organic waste generated in kitchens, gardens and parks. It is, in essence, nature's own recycling process, through which biodegradable waste is transformed into nutrient-rich compost that can be used in gardens, parks and orchards.

Besides improving soil fertility and plant health, composting promotes biodiversity, helps conserve water and reduces dependence on chemical fertilisers.

Common household materials suitable for composting include fruit and vegetable peels, leaves, grass clippings, eggshells, tea leaves, certain untreated paper and cardboard products, hair and other biodegradable materials.

The choice before us is simple: should we continue sending organic waste to already overburdened landfills, or should we convert it into a valuable resource through composting?

Nature sustains human life, and humans, in turn, have a responsibility to protect and preserve it.

Bandipora has emerged as the first district in Jammu and Kashmir to introduce a district-level initiative aimed at managing biodegradable waste at its source.

In August 2026, Deputy Commissioner Indu Kanwal directed households with adequate space to begin composting their biodegradable waste within their premises.

The order marked an important attempt to involve the public directly in combating waste pollution and promoting decentralised waste management.

Referring to the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, the notification states: "Whereas the

Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 mandate source segregation of waste and promote decentralised processing of biodegradable waste at or near the source of its generation, and whereas transportation of biodegradable waste to municipal processing facilities is resource-intensive, environmentally undesirable, and can be substantially reduced through household-level composting, now, therefore, in exercise of the powers vested in the District Administration for ensuring effective implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, it is hereby ordered that every household having adequate space shall process its biodegradable (wet) waste within its own premises through home composting or any other approved mechanical composting method."

The notification further specifies: "With effect from September 1, 2026, the Municipal Council Bandipora shall discontinue routine door-to-door collection of wet waste from such households. Municipal collection shall primarily be restricted to dry/recyclable waste and residual domestic waste."

The initiative is significant because it recognises that effective waste management must begin at the household level rather than depend entirely on municipal collection and disposal systems.

By encouraging residents to process biodegradable waste within their own premises, the administration seeks to reduce the volume of waste transported to dumping sites while promoting greater environmental responsibility among citizens.

Environmental activist Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat has been among the prominent voices advocating home composting as a practical solution to Kashmir's mounting solid waste crisis.

In his article, Kashmir Needs a War on

Waste, published in Kashmir Observer, Dr Bhat emphasised the potential of household-level composting to substantially reduce the burden on municipal waste management systems.

He observed: "This reality points toward one of the simplest and most effective reforms available. Thousands of households in Kashmir and Jammu possess sufficient land to compost their biodegradable waste at home. Families with a kanal of land or more can easily manage kitchen waste through compost pits."

Many families are already successfully practising home composting. A household generating around two kilograms of waste daily may find that a substantial portion consists of biodegradable material.

By composting this waste, households can convert organic refuse into a useful resource, leaving behind a smaller quantity of dry waste, including plastic bottles, wrappers and cardboard, for municipal collection and recycling.

Dr Bhat has also been campaigning for greater involvement of government employees in promoting home composting.

He has suggested that educational institutions, the Rural Development Department and municipal bodies across Jammu and Kashmir issue formal executive orders encouraging their employees to adopt the practice.

Such measures, he believes, could help bring about meaningful behavioural change across Kashmir.

In another Kashmir Observer article, Kashmir's Revolving Door of Bureaucrats, Dr Bhat highlighted the potential impact of widespread household composting on Srinagar's waste crisis.

He wrote: "If half of Srinagar's biodegradable waste were composted at home within two years, the pressure on the Achan landfill would fall by half. That target needs no new technology, site or budget line, only a pit in the garden of a household with ground to spare and an officer who stays enough to ask whether it was dug."

His argument underlines an important reality: many environmental challenges do not necessarily require expensive technological interventions. They can be addressed through simple, practical measures backed by administrative commitment and public participation.

The Annual Solid Waste Management Report 2025-2026 for Jammu and Kashmir, issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee on August 3, 2026, presents a concerning picture of solid waste management across the Union Territory.

According to the report, the Kashmir division generates approximately 857.39 metric tonnes of solid waste, all of which is collected. However, only 492.05 metric tonnes are treated.

In the Jammu division, approximately 639.15 metric tonnes of waste is generated, of which 632.15 metric tonnes is collected and 576.48 metric tonnes is treated.

These figures highlight the gap between waste collection and treatment, particularly in the Kashmir division.

Annexure II-B of the report, titled Status of MSW Management Submitted by ULBs Kashmir Division for 2025-2026, provides further insight into Srinagar's waste management performance.

For the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, serving a population of approximately 1,569,000, the report records 100 per cent door-to-door waste collection.

However, waste segregation stands at only 60 per cent.

The figures raise serious questions about the effectiveness of waste management practices in Srinagar.

The author is a practising advocate based in Srinagar. He can be reached at khanyari.duja@gmail.com.

Listen Before You Judge

People struggling with depression need a compassionate listener, not questions about breakups, money or what they have to be unhappy about.



Palveen Kour

Depression faces two battles in Kashmir.

One unfolds inside the mind, the other begins the moment someone decides to speak.

That second battle often comes with suspicion, gossip, amateur diagnosis, and endless questions that push people back into silence.

"What happened? Did you have a breakup?" "Were you cheated on?" "You have a good job, a loving family, and enough money. What reason do you have to be depressed?"

Those questions expose a belief that has settled deep into public thinking.

Depression, many people assume, needs one dramatic event before anyone accepts it as real.

Pain, in this view, comes with a neat explanation. Anything less sounds unbelievable.

Medical science tells a different story.

Depression grows through a complex mix of biological, psychological, and social influences.

One event may contribute, several influences might combine, or the illness possibly emerge without any obvious trigger.

Someone may build a successful

career, enjoy financial security, share life with supportive parents, or live in a happy marriage and still wake up under the weight of depression.

Mental illness never checks a bank account before entering someone's life.

Public discussion keeps chasing explanations that fit popular imagination. Someone shares their diagnosis, and attention shifts straight to romance, family conflict, financial trouble, or hidden scandal.

Friends become investigators, neighbours become commentators, and illness fades into the background while speculation takes centre stage.

That response turns a medical condition into entertainment, leaving the person who reached out wondering whether speaking had become a mistake.

Picture the courage it takes to admit depression after months of internal struggle. Then picture the response: "Did someone reject you?" "Did your partner leave?" "You must be hiding something."

Compassion disappears before the discussion even begins. Curiosity wins, judgment follows close behind, and anyone watching learns the same lesson: keep your mouth shut.

Money creates another powerful myth.

Success, many people believe, protects the mind from depression. Someone owns a beautiful house, drives an expensive car, earns a high salary, or posts smiling photographs online. Public opinion quickly reaches a verdict: "You have everything people dream of, what more do you want?"

Those remarks confuse comfort



Kashmir speaks often about compassion, community, and shared responsibility. But those values ring hollow when depression still faces interrogation before empathy.

with emotional health.

Money buys treatment, medication, and access to specialists, but none of those purchases guarantee peace of mind.

Wealth cannot silence racing thoughts. It cannot fill emotional emptiness, and restore the ability

to enjoy ordinary life.

Many of the world's wealthiest people have spoken openly about living with depression. Their experiences show one simple truth: mental illness reaches people through age, profession, religion, gender, education, and income

without asking permission.

Another common response pushes people deeper into guilt: "Be thankful for what you have."

Gratitude enriches life, though it never functions as a cure for depression. Comparing suffering rarely helps anyone.

A broken leg continues to hurt even when another patient has two broken legs. Emotional pain follows the same logic.

Someone else's hardship never erases your own.

That constant comparison creates shame. People begin believing they lack permission to struggle because someone else appears worse off. Instead of asking for help, they minimise their symptoms, convince themselves they should cope alone, and postpone treatment.

Depression grows stronger while pride and fear keep the door firmly closed.

In this whole process, silence becomes the biggest casualty. People continue attending college, showing up at work, raising children, meeting deadlines, and smiling through family gatherings while fighting private battles that nobody sees.

Months pass, sometimes years. Friends praise their strength without recognising exhaustion hiding behind normal expressions. Families celebrate achievements while missing warning signs that have existed for a long time.

Popular advice rarely improves the situation.

Someone finally admits they are struggling, and responses come instantly: "Stay strong", "Think positively", "Move on."

Those phrases sound comforting to the speaker, but they often feel dismissive to the listener.

Depression rarely disappears because someone repeated a motivational slogan.

Listening serves people far better than lectures. Most people speaking about depression do not expect instant solutions. They seek someone willing to hear difficult emotions without interruption, criticism, or suspicion.

They seek a dialogue free from labels like drama, weakness, attention-seeking, or ingratitude.

Tears need acceptance more than analysis, while silence needs companionship more than clever words.

One sentence often achieves more than an hour of advice: "I am here for you." Those four words create space where honesty becomes possible.

Sitting beside someone during a painful afternoon sometimes accomplishes far more than searching endlessly for perfect answers.

Human presence has its own power.

Kashmir speaks often about compassion, community, and shared responsibility. But those values ring hollow when depression still faces interrogation before empathy.

Someone living with diabetes rarely has to explain high blood sugar. A patient recovering from a fracture rarely answers questions about why a bone broke.

Depression alone still stands trial before anyone offers understanding.

That, in itself, is depressing.

— The author is a Srinagar-based Biotechnology postgraduate student and the writer of three books. She also volunteers with NGOs, teaching children in rural Kashmir. She can be reached at palveenkour7@gmail.com.

A Share for Life

A customary phrase in Kashmir's mutation orders risks confusing Muslim women about their permanent inheritance rights.



Mohammad Amin Mir

Muslim families in Kashmir turn to revenue records to resolve inheritance matters on a regular basis.

The phrase "Taa Hayat Taa Nikah Sani" appears in numerous mutation orders and creates confusion for Muslim widows who seek to understand their rights.

The phrase means the widow holds her share only during her lifetime or until she remarries. A Muslim clerk offered a clear explanation in the Kashmir Uzma Friday edition dated April 3. The clerk stated that the widow keeps her inherited share for life regardless of whether she remarries.

The difference between what appears in administrative records and what the law requires brings forward important questions.

Shariat law operates as one of the most structured inheritance systems in existence. The system draws its foundation primarily from the Holy Qur'an, Hadith, consensus among scholars, and analogy.

A widow counts as a Qur'anic heir with her share fixed by divine instruction. She receives one-eighth of the estate if the deceased husband leaves children. She receives one-fourth of the estate if the husband leaves children absent.

The share stands absolute and unconditional.

The Qur'an and classical Islamic

jurisprudence include every provision needed to secure her ownership permanently.

The Muslim Personal Law Shariat

Application Act of 1937 provides the statutory foundation for these rules in Jammu and Kashmir. The Act requires officials to apply Muslim Personal Law in all matters of succession. Section 2 overrides any custom or usage that points

another direction.

Administrative practice must follow the Act and set customary approaches aside. Mutation entries serve a limited purpose as fiscal updates in revenue records.

The entries record possession and succession for revenue collection. Courts have ruled that mutation entries supply no proof of ownership. The entries reflect legal rights and create no additional rights or restrictions.

A condition added to a mutation order holds no legal validity if it conflicts with Shariat principles.

Indian courts have delivered several rulings that reinforce the principles of Muslim inheritance law.

The Supreme Court in Mohd. Ahmed Khan v. Shah Bano Begum reaffirmed the rights Muslim women hold under personal law. The case centered on maintenance but extended its reasoning to personal law entitlements. The Supreme Court in Danial Latifi v. Union of India emphasized interpretations of Muslim law that advance justice for women.

The apex court in Jumma Masjid v. Kodimaniandra Deviah ruled that customary practices yield to statutory law. The decision in Abdul Kadir v. Salima confirmed that Muslim personal law rests on its own distinct principles.

These rulings provide strong support for the widow retaining her inheritance share after remarriage.

The phrase "Taa Hayat Taa Nikah Sani" originated from local customs rather than any legal doctrine. Muslim law vests ownership in the widow at the moment the share passes to her. The ownership remains with her permanently. Remarriage produces no impact on her title. The widow becomes the complete owner of her share rather than a limited holder.

Revenue practice in Jammu and Kashmir includes the phrase in many mutation orders. Revenue officials rely on longstanding local practices in some instances. Departments operate with the guidelines they currently follow. Practice sometimes moves toward greater alignment with statutory requirements.

These entries expose the administration to potential litigation.

Classical Islamic jurists maintain complete consensus on the issue.

Scholars from the Hanafi, Shafi'i, Maliki, and Hanbali schools agree fully. The widow receives her share as absolute property. She holds the authority to sell the share, gift it, or transfer it at her discretion.

Remarriage leaves her ownership completely unchanged. The consensus allows only one interpretation under Islamic jurisprudence.

Still, the phrase produces significant effects in the lives of widows. Family discussions about remarriage include the phrase in some cases. Property rights occupy a central place in family planning. Gender treatment receives attention in inheritance matters. Relatives sometimes engage with the widow's share in family situations. Widows sometimes transfer their portion upon remarriage when they reference the mutation entry.

Revenue authorities possess the tools to implement meaningful reform.

Authorities issue circulars that direct all officials to exclude the phrase from future mutation orders. Teams review all existing entries and apply corrections through established legal procedures. Training programs equip officials with detailed knowledge of Muslim Personal Law. The programs include relevant court rulings on inheritance, and develop skills for gender-sensitive administration.

Public awareness campaigns educate women and families on their rights under Shariat law. Deletion of the phrase stands as the clear and correct step.

Shariat law supplies the foundation for removal of the phrase. Statutory provisions support its elimination. Judicial principles call for its complete end. The phrase creates situations of injustice and unequal treatment.

Revenue officials serve as custodians of land records and agents of justice. They uphold the law in its true spirit. The opportunity exists to correct this longstanding issue.

Every widow receives her rightful share free from added conditions and prejudice. This action honours both the letter and the spirit of the law in Kashmir.

— The author is a revenue official based out of South Kashmir. He can be reached at miramini354@gmail.com.

The Paper Chase

India's universities are producing more research, but the pressure to publish risks undermining its quality.



Prof. R.K. Uppal

India is producing research at an incredible speed. Universities are turning out thousands of PhDs, and labs are publishing papers almost every day.

On the surface, it feels like the country is moving gradually toward becoming a global knowledge leader. But the picture isn't that simple.

The numbers look impressive, but they don't tell the whole story.

Behind this surge in output lies a deeper concern about how much of this work truly defines ideas or breaks new ground.

India is now one of the world's biggest producers of academic papers. But when you look at citations, the picture changes.

Researchers around the world don't refer to Indian work as often as they do to studies from the United States, Europe, or China.

So the output is there, but the impact isn't.

Somewhere between writing the paper and it being read, something gets lost. The research makes it into journals, but often doesn't make it into wider thinking.

Academic careers here often revolve around how many papers you can produce. Promotions depend on stacking publications, and review committees tend to count output rather than ask what really changed because of it.

That type of system ends up rewarding quantity over quality. So many scholars focus on meeting targets instead of pushing ideas forward.

In that rush, predatory journals find

space to grow, duplicate work becomes common, and surface-level studies start to crowd out deeper, more meaningful research.

The result feels like an assembly line that never stops.

Top places like the Indian Institutes of Technology and the Indian Institute of Science do produce work that stands up globally. But they are exceptions, and

they make the wider gaps more visible.

Across much of the system, universities struggle with broken equipment, thin libraries, and limited mentorship. Research often becomes a box to tick rather than something driven by curiosity. Labs can lack basic tools, and many global journals and databases remain out of reach behind paywalls.

At the same time, rigid academic silos make collaboration harder. Studies end up repeating familiar ideas, staying local in scope, and missing global conversations.

In that environment, students often learn to follow existing patterns instead of trying to create something new.

Money pressures make all of this worse. India spends less than one percent of its GDP on research and development, while leading economies invest far more.

With such limited funding, scholars tend to play it safe: choosing small, predictable projects that are more likely to get published. Riskier ideas, the kind that could lead to real breakthroughs, are often avoided because failure is too costly.

Big discoveries need time, patience, and steady support. That type of backing is still rare. So, many scientists end up choosing certainty over possibility.

Another challenge is how cut off the system can feel from the rest of the world.

Research today thrives on collaboration across borders, but Indian campuses still host relatively few foreign faculty, and student exchanges are limited. Joint projects with international partners happen, but not often enough.

There are practical hurdles, including language gaps, visa delays, and layers of paperwork, that make collaboration harder than it should be.

Over time, these barriers keep many scholars on the sidelines of global debates.

As a result, their work often remains unseen internationally. Major conferences take place elsewhere, and research networks grow without much Indian presence.

Doctoral programs have grown quickly over the past decade. More students are enrolling, but the quality of supervision hasn't kept up. Critics even call some of these setups "PhD factories," where earning the degree matters more than making a real contribution.

Over time, this approach weakens the value of the degree and strains the entire research system. Quantity starts to undercut quality at every step.

But the potential is still huge.

India has talented researchers, expanding universities, and a strong footing in areas like artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and clean energy. The National Education Policy 2020 lays out the right ideas: better research standards, more collaboration across fields, and greater academic freedom.

But progress on the ground has been slow. Policies can promise change, but only real implementation can deliver it.

Real change will need a shift in what the system values. Instead of counting papers, institutions should focus on impact, originality, and real-world contribution.

That also means investing seriously in research, including better infrastructure, regular funding, and support for long-term projects.

Universities need to create spaces where curiosity and honesty matter, and where research is treated as meaningful work rather than just a formality.

Scholars, above all, need time to think. Stronger global connections are just as important. More partnerships, exchange programs, and shared funding can bring Indian research into wider networks.

At the same time, regulators have to crack down on predatory journals and enforce quality standards. Young researchers need mentors who understand both the local system and global expectations.

In the end, good research depends on integrity rather than output.

India's research boom shows real growth, but the transformation is still incomplete. The country has built a large research system, but that scale hasn't fully translated into intellectual leadership.

The real challenge now isn't to produce more papers, but to produce work that is original, useful, and influential. India needs research that impacts policy, drives innovation, and solves real problems.

The world is waiting for contributions that change how we think about medicine, technology, and society.

When that begins to happen consistently, India will move from being a prolific publisher to a true knowledge leader.

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CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Rain Likely

particularly those travelling through higher reaches and mountain passes, were advised to remain alert during the period.

According to weather data released by the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 23.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 9.7 degrees Celsius on Monday.

Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 17.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 6 degrees Celsius, while Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 13.5 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 4.5 degrees Celsius.

In Jammu division, Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 23.3 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 16.1 degrees Celsius. Katra recorded a maximum of 21 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 15.6 degrees Celsius.(KNO)

Delhi Rewrites

Burari Ground in North Delhi and CBD Ground in East Delhi have been designated as the new venues for organising protests and demonstrations.

The order said the Ministry of Home Affairs had constituted a committee to examine alternative locations for citizens to exercise their right to organise demonstrations in place of the existing designated site.

"Based on the recommendations of the committee, Jantar Mantar Road as a designated site for organising protests/demonstrations has been de-notified," the order stated.

Oppn Marches

A mammoth crowd carrying flags and posters descended in central Delhi's Connaught Place, with Leaders of Opposition (LoPs) in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee, CPI's D Raja, CPI-M leader M A Baby, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, besides NCP-SCP leader Supriya Sule, among those who joined the march.

They passed through Barakhamba Road, crossed police barriers at Bhagwan Dass Road and reached the Supreme Court, where the opposition leaders filed a joint plea over alleged large-scale voter deletions and irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The petition has made the Election Commission of India, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and other Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi parties in the case.

"The fight against vote theft will continue. INDIA's battle will go on. The sea of people stands witness, Modi-Shah's accountability will be fixed for sure!" Kharge later said on X.

The development came a day after the Chief Justice of India declined a request for a meeting with the LoPs on the issue, saying the matter is sub judice.

The "doors of the Supreme Court are open for everybody," whether a commoner or a lawmaker, CJI Surya Kant said at an event before the Monday march, when he was asked how the opposition leaders can put forth their grievances.

Opposition leaders had said they wanted to hand over a memorandum to the CJI demanding an end to vote chori, CEC Kumar's resignation, halting of the SIR of electoral rolls and switching back to the paper ballot format.

As police stopped the march at Bhagwan Dass Road, several leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Tejashwi Yadav and Akhilesh Yadav, climbed atop a vehicle and the procession moved forward after crossing the barricades, with supporters cheering and waving flags.

In a charged atmosphere, leaders and their supporters raised slogans against the government, CEC Kumar and asserted that "vote chori" and SIR exercise would not be allowed.

Chief ministers and senior leaders jostled for space in the protest march, while employees of firms along the Barakhamba Road took pictures and videos of the energetic and vociferous gathering.

Several youth also joined the protest wearing Batman masks and costumes. Protesters also spray-painted anti-government slogans, including "Modi Must Go", on the pavements. A large number of lawyers also joined the march.

At Mandi House roundabout, protesters wrote slogans against Modi, the RSS and CEC Kumar on the road.

A large number of supporters had already reached the Barakhamba Road junction at Connaught Place, from where they marched a few kilometres towards the Supreme Court with Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra leading the protesters along with AISA chief Neha Bora.

Shiv Sena-UBT leader Sanjay Raut, CPI-ML leader Dipankar Bhattacharya, JMM's Mahua Majhi and IUML leader E T Mohammed Basheer were among those present, besides Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhinder Singh Sukhu and Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy (all from Congress).

Congress MPs Shashi Tharoor, Sachin Pilot and Mukul Wasnik and

TMC leader Sagarika Ghosh joined the protest, besides activists Yogendra Yadav and Nandita Narayan.

The INDIA bloc leaders, along with a large number of supporters and activists, earlier converged at the Constitution Club and headed towards Barakhamba Road junction to join the march to the Supreme Court in four air-conditioned buses.

They slowly headed towards Barakhamba Road junction, from where they started their march to the Supreme Court, to highlight the issue of "vote chori" and against the prohibitory measures imposed by the government to stop them from holding demonstrations.

The plea was filed by Rahul Gandhi, Kharge, Trinamool Congress Party (TMC) MP Saugata Roy, Akhilesh Yadav, Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, Sule, Raut, D Raja, Mahua Majhi, Baby and Basheer.

Later in the evening, Gandhi and Kharge, accompanied by other INDIA bloc leaders, reached the Supreme Court to sign certain documents related to their petition.

The BJP decried the march as "pure theatrics", alleging that the Congress has been blaming the Election Commission for its defeats while its own "visionless" leadership is responsible for the electoral setbacks.

"To gain power, the Congress sometimes rely on the Left, sometimes on cockroaches, and sometimes on the anti-national forces like George Soros and others. This shows just how low Rahul Gandhi and the Congress have stooped," Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said.

Earlier, Rahul Gandhi, at a press conference, announced the decision to march along with other INDIA bloc leaders to the Supreme Court and file the petition against the poll panel chief and "vote chori", after the Chief Justice of India declined a request for a meeting with the LoPs.

Addressing a press conference at the Indira Bhawan, he also asked the CEC to "turn approver" and resign as the opposition's fight was against the bigger powers that were behind him.

"Resign, turn approver; you (Kumar) have made a mistake, but you are not the mind behind the mistake," he said. "We know Gyanesh Kumar is unable to sleep at night; I am telling him directly, 'you will not survive as CEC'", Gandhi said.

Noting that there was resistance earlier too but it had not spilled over the streets in the form of protests, the former Congress president said this fight is not going to stop and will continue even if it takes days or years.

People should continue with the protests as the country cannot be saved in a day or two, he said, while describing the current protests as "tandav" that did not require any planning. "This is like Shiva's dance and anyone can join Shiva's 'baraat' (wedding procession)," he said.

Gandhi also claimed that 200 officers of the government were in "touch with them" and providing them with information.

The opposition march started after Delhi Police denotified Jantar Mantar as a designated site for protests and named three new spots for holding such demonstrations.

The Congress said democracy no longer mattered to those in power and that it was all a matter of "demokursi" and was a definite sign of "panic".

Delhi Police Commissioner Anurag Kumar issued an order naming Ramlila Maidan, Burari Ground and CBD Ground in east Delhi as the new designated sites for protests.

INDIA bloc leaders took to the streets on Tuesday when they first marched from Parliament to the Election Commission but were stopped on the way, with Rahul Gandhi staging an eight-hour sit-in inside Akashvani Bhawan complex. They later tried to protest at Jantar Mantar but were stopped by the police and forcibly removed and the next day they marched to Rajghat.

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) had called for a protest against CEC Kumar at Janatar Mantar, but it was stalled by a massive security clampdown by authorities.

The opposition's aggressive push comes days after a report claimed internal differences within the poll body, with Election Commissioners Sandhu and Joshi objecting on record at least 14 times over the last 10 months, including on SIR (PTI)

The Rise & Receding

protest site, naming Ramlila Maidan (Central Delhi), Burari Ground (North Delhi) and CBD Ground (East Delhi) as three new venues for demonstrations.

But the Jantar Mantar's rise as the capital's protest hub was itself part of a longer history of shifting addresses for public dissent.

For decades after Independence, the Boat Club lawns near India Gate and Vijay Chowk were among Delhi's principal venues for large demonstrations. Protesters also camped behind the Red Fort for days on end, awaiting the seat of power to wake up to their demands.

Historian Sohail Hashmi said the tradition of public protest in Delhi went back decades, with large gatherings once filling the stretch between

the Boat Club and India Gate.

J&K Fixes 21-Day

on October 12 under the powers conferred by Sections 4 and 8 of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Services Guarantee Act, 2011, read with Rule 17(2) of the corresponding rules.

The move is aimed at ensuring time-bound delivery of the service and providing applicants with a formal mechanism to seek redressal in case of delays or grievances.

J&K's Mountain

keen to take the initiative forward through wider consultation.

"Those recommendations need to be grounded in reality. We need to balance the need for sustainability with the need for existence and livelihoods," he said.

Erratic Weather, Water Scarcity A Concern

Highlighting the growing environmental challenges confronting the region, the Chief Minister said climate change, erratic snowfall, water scarcity, extreme rainfall and landslides were increasingly affecting Jammu and Kashmir.

He observed that snowfall had become unpredictable, with reduced precipitation and delayed winter snowfall contributing to water shortages during spring. Prolonged dry spells were often followed by intense rainfall, cloudbursts and flooding, creating additional risks for communities and infrastructure.

"We do not take care of our mountains, our environment as much as we should. We cannot stop global warming on our own, nor can we reverse it. The whole world will have to come together to address this challenge. But we can certainly take better care of our own environment," Omar said.

Describing these changes as the new reality, he said the challenge was to determine how the region could continue to develop while adapting to increasing environmental risks.

"We have to ask ourselves: how do we sustain our livelihoods and how do we develop? Development is essential, but it must be sustainable," he said.

The Chief Minister also referred to the retreat of glaciers in the region, recalling how the glacier near Sonamarg once extended much closer to the meadows. Visitors now have to trek considerably farther to reach it, he said, underlining the need to protect the region's natural heritage for future generations.

"Protect what we have, retrieve what we can, and ensure that we do not do any further damage, while also ensuring that livelihoods are protected," he said.

Calls For Sustainable Tourism

On tourism, Omar cautioned against attributing environmental degradation solely to visitors, while acknowledging that increasing tourist numbers placed pressure on popular destinations.

He said responsibility for protecting the environment rested with the government, residents, businesses and tourists alike, urging people to avoid littering, reduce the use of single-use plastic and conserve water and energy.

"Tourism does put pressure on our environment, but to assume that the situation is bad only because of tourism or tourists would also be wrong. We will have to take some responsibility," he said.

The Chief Minister said the answer was not to abruptly restrict visitors to established destinations such as Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg, where many livelihoods depended on tourism. Instead, he advocated developing new destinations through a planned approach that prioritised environmental sustainability.

He stressed that sewage treatment, wastewater management and solid waste disposal systems should be established before new destinations were developed.

"Some of our destinations do not have enough carrying capacity. We have to widen tourism, not to stop people from going to Gulmarg, Pahalgam or Sonamarg, but to develop new and sustainable destinations where the systems for waste disposal and sewage disposal are already ready," he said.

Climate-Resilient Infrastructure Needed

Omar expressed concern over unscientific hill cutting during road construction, saying such practices had contributed to landslides and repeated damage to roads, particularly in far-flung areas.

He said indiscriminate cutting of mountain slopes without adequate consideration for slope stabilisation and appropriate cutting angles might reduce initial construction costs but often resulted in expensive repairs after rainfall.

The Chief Minister said he had asked the Forest and Environment Department and the Public Works Department to work together to ensure that development projects incorporated sustainable engineering practices.

"When you cut a mountain, cut it in a way in which the possibility of landslides may not be eradicated, but at least be reduced," he said, emphasising that long-term sustainability

should take precedence over short-term savings.

He also called for energy-efficient and earthquake-resilient buildings, along with more efficient land use in urban areas.

With land becoming increasingly scarce in the Valley, Omar said planners should explore vertical development wherever appropriate instead of continued horizontal expansion, while ensuring compliance with seismic safety requirements.

Referring to the devastation caused by the 2014 floods and the 2005 earthquake, he stressed the need to incorporate disaster resilience into new construction and examine cost-effective ways to retrofit existing buildings.

Agriculture, Horticulture Central To Economy

The Chief Minister said agriculture and horticulture contributed substantially more to Jammu and Kashmir's economy than tourism, arguing that environmental protection was directly linked to the region's economic security.

He said the importance of these sectors was often overlooked by those who viewed tourism as the principal source of income for the region.

Protecting mountain ecosystems, he said, was essential not only for conservation but also for safeguarding livelihoods and ensuring long-term prosperity.

Omar urged participants at the summit to move beyond academic discussions and develop recommendations that could be translated into concrete policies and practical action.

He expressed hope that the deliberations would help shape a mountain policy suited to Jammu and Kashmir's geographical, environmental and economic realities.

The Chief Minister also released several publications brought out for the summit.

Minister for Agriculture Production Javid Ahmed Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department Mandeep Kaur, SKUAST-Kashmir Vice-Chancellor Prof Nazir Ahmed Ganai, Integrated Mountain Initiative President STS Lepcha, former IMI president PD Rai and IMI Councillor Rajan Kotru were present.

Delegates from 11 mountain states, representatives of non-governmental organisations, faculty members, scholars, students and other participants also attended the summit.

Blast Near LoC

Krishna Ghati sector and intensified vigilance along the LoC to assess the situation and prevent any possible security breach.

Two Landmines Defused In Mendhar In a separate development, Army troops detected two rusted landmines near the border fence in the Basoni area of Mendhar sector on Monday.

The explosive devices were spotted during track construction at 8.25 am and 12.10 pm, officials said, adding that both were subsequently destroyed by Army experts in controlled explosions.

Around a dozen landmines have been detected and defused by the Army in the area over the past week, officials said.

Forward areas along the LoC are dotted with landmines as part of the anti-infiltration system. Heavy rainfall can sometimes dislodge the mines and bring them to the surface, posing a potential risk to people in the area.

Protect Children

war being fought across society with a whole-of-government approach," he said, urging people to actively support the campaign.

"It is our duty to participate in this fight and say no to drugs," he added.

Earlier, Prabhat flagged off a contingent of 15 bikers, including 10 from J&K Police and five from Ladakh Police, from J&K Police Public School, Bemina, for Ekta Nagar in Gujarat. The team will participate in the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Parade on October 31.

Ahead of the flag-off, an awareness programme on the theme "Fight Against Drugs" was organised at the school, drawing enthusiastic participation from students.

The DGP also lauded the participation of J&K Police in the national motorcycle rally, which will feature 45 contingents from states, Union Territories and Central Armed Police Forces across the country.

He expressed satisfaction over on-going efforts to realise the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for a drug-free society.

Several senior police officers, including Special DGP (Coordination) S.J.M. Gillani, Additional DGP (Armed) Nitish Kumar and IGP Kashmir Sujit Kumar, were present on the occasion.

Mamta Yadav Takes

the need to adapt to the evolving media landscape, Yadav called for greater use of digital platforms and modern communication tools to improve the department's outreach and communication strategies.

Later, she inspected various sections

of the department and took stock of their functioning.

Joint Director Information (Headquarters) Dr Zahoor Ahmad Raina, Deputy Director Information (PR&AV) Javid Ahmad Rather, and other senior officers and officials of DIPR were present during the interaction.

'Why Not Cap

about. There is actually nothing for the benefit of the patients," the bench observed as Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, tried to explain the regime in place.

Mehta said that the government has taken an important step to cap the trade margin on anti-cancer drugs at 30 per cent of the MRP, which would result in savings of approximately Rs 2,500 crore to patients.

Justice Nath told the solicitor general that the court fails to understand that if the government can cap the price of anti-cancer drugs, then why can it not bring all the medicines under this regime.

"We understand that there are transportation costs, raw material cost, R&D cost and all other ancillary costs, but all these are included in the MRP. What is the logic behind allowing them to sell 400 times the actual cost? How can you allow this?" the bench observed.

Bhati said that the cost of medicines in India was the lowest in the world and that is the reason a lot of people come to the country for treatment.

Justice Mehta said that the cost of an India-made cardiac stent is around Rs 5,000 but it is sold by hospitals for more than Rs 25,000 and similarly, the cost of common antibiotic Azithromycin is sold at over Rs 70 while its actual cost is around Rs 28.

Tushar Mehta said that the medicines cannot be capped beyond a limit as higher margins enable them to reach far-flung areas.

Justice Mehta said, "If the DPCO [Drugs (Prices Control) Order]-approved medicines do not reach customers, then it is the duty of the government to ensure it reaches the patient. The actual dispute is what medicine should be in the DPCO controlled list and what should not be."

The bench gave time to Tushar Mehta to come out with modalities for capping the price of medicines and posted the matter for further hearing on October 27.

"We will be strengthening the hands of the government. Nothing else. Whatever you have to do, do it by October 27," the bench observed.

The Centre, in its 551-page detailed affidavit, said the national list of essential medicines (NLEM) is prepared and published by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The NLEM was last published in 2011, 2015 and, most recently, in 2022, it added.

"The NLEM is drawn up by the Standing National Committee on Medicines, consisting of all stakeholders and experts, which considers, inter alia, the Essential Medicines List of the World Health Organization, the drugs used in the National Health Programmes, the Indian Pharmacopoeia and the National Formulary," it said, adding that the NLEM, 2022 comprises 388 drugs and more than 900 formulations.

On price fixation of medicines, the Centre said the ceiling price of a scheduled formulation, i.e., a medicine included in Schedule-I to the DPCO, 2013, is fixed on the basis of market data by taking the simple average of the price to the retailer of all the brands and generic versions of the medicine having a market share of more than or equal to one percent of the total market turnover on the basis of the moving annual turnover of that medicine, and adding a margin of 16 per cent to the said simple average.

"The ceiling price so fixed becomes the MRP, i.e., the price above which the drug cannot be sold in the market. However, the manufacturer is at liberty to give an appropriate margin to the wholesaler and the retailer within the ceiling price," it said, adding that the ceiling prices of 935 formulations have been fixed till date.

For the non-scheduled formulations, the Centre said that the manufacturer is at liberty to fix the initial launch price, and while fixing such launch price, the manufacturer takes into account the existing competition. Given the competitive market in the sector, it may, in general, be difficult for a manufacturer to fix such prices arbitrarily, the Centre further said.

"The NPPA monitors the MRP of all non-scheduled formulations so as to ensure that no manufacturer increases the MRP of a nonscheduled drug by more than 10 per cent of the MRP prevailing during the preceding twelve months," it said.

On September 29, the top court said it is carnage while voicing its concern over a steep markup of ten times on cancer drugs by hospitals and batted for a uniform 16 per cent margin on all medicines.

It asked the Centre to look into the issue of hospitals mandating the purchase of medicines from their chemists and said it is the common man who suffers from this system.

The top court was hearing petitions

concerning regulation of medicine prices, generic prescriptions and controls on medical devices under the DPCO, 2013.

J&K FDA: Misleading

caution has been advised in the use of expressions such as "Natural", "Fresh", "Pure", "Authentic", "Genuine", "Real", "Traditional" and "Original", which are regulated under Regulation 9(2), read with Schedule V of the regulations.

According to the advisory, these terms may be used only when the food product meets the prescribed conditions. Composite foods must not be described as "natural" or "pure" in ways that violate regulatory requirements or mislead consumers about their nature, quality, composition or characteristics.

The FDA has clarified that the term "Traditional" can be used only when a recipe, formulation or processing method has existed for at least one generation, defined as 30 years, and has remained substantially unchanged.

Similarly, claims using the words "Original", "Authentic", "Genuine" and "Real" must be objectively justifiable and supported by evidence.

Where a trademark, brand name or fancy name contains regulated expressions that could mislead consumers, the prescribed disclaimer must be prominently displayed on the front of the package, as required under the regulations.

The advisory further prohibits food business operators and advertisers from making claims that expressly or indirectly suggest that a food product can prevent, treat, cure or alleviate a disease, disorder or specific physiological condition, except where such claims are specifically permitted under applicable rules.

Advertisements must also remain consistent with the information declared on product labels and must not contain exaggerated, deceptive or unsubstantiated claims.

Citing the penal provisions, the FDA said violations could invite action under Regulation 13 of the Advertising and Claims Regulations, 2018, read with Section 53 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Misleading advertisements relating to food products may attract a penalty of up to Rs 10 lakh.

All food business operators have been directed to review their existing labels, packaging, advertisements, promotional material and digital communications to ensure compliance with statutory requirements.

The advisory warns that misleading, deceptive, exaggerated or unsubstantiated claims will invite appropriate action under the law.

HC Sets Aside

particularly when the complaints were directed against police personnel.

The judgment, pronounced, set aside the order passed by the Additional Special Mobile Magistrate, Reasi, on May 5, 2022, directing the Station House Officer of Police Station Chasana to register an FIR under Section 156(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The complainant had filed two private complaints alleging that the police personnel attempted to kill him and his family members by trying to set their premises ablaze. The police personnel challenged the Magistrate's direction, contending, among other grounds, that the order had been passed without proper application of judicial mind.

The petitioners had earlier approached the Principal Sessions Judge, Reasi, whose order dated July 4, 2022, rejected their revision petition as not maintainable on the ground that the Magistrate's direction was interlocutory.

The High Court held that although a revision against an order directing investigation under Section 156(3) CrPC was barred, the petitioners could invoke the High Court's inherent jurisdiction under Section 482 CrPC where an order was alleged to have been passed without jurisdiction or in disregard of mandatory legal requirements.

Referring to Supreme Court judgments governing the exercise of powers under Section 156(3) CrPC, the High Court reiterated that directing an investigation is a judicial act requiring the Magistrate to consider whether the complaint discloses a cognizable offence and whether a police investigation is warranted. The reasons reflecting such consideration must be apparent from the order.

The Court observed that the impugned order merely recorded that the complainant had approached the concerned police station and the Senior Superintendent of Police before moving the court. It did not demonstrate the required consideration of the allegations or explain why an investigation was necessary.

The judge further observed that complaints against police personnel concerning acts allegedly committed in the course of their official duties called for particular care and caution. An examination of the matter by the trial court, the judgment noted, could have provided an opportunity to consider the competing version that the police personnel had visited the premises to execute an arrest.

Arthritis Not Just An Ageing Disease, Doctors Warn

Agencies

SRINAGAR: On World Arthritis Day, doctors on Monday called for greater awareness, early diagnosis and preventive health-care, stressing that arthritis is not confined to older people and can affect individuals across different age groups, including young adults and children.

Healthcare professionals said arthritis is an umbrella term for more than 100 conditions affecting the joints and surrounding tissues, often causing pain, swelling, stiffness and restricted mobility. They emphasised that timely medical consultation, regular physical activity and weight management can help preserve joint health and reduce the risk of complications.

Dr Mukhtar, an orthopaedician at the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), said arthritis can gradually interfere with everyday activities, including walking, climbing stairs and performing household chores.

"Many people tend to ignore joint pain and stiffness, par-



ticularly in the initial stages, assuming these symptoms are a normal part of ageing. However, persistent pain, swelling or difficulty moving a joint should not be overlooked, as early assessment can help identify the underlying condition and prevent complications," he said.

He said factors such as age, genetic predisposition, previous joint injuries, infections, obesity and immune system abnormalities may contribute to different forms of arthritis.

Highlighting the impact of obesity, Dr Mukhtar said excess body weight places additional

pressure on weight-bearing joints, particularly the knees and hips, potentially accelerating cartilage deterioration and aggravating existing symptoms. Even gradual weight reduction among overweight individuals can help ease pressure on the joints and improve mobility, he added.

He also cautioned against smoking and physical inactivity, saying smoking is associated with an increased risk of rheumatoid arthritis, while a sedentary lifestyle can weaken the muscles supporting the joints and contribute to stiffness.

Dr Aadil, a medical officer at DHSK posted in South Kashmir, said awareness of early warning signs remains crucial, as many patients seek medical attention only when symptoms begin to disrupt their daily lives.

Recurring joint pain, swelling, warmth around a joint, prolonged morning stiffness and difficulty performing routine movements warrant medical evaluation, particularly when symptoms persist or worsen, he said.

"Arthritis should not be viewed exclusively as a disease of older people. Inflammatory conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis, can affect younger individuals as well. Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment can help control inflammation, preserve joint function and reduce the likelihood of long-term disability," Dr Aadil said.

He cautioned against self-medication and the repeated use of painkillers without identifying the underlying cause, saying this could delay diagnosis and expose patients to avoidable side effects.

Doctors also stressed the importance of distinguishing between osteoarthritis, which generally develops as protective joint cartilage deteriorates, and rheumatoid arthritis, an autoimmune inflammatory disease that can cause progressive joint damage if left untreated.

They recommended regular physical activity suited to individual health conditions, a balanced diet, maintaining a healthy weight and avoiding tobacco. Low-impact exercises such as walking, swimming and cycling can help support joint health.

The doctors said that although no single preventive measure can eliminate the risk of every form of arthritis, healthy lifestyle choices, timely medical care and regular follow-up can help manage symptoms and maintain quality of life.

They urged people experiencing persistent joint pain or stiffness to seek medical advice rather than dismissing the symptoms as ordinary body aches. (KNO)

HC Makes Uniform Mandatory for Advocates' Clerks

SRINAGAR: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has reiterated the mandatory dress code for clerks attached to advocates, directing that only those wearing the prescribed uniform and identification badges will be permitted access to the Registry.

In an order issued by the Office of the Registrar Judicial, Srinagar, the High Court expressed concern over clerks entering its premises in informal or casual clothing, stating that violations undermine institutional discipline and create scope for unauthorised individuals to impersonate clerks and engage in touting activities within the Court and Registry.

The order refers to Circular No. 17 dated February 17, 2005, which prescribed the uniform for advocates' clerks on the recommendation of the Bar Association with the approval of the Chief Justice. The directions were reiterated through Circular No. 06 of 2024/RG/LP dated May 10, 2024.

As per the prescribed dress code, clerks must wear a navy blue shirt and trousers during summer. The winter uniform comprises a grey coat with navy blue trousers and a navy blue shirt or jersey.

The order further directs all advocates' clerks to wear identification badges on the left side of their chest, clearly displaying their names and the names of the advocates with whom they are attached. The Court has warned that any violation of the directions will be viewed seriously and may invite disciplinary action against the defaulters.

The concerned authorities have been directed to ensure strict compliance with the order. (KO Correspondent)

Fatal Road Accident in Pattan Leaves Bijbehara Man Dead

BARAMULLA: A man was killed while his father sustained injuries after a dumper collided with their Tata Ace vehicle near Hyderabad in Pattan area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Sunday night, officials said.

An official said that the father-son duo sustained injuries after a dumper collided with their Tata Ace vehicle near Hyderabad in Pattan last night. He said the injured duo were shifted to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Pattan for treatment, where one of them succumbed to his injuries, while the other was referred to JVC Hospital for advanced treatment.

The deceased was identified as Murtaza Shabir Bhat, a resident of Bijbehara in Anantnag district, while the injured was identified as his father, Shabir Ahmad Bhat, also a resident of Bijbehara.

The official said the cause of the accident was not immediately known and that cognizance of the incident had been taken—(KNO)

BSF Constable Dies of Cardiac Arrest

POONCH: A Border Security Force (BSF) constable died after suffering a cardiac arrest in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday morning, officials said.

An official said that the constable complained of chest pain in the morning, following which he was taken to District Hospital (DH) Poonch. He said the BSF constable suffered a cardiac arrest and collapsed at the hospital, but later died during treatment.

The official said medico-legal formalities were underway, after which the body would be handed over to the family—(KNO)

NIA Attaches Property Used to Harbour Pak LeT terrorists

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The National Investigation Agency on Monday attached a residential property on Srinagar outskirts, in connection with an alleged cross-border terror conspiracy involving Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), citing its use for harbouring Pakistani terrorists and concealing incriminating material linked to the terror network.

In a statement issued, a NIA spokesman said, "The property, located at Khasra No. 315 and belonging to accused Ghulam Mohammad Mir alias Mama Gas in Danihama area of Hazratbal was attached under Section 25 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act

(UAPA), 1967, after obtaining prior approval from the NIA Director General."

The spokesman said, "The case pertains to a network of local Over Ground Workers (OGWs) allegedly operating in coordination with Pakistan-based LeT handlers to facilitate the infiltration, movement, shelter and logistical support of Pakistani terrorists for attacks on government establishments, security forces and civilians."

"The case was initially registered as FIR No. 24/2026 on March 31, 2026, at Police Station Zakura, Srinagar, before being taken over and re-registered by the NIA as RC-02/2026/NIA/JMU," he said, adding, "A search conducted at

Mir's residence on April 6 led to the detection of two suspected Pakistani terrorists, identified as Abu Hura and Khubaib, allegedly associated with LeT. An explosive-like substance, digital devices and other incriminating material were also recovered from the premises."

"The investigation established that Mir knowingly provided shelter to the suspected terrorists and allowed the premises to be used to facilitate their activities," the NIA spokesman said, adding, "Further investigation is underway to identify other OGWs, facilitators and individuals linked to the Pakistan-based handlers and unravel the entire terror-support network."

IUST To Host National Film Festival On October 15

Over 20 Short Films, Documentaries Shortlisted; Renowned Filmmakers And Critics To Judge Student Entries

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), will host its national-level Film Festival 2026 on October 15 at the Lal Ded Auditorium on the university's main campus. The festival will feature screenings of short films and documentaries, panel discussions with experts and a competition among school, college and university students for awards recognising outstanding films.

More than 20 short

films and documentaries have been shortlisted for the competition, with student filmmakers from colleges and universities across Jammu and Kashmir and other states participating in the event.

The entries will be judged by a jury comprising Prof. Shahid Rasool, Dean Academic Affairs and Dean of the Media School at the Central University of Kashmir; Bollywood actor and director Mir Sarwar; and filmmaker Danish Renzu, founder of Renzu Films.

Besides the shortlisted entries, some films produced by DJMC will also be screened during the

festival.

The initiative aims to provide a platform for emerging creative talent and contribute to the promotion of cinema, arts and culture in the region.

Maple Café and Bistro is the official hospitality partner of the festival, while Kashmir Observer is the official print and digital media partner. Big 92.7 FM is the official radio partner.

The upcoming edition follows the success of the 2023 and 2025 festivals organised by DJMC-IUST, which witnessed enthusiastic student participation and collaboration among institutions across the Valley.

HC Dismisses Plea over Disputed Pathway in Anantnag

'Disputed Questions Of Fact, Law Must Be Determined By Civil Court'

KO Correspondent

SRINAGAR: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has dismissed a writ petition filed by a resident of Chittergul-Shangus in Anantnag district seeking protection of a pathway allegedly used by his family and other residents for several decades, observing that the disputed questions of fact and law must be determined by the competent civil court on the basis of evidence.

A bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal held that the controversy concerning the existence and location of the pathway, the petitioner's claimed easementary rights, possession of the land and alleged obstruction could not appropriately be adjudicated in writ proceedings, particularly when the same subject matter was already pending before the civil court at Shangus.

The petition was filed by Bal Krishnan Pandita, who claimed that an approxi-

mately eight-foot-wide and 60-foot-long pathway provided access to his residential property and agricultural land.

According to Pandita, the pathway also led to a Devi Mandir and a Ghat/Yarbal used by the local minority community for religious ceremonies.

He alleged that attempts had been made to erect fencing and obstruct access to the pathway. He claimed easementary rights by prescription and necessity and sought directions for identification, demarcation and protection of the passage.

The court noted that a revenue inspection conducted on November 24, 2025, had recorded the existence of a pathway affecting the relevant survey numbers, while also noting uncertainty concerning the identification and possession of certain portions of the land.

Pandita had earlier approached the Court of

Munsiff, Shangus, where an interim order directing the parties to maintain status quo regarding the pathway was passed on July 9, 2024. However, the interim protection was subsequently vacated on July 17, 2026.

The High Court observed that Pandita could not approach the writ court merely in the hope of securing a more favourable order after the civil court declined to continue the interim protection. It held that the appropriate remedy was to pursue the pending civil proceedings rather than seek substantially overlapping relief through writ jurisdiction.

The court further observed that determining whether the petitioner had acquired an enforceable easementary right would require evidence regarding the duration and nature of the pathway's use, whether such use was permissive or as a matter of right, and the precise identity and extent

of the land concerned.

The court also referred to an earlier Division Bench order dated September 7, 2026, which had rejected the challenge to the constitutional validity of Revenue Department Notification S.O. 144 of 2022 under the Jammu and Kashmir Migrant Immovable Property (Preservation, Protection and Restraint on Distress Sales) Act, 1997.

Clarifying that it had not expressed any opinion on the merits of the petitioner's easementary claim or the rival claims concerning the land, the Court left all such questions open for determination by the civil court in accordance with law.

The court upheld the Munsiff's order dated July 17, 2026, declined to restore the earlier status quo arrangement and dismissed the writ petition, granting the petitioner liberty to pursue his remedies before the competent civil court.

Sunil Sharma Revives 1987 Poll Rigging Row, Targets Abdullah Family

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Kumar Sharma on Monday termed the alleged rigging of the 1987 Assembly elections as the biggest case of vote theft in the country and said the Abdullah family must answer questions surrounding the polls that brought Farooq Abdullah to power.

Speaking to reporters, Sharma, according to KNO, said the 1987 elections remained a symbol of electoral malpractice and that the Abdullah family should respond to allegations linked to those polls.

"If the allegation of vote theft is to be placed on someone, it is on the 1987 rigging. Farooq Abdullah became Chief Minister after votes were allegedly stolen," he said.

Sharma also referred to a district commissioner named Khaliq, alleging that legislators elected during that period were popularly known as "Khaliq-made MLAs".

He further accused the Congress of a history of electoral malpractice in Jammu and Kashmir while claiming that elections held under former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi were conducted fairly.

Reacting to the INDIA bloc's campaign against alleged electoral irregularities, Sharma questioned its criticism of electronic voting machines (EVMs), asking why the electoral process was being challenged after opposition parties had participated in elections under the same system.

Referring to earlier remarks by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Sharma said the National Conference leader had previously praised the conduct of elections in Jammu and Kashmir and reported no widespread booth-level irregularities.

He said opposition leaders should clarify their current objections and position on the electoral process.

ACB Catches Agriculture Official Accepting Rs 40,000 Bribe

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday caught a Senior Assistant of the Sub-Division Agriculture Office, Handwara, red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 40,000 for the release of a pending tractor subsidy bill under the HADP scheme, officials said. In a statement issued, the ACB said the accused, Irshad Ahmad Peer, was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe.

The ACB's Police Station Baramulla had received a written complaint alleging that Peer had demanded rupees 40,000 from the complainant for releasing a subsidy bill for a tractor purchased by the complainant's brother under the HADP scheme. A discreet verification was conducted, during which the allegations of bribe demand were found to be true, the statement said. Following the complaint and verification, a case (FIR No. 06/2026) under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, as amended in 2018, was registered at ACB Police Station Baramulla on October 12, and an investigation was taken up.



(CC.7641877)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

HEALTH & MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BRANCH

CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K.

(NOTIFICATIONS)

JAMMU, THE 29TH OF SEPTEMBER, 2026

Subject: Tentative Seniority List of Block Medical Officers and equivalent officers of Health & Family Welfare (Gazetted) Service, J&K, as on 01.09.2026.

Whereas, the posts of Block Medical Officers and equivalent posts in the Health & Family Welfare (Gazetted) Service are required to be filled by posting of Medical Officers strictly in accordance with their seniority, as prescribed under the relevant Recruitment Rules notified vide SRO-325 dated 12.07.2013;

Whereas, on the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee/Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission, 95 Block Medical Officers/Medical Officers were regularized/confirmed against the posts of Chief Medical Officers and equivalent posts vide Government Order No. 296-JK(HME) of 2023 dated 10.04.2023;

Whereas, while considering the aforesaid proposal, the DPC/JKPSO observed that a number of officers recommended for regularization against the posts of Chief Medical Officers and equivalent had not served in the feeding cadre of Block Medical Officers and equivalent posts and that no seniority list of the said feeding cadre had been framed by the Department;

Whereas, the matter regarding preparation of the seniority list of Block Medical Officers and equivalent officers was examined by the Department and, pursuant to the deliberations held in the meeting convened under the Chairmanship of Director Finance, Health and Medical Education Department on 13.05.2025, it was decided that the seniority of Block Medical Officers and equivalent officers shall be determined/prepared in accordance with the applicable Recruitment Rules and the seniority of the feeding cadre, of Medical Officers;

Whereas, the Department, vide communication dated 19.06.2026, requested the Directors of Health Services, Jammu/Kashmir to furnish the requisite information in respect of Block Medical Officers and equivalent officers in the prescribed format. The information furnished by the Directorates of Health Services, Jammu/Kashmir vide communications dated 03.08.2026 and 27.08.2026, respectively, has been examined and scrutinized by the Department;

Whereas, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Tell, figuring at Serial No. 235 of the Medical Officers' Seniority List-2020, was the last officer considered for regularization/confirmation/promotion against the post of Chief Medical Officer and equivalent Accordingly, the present exercise for preparation of the seniority list of Block Medical Officers and equivalent officers has been undertaken with reference to the Medical Officers figuring from Serial No. 236 onwards of the said seniority list, subject to verification of records and the applicable rules;

Now, therefore, the Tentative Seniority List of Block Medical Officers and equivalent officers of the Health & Family Welfare (Gazetted) Service, U&K, as it stands on 01.09.2026, as Annexure-A, is hereby issued for information of all concerned and inviting objections/representations, if any.

The officers concerned, who have any objection to their placement, date of appointment, date of regularization, seniority position, category status or any other relevant entry reflected in the tentative seniority list, may submit their objections/representations to the Human Resource Management (HRM) Branch, Health and Medical Education Department, Civil Secretariat, J&K, within 15 days from the date of issuance/publication of this tentative seniority list.

The objections/representations shall be supported by relevant documentary evidence and shall clearly indicate the specific entry/issue against which the objection is being preferred. Objections not supported by documentary evidence or received after the prescribed period shall not ordinarily be entertained.

The reserved category status of the officers, as reflected in the earlier seniority records, shall be subject to verification/authentication of the requisite valid category certificates by the competent authority. Accordingly, the officers claiming the benefit of reserved categories, particularly RBA, ALC and SOC, shall furnish valid and duly authenticated category certificates to the Department within 15 days from the date of issuance of this tentative seniority list.

In case an officer fails to furnish the requisite valid category certificate within the prescribed period, his/her category status shall be liable to be treated as Open Merit (OM), subject to the applicable rules and verification by the competent authority. In case any certificate is subsequently found to be false, fake, invalid or otherwise not in accordance with the prescribed requirements, the category status and consequential benefits, if any, shall be liable to be withdrawn/cancelled ab-initio, besides initiation of appropriate action under the rules.

It is clarified that the seniority list issued vide this notification is tentative in nature and shall not confer any vested right upon any officer in respect of seniority promotion, confirmation or appointment to any higher post. The final seniority shall be issued after examination and disposal of the objections/representations received from the concerned officers and verification of the relevant service records/documents.

The issuance of this tentative seniority list shall also be subject to the outcome of any court case(s), tribunal proceedings or other judicial/legal proceedings, if any, having a bearing on the seniority of the officers included therein.

The tentative seniority list is issued without prejudice to the rights of the Government to make corrections/modifications in the list on the basis of any factual discrepancy, clerical error, subsequent verification of records or any order/judgment of a competent court/tribunal or competent authority.

The said Tentative Seniority List will be available on the official website of Health Department www.hme.jk.gov.in . The list shall also be available in the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu/Kashmir.

No:HME-HRM/67/2025-02

Dated: 29.09.2026

DIPK-6620-26

DT: 12/10/2026

Sd/-

(M.Raju) IAS

Commissioner/Secretary to the Government
Health and Medical Education Department

J&K Bowled Out For 120, MP Take 135-run Lead on Day 2

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: Defending champions Jammu and Kashmir suffered a batting collapse to be bowled out for 120 in their first innings before Madhya Pradesh reached 59 for four in their second essay to take a 135-run overall lead on the second day of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group A match here Monday.

J&K, who had dismissed Madhya Pradesh for 196 on the opening day, could not capitalise on their impressive bowling effort as their innings folded in 46.3 overs. Wicketkeeper-batter Kanhaiya Wadhawan remained unbeaten on 35 off 63 balls, hitting three fours and a six, while opener Qamran Iqbal made 31 off 64 deliveries.

Shubham Pundir contributed 20 and Abdul Samad scored 17, but the defending champions lost wickets at regular intervals.

They slipped to seven for two before Qamran and Pundir added 34 runs for the third wicket.

Their dismissals at team scores of 41 and 62 respectively triggered another slide, with J&K losing their last four wickets for 32 runs.

For Madhya Pradesh, pacers Avesh Khan and Aryan Pandey claimed three wickets apiece, while Akshay Sharma took two for 18 runs in 10 overs.

Ravi Kiran picked up one wicket.

Madhya Pradesh then lost Harsh Gawli (11), Himanshu Mantri (0), Yash Dubey (22) and Chanchal Rathore (8) in their second innings.

Auqib Nabi and Sunil Kumar took two wickets each to keep J&K in the contest. At stumps, MP captain Shubham Sharma was unbeaten on 15, while Aryan Pandey was yet to open his account.

Earlier, Rohit Sharma had starred with the ball on the opening day, taking five wickets for 36 runs in 21.2 overs as Madhya Pradesh were dismissed for 196. Sunil Kumar claimed four wickets for 69 runs.

Baroda in command against Goa

Baroda declared their first innings at 472 for eight before Goa ended the second day at five for one, trailing by 467 runs in Panaji.

Goa lost Suyash Prabhudessai for a duck off the first ball of their innings, with Mahesh Pithiya providing the breakthrough. Shivendra Bhujbal was



unbeaten on five and Darshan Misal was on nought at stumps.

The substantial first-innings total put Baroda in a strong position, leaving Goa with a considerable deficit to overcome. The hosts will need a sig-

nificant batting effort on the third day to prevent Baroda from tightening their grip on the contest.

Vidarbha build lead over Puducherry
Vidarbha posted 428 in their first

innings and reduced Puducherry to 107 for one at stumps on the second day in Nagpur.

Puducherry were still 321 runs behind, but their batting showed signs of resistance after an early setback.

Ritesh Gudge was batting on 59 off 122 balls, having struck 10 fours, while Nikhil Gangta had made 32 not out from 105 deliveries.

The pair had put together an unbroken 93-run stand for the second wicket, helping Puducherry recover after Neyan Shyam Kangayan fell to Harsh Dubey for 10.

Puducherry's remaining batters will look to build on the partnership and narrow the deficit when play resumes.

Uttar Pradesh pile up 540 against Bihar

Uttar Pradesh made 540 in their first innings before Bihar reached 44 for two at stumps on the second day of their Group A match at Rajgir.

Bihar trailed by 496 runs, leaving them with a substantial task to avoid conceding a sizeable first-innings advantage.

Piyush Singh was unbeaten on 16, while Amod Yadav was yet to open his account when play ended for the day. Bihar lost Ayush Loharuka for a duck.

Karan Sharma had taken two wickets for Uttar Pradesh, who will look to exploit their commanding position, as Bihar attempt to build a response on the third day.

Rajnath Felicitates Sportspersons From Armed Forces Who Bagged Medals At Asian Games

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday felicitated the sportspersons from the armed forces who bagged a total of 27 medals, including six gold, at the recently-held Asian Games in Japan.

During his interaction with them, he also highlighted the role played by the Mission Olympic Wing in identifying talented athletes and nurturing them with scientific training and sports facilities.

He stressed a focused and systematic approach towards the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, calling for better performance at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

A total of 92 athletes from the three services competed in 19 disciplines and won 27 medals — six gold, 11 silver and 10 bronze.



Army athletes alone secured 20 medals (six gold, eight silver and six bronze), contributing nearly 24 per cent to India's overall tally. They were also felicitated by Chief of the Army Staff Gen Dhiraj Seth, who was present on the occasion, according to an official statement.

The overall Indian contin-

gent won 85 medals -- 21 gold, 27 silver and 37 bronze.

A particularly encouraging feature has been the growing contribution of women athletes. Four Army women boxers secured four gold medals at the Commonwealth Games, while women athletes contributed two gold and one silver medal at the Asian Games,

the Army said in a statement.

Singh said the journey to winning a medal involves immense dedication, early-morning training, gymnasium sessions, injuries, recovery and consistent efforts while balancing unit duties with sports preparations and staying away from families.

Singh also acknowledged the contribution of coaches, support staff, physiotherapists, nutritionists and the families of athletes, emphasising that "a champion is never made in isolation".

He reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening India's sporting ecosystem, and underlined that the objective is not merely to increase participation, but to establish India as a "leading power" in the global sporting arena.

Scandal-Hit Man City Returns To Champions League Hosting PSG In-Form Barcelona Goes To Galatasaray

AP

GENEVA: The soccer schedule gods had a sense of humor making Manchester City's return to the Champions League after a devastating verdict of financial rule-breaking a game against Paris Saint-Germain.

Man City hosts title holder PSG on Wednesday in a standout meeting of Middle East state-backed clubs who were on parallel narratives for much of the past 15 years that now have wildly diverged.

Barcelona is still Europe's best team this season five weeks after the opening round of Champions League games and takes a run of nine straight wins to Galatasaray on Tuesday.

Arsenal hosts Lille on Tuesday looking for a 14th straight win in the league phase across all three seasons of the current format.

Bayern Munich also plays Tuesday, at Norwegian champion Viking, and Real Madrid has a Wednesday visit to one of coach José Mourinho's

former clubs Roma.

Tale of two cities between Manchester and Paris in Champions League:

Manchester City and Paris Saint-Germain had much in common before combining to win three of the past four Champions League titles. They had won none in the previous 67 seasons of the marquee competition.

They were underachieving big city clubs transformed by soccer's new wave of petrostate wealth: Man City in 2008 backed by Abu Dhabi's royal family and a Qatari takeover of PSG in 2011.

Ambitious investment with sponsors from home created issues complying with UEFA's new Financial Fair Play rules and both were fined 20 million euros (\$22.4 million) in 2014.

Each lost their first Champions League final — PSG to Bayern in 2020 and Man City the next year to Chelsea — then broke through in title games against Inter Milan

led by coaches who previously won it with Barcelona. Man City won in 2023 and PSG in 2025.

Under Luis Enrique, PSG is playing widely admired soccer chasing a hat trick of European titles.

Just months after Pep Guardiola left, Man City risks becoming a pariah after long-held suspicion about the club's financial success was proven last month by a Premier League tribunal. The pending sanctions could force years of Champions League exile for the club, which is appealing.

Man City connection to Gala vs. Barca:

Rodri and Ilkay Gundogan were the heart of Man City's midfield in the 2023 final and the Spanish star scored the only goal in Istanbul to defeat Inter. On Tuesday they will be back in Istanbul but on opposite sides when Gundogan and Turkish champion Galatasaray welcome Barcelona, having added Rodri in the offseason to an already powerful lineup.



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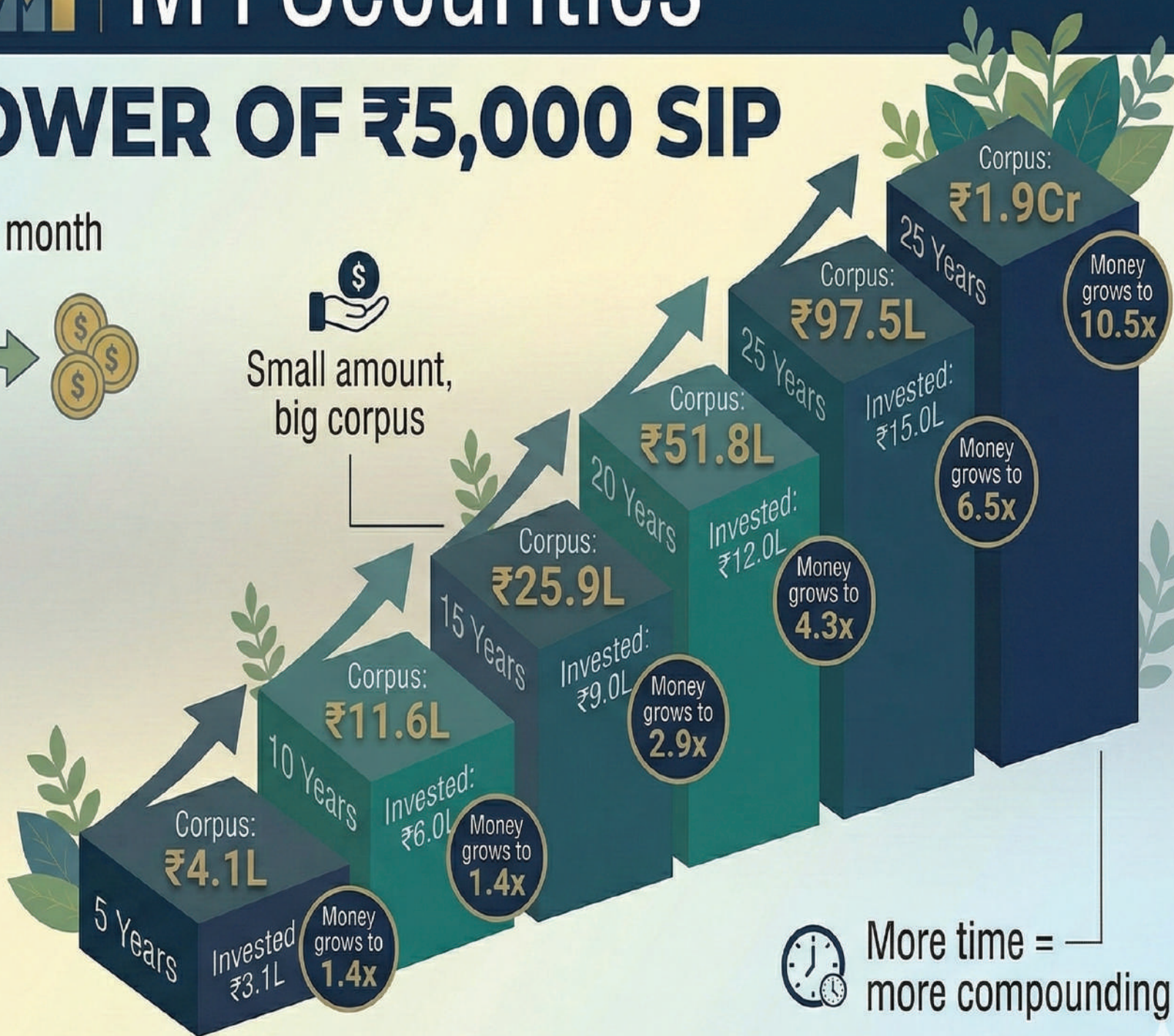
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