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Fresh Rain, Snow Bring Chill To Kashmir

Day Temps Dip Below Normal; MeT Forecasts More Rain Today

Higher Reaches Receive Fresh Snowfall; Plains Witness Overnight Rain



Photo : Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Fresh snowfall covered several higher reaches of Kashmir on Wednesday, while overnight rainfall lashed the plains, bringing down daytime temperatures across the Valley. Popular tourist destinations, including Gulmarg, Sonamarg and Pahalgam, received fresh snowfall under the influence of an active western disturbance,

while intermittent snowfall continued for the second consecutive day in some higher-altitude areas.

Snowfall was also reported along the Zojila and Razdan passes and in Tulail in north Kashmir's Gurez area, officials said.

The plains, including Srinagar, witnessed overnight rainfall before the weather cleared and sunshine appeared in the morning. | [More on P6](#)

DSEK Revises Kashmir School Timings

The Jammu and Kashmir School Education Department on Wednesday ordered revised timings for all government and private schools in Kashmir, effective October 15, in view of the changing weather conditions. According to an order issued by the Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK), schools falling within the Srinagar Municipal Corporation limits will function from 10 am to 3:30 pm. Schools outside the

J&K's Local Power Generation Falls Below 400 MW

Relies on nearly 2,000 MW in imports as winter demand looms

Agencies

Srinagar: With the onset of pre-winter, Jammu and Kashmir imports nearly 84 percent of power from other states even as the Union Territory generates nearly 370 Megawatts (MWs) from its local stations.

The official figures reveal that the Union Territory was importing nearly 2000 MWs of power from other states and UTs. Top officials informed that

out of the total power production capacity of 1197 MWs from the Jammu and Kashmir owned plants, the power generation fluctuated between 360-400 MWs.

As of now authorities are generating 298 MWs of power from the Baghailhar-1 hydro-electric power project, 49 MWs from other projects of Kashmir division and 20 MWs through the Independent Power Producers in Jammu division.

According to the official figures, The State Load Despatch Centre (SLDC) recorded a power load of 1170 MWs in Kashmir division and | [More on P6](#)

LG Outlines Four-Pillar Roadmap For Himalayan Resilience

Calls for Zero-Waste Economy, Science-Based, Sustainable Development

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has called for urgent action to protect the Himalayan ecosystem, stressing the need to balance development with environmental conservation through science-based planning, climate-resilient infrastructure and sustainable livelihoods.

In a message to the valedictory session of the 13th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit, Sinha said building a resilient Himalayan landscape was no longer merely a subject of discussion but a matter of national importance.

He congratulated the Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) and Sher-e-Kashmir



University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) for jointly organising the summit, which brought together discussions on water resources, forests, land, biodiversity and climate change.

The Lieutenant Governor

unprecedented challenges unfold before us. The natural disasters in various parts of the country and the world prove that the intensity of climate change impacts has increased, making these challenges even more serious," he said.

Describing the Himalayas as the source of rivers, a repository of biodiversity and a vital regulator of climate, Sinha said any disturbance to the region's ecological balance could have far-reaching consequences.

He stressed that development achieved at the cost of environmental stability could not be considered true development.

"We must establish an extremely important balance between | [More on P6](#)

Keep Human Compassion At Heart Of Healthcare: LG

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday called for bridging the gap in healthcare access between urban and rural areas, strengthening indigenous medical research and prioritising preventive care. In a message congratulating Government Medical College (GMC),

Srinagar, on organising a conference on "Advancing Internal Medicine: From Evidence to Excellence in Clinical Practice", Sinha highlighted the importance of internal medicine in delivering holistic, evidence-based and patient-centric healthcare. He said physicians often face | [More on P6](#)

PM To Inaugurate Projects Worth ₹3,350 Crore In Ladakh

KO Web News

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate and dedicate to the nation five major development projects worth around Rs 3,350 crore in Ladakh on Thursday through virtual mode, officials said.

According to a statement issued by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), the Prime Minister will also address a gathering on the occasion.

The projects are aimed at strengthening connectivity, improving energy infrastructure, conserving cultural heritage and enhancing water security in the Union Territory.

Modi will inaugurate the new passenger terminal building at Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport in Leh, constructed at a cost of Rs 640 crore.

Spread over 23,800 square metres, the terminal is



designed to handle 35 lakh passengers annually. It incorporates geothermal energy to improve efficiency and reduce its carbon footprint, reflecting the need for sustainable infrastructure in Ladakh's ecologically sensitive environment.

The terminal combines modern passenger facilities with elements of Ladakh's cultural heritage and is expected to improve passenger convenience and strengthen air

connectivity with the rest of the country.

The Prime Minister will also dedicate the 298-km Nimmu-Padum-Darcha Road, constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

The road connects Nimmu in Leh with Darcha in Himachal Pradesh through the remote Zaskar Valley, providing an alternative route to Ladakh alongside the Srinagar-Leh and Manali-Leh highways.

Traversing challenging Himalayan terrain, including the high-altitude Shinkun La Pass, the road is expected to enhance operational mobility and logistical support for the Armed Forces. It will also improve access to healthcare, education, markets and essential services for residents of Zaskar.

Modi will inaugurate the 9 MW Hanu Small Hydroelectric Project and the 66 kV double-circuit | [More on P6](#)

Kulgam Police Conduct Anti-Fidayeen Drill

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Police, in coordination with the Army, railway police and CRPF, conducted an anti-Fidayeen attack drill on Wednesday at a railway station in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said.

"Kulgam Police, in coordination with the Army, GRP, RPF and CRPF, conducted an anti-fidayeen mock drill at Harnag Railway Station to assess operational preparedness and inter-agency coordination," a police spokesperson said.

During the exercise, road cut-offs were established at designated locations, and participating agencies carried out coordinated response measures to neutralise the simulated threat and ensure the safe evacuation of passengers and civilians, he said.

The exercise aimed to enhance operational readiness, improve response time and strengthen coordination among security agencies to ensure an effective response to any eventuality, he added.

Handwara SSP Sajad Khaliq Bhat reviewed the security and operational preparedness in the North Kashmir police district.

Bhat, who assumed charge on Monday, undertook a detailed review of critical security and policing aspects, including investigation | [More on P6](#)

J&K Notifies Homestay Policy 2026

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has notified the Homestay Policy 2026, providing for simplified registration, financial assistance and residential utility tariffs to encourage local households to offer tourist accommodation and expand tourism to rural, border, heritage and emerging destinations.

Approved by the Council of Ministers, the policy aims to increase accommodation capacity, generate livelihood opportunities and extend the economic benefits of tourism beyond established tourist centres across

the Union Territory.

Under the policy, property owners must reside on the premises and can offer between one and eight guest rooms to tourists. Homestays will be classified into Silver and Gold categories based on facilities, hygiene and safety standards.

The policy provides for provisional Silver registration within 28 days of submission of a complete application. The provisional registration will remain valid for up to six months.

Subsidies, Residential Utility Tariffs

The policy provides for a subsidy of up to 35 per cent under the | [More on P6](#)

Homestay Policy to Boost Tourism: CM

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said the Jammu and Kashmir Homestay Policy 2026 would promote sustainable tourism, strengthen local entrepreneurship and create new livelihood | [More on P6](#)

HC Gives Govt 10 Days To Clear Shah Koul

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has granted the authorities 10 more days to complete the ongoing demarcation and removal of encroachments from the historic Shah Koul and directed them to submit an updated status report on October 27.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Dr Pushpendra Singh Bhati and Justice Rajesh Sekhri passed the directions while hearing a Public Interest Litigation seeking restoration of Shah Koul to its original shape and removal of encroachments from the historic water channel.

The Court was informed that, pursuant to its September 15 order, the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, had constituted a

committee comprising the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Vice Chairman, Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA); Regional Director, Survey and Land Records (Central), Srinagar; and Superintending Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control, Srinagar.

The committee has been tasked with consolidating the list of encroachments after proper demarcation with reference to revenue records, examining claims regarding property rights and preparing a time-bound action plan for removal of identified encroachments and restoration of Shah Koul.

The authorities submitted that the demarcation exercise had commenced and that voluntary | [More on P6](#)

HC Seeks Policy Clarity On Govt Housing For Azad, Raina

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has sought clarity from the Union Territory administration on the policy governing the retention of government accommodation by political leaders after being informed that former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad and senior BJP leader Ravinder Raina have been permitted to retain their official residences until March 2027.

A division bench of Chief Justice Pushpendra Singh

Bhati and Justice Rajesh Sekhri was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Professor S K Bhalla in 2020.

During the hearing on October 12, the court questioned the administration about the policy under which the two leaders have been allowed to continue occupying government accommodation.

Appearing for the UT administration, Senior Additional Advocate General Monika Kohli informed the bench that a designated committee had considered the cases of Azad and Raina, former | [More on P6](#)

Parents Free To Buy School Books From Any Shop: Itoo

Govt to Form Committee to Probe Complaints Over Additional Books Prescribed by Private Schools

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Education Minister Sakina Itoo on Wednesday said private schools cannot force parents to purchase textbooks from any particular bookseller, asserting that the choice must rest with parents.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a meeting, Itoo said private schools should allow parents to buy textbooks from any outlet of their choice.



"Private schools should give choice to the parents. It depends on them. They can buy textbooks from wherever they want," she said.

"No private school should direct any parent to buy a textbook from any particular bookseller. That choice should be of the parents. There should be no restriction in this regard," the minister added.

On the issue of private schools prescribing additional books beyond those mandated by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), Itoo said there was nothing wrong with the practice if the books enhanced students' knowledge and benefited their education.

"However, if the children are not interested in those books and are not beneficial for them, they shouldn't be forced into it. It shouldn't be used as a tool to mint money from parents," she said.

The minister said the government had decided to constitute a committee comprising representatives of parent associations, | [More on P6](#)



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2

What Is The Success Rate Of Valve Replacement Surgery?

Hearing a cardiologist say the word "valve" can bring up a lot, but usually not thoughts about the actual surgery. More often, it's a half-remembered story about someone else's experience, one built on numbers that are 15 or 20 years old by now. Since then, a lot has changed: the techniques, the recovery, and the odds too, mostly for the better. Let's understand what current data show in terms of heart valve replacement surgery.

How Does Valve Replacement Surgery Work?
The four valves in the heart let blood pass through them and also prevent any backflow. Sometimes a door stiffens. Sometimes it stops sealing. The heart works harder to compensate with time, and that extra effort wears the muscle down. That's the road to heart failure. Valve replacement surgery addresses this by removing the damaged valve and replacing it with a new one. It will be either mechanical or made from specially treated tissue. Based on your case, a surgeon may either do traditional surgery, i.e., open heart surgery, or may use a catheter-based approach to skip chest opening.

What Is the Actual Success Rate?
There's real comfort in the numbers. Of every 100 people who had aortic valve surgery, roughly 93 were still alive five years on. And this isn't guesswork from a handful of cases, the figure comes from a study that tracked 42,000 low-risk patients across hospitals all over the U.S.

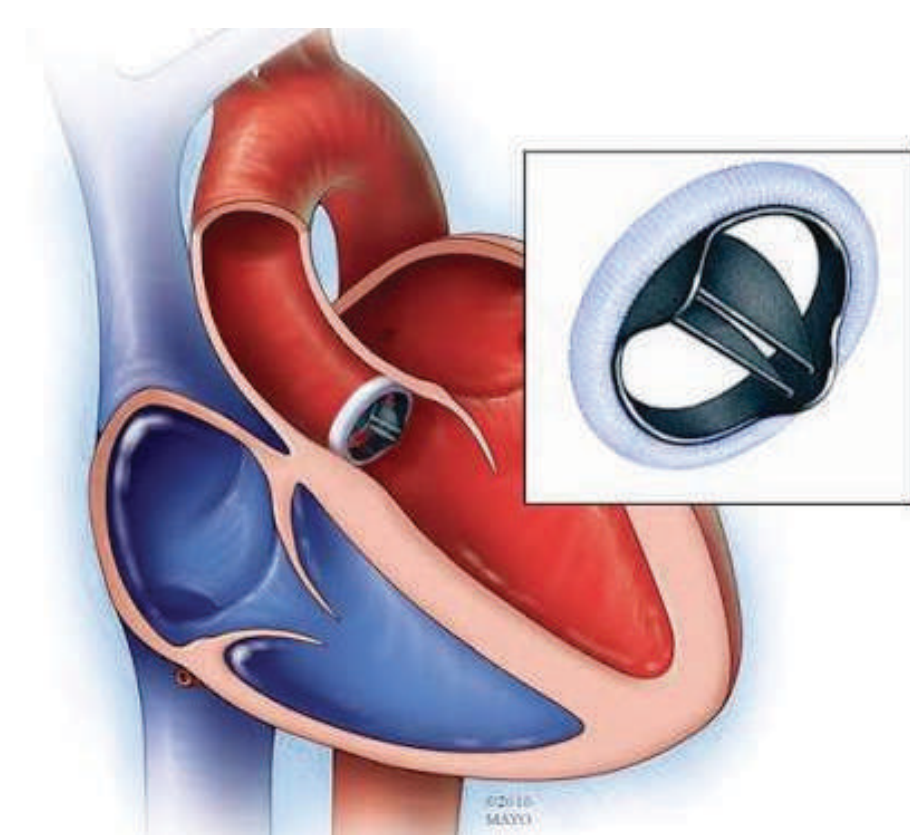
It usually provides the best stats among all kinds of valve surgeries. Mitral valve replacement carries a bit more risk, and the reasons are worth unpacking. For one, mitral valve disease tends to be caught later, often after it has already progressed. Second, it rarely shows up alone, other heart conditions usually come with it. Together, these two factors tilt the odds away from a smooth recovery. And of the whole journey, the first

30 days count the most, that's when serious complications are most likely to show up.

Does It Relate to The Valve?
Yes, and you should understand the reasons behind it instead of simply accepting it. Aortic valve replacement generally shows the best results. 5-year survival is most commonly cited as 85-93%, depending on individual risk factors. The risk of complications is higher for procedures involving valve surgery and bypass surgery than for procedures involving only valve surgery.

What Determines Your Specific Chances?
What matters most is your own numbers rather than general statistics. Age and overall frailty. Age matters less than how well your body handles physical stress. Ejection fraction, which is really just a way of measuring how strongly your heart pumps. Other conditions in the mix. Diabetes, kidney disease, prior heart surgery, all of it factors in. Whether the surgery is planned in advance or done as an emergency.

Whether you also need a bypass surgery. What Are the Common Symptoms of Valve Diseases?
Valve disease develops slowly and can be easily ignored. Don't ignore the following signs, though:
• Breathlessness during exercise and struggling to breathe when you lie down
• Chest discomfort, or a fluttery, irregular heartbeat
• Swelling in ankles or feet
• Fatigue that feels out of proportion to whatever you actually did that day
• Feeling dizzy specifically during exertion
None of these symptoms belong exclusively to valve disease. That's exactly why guessing at home isn't useful. A proper evaluation is.



How Do Doctors Actually Diagnose It?
It starts with something as simple as a stethoscope. A murmur, an unusual sound as blood moves through the valve, is often the very first clue.
• Echocardiogram. An ultrasound of the heart, and the main tool for seeing exactly how the valve is functioning.
• ECG, to check the heart's rhythm.
• Chest X-ray or CT scan to get a clear picture of

the heart structure.
• Cardiac catheterization to check the patient's blood flow and pressure.

What is the Scope of Treatment and Recovery?
Not everybody requires heart valve surgery immediately. Mild cases often just get monitored for years with regular echocardiograms until intervention actually becomes necessary. When surgery is the right call, there are usually

two valve types to choose between. Mechanical valves basically never wear out; however, you will have to take anticoagulation pills for your entire life. Tissue valves don't require lifelong anticoagulation; however, after 10 to 15 years, they tend to wear out and may require another procedure. Your time spent in the hospital will vary depending on the choice of surgical treatment: 5-7 days if open surgery is done, or less if a catheter is used. Total recovery requires about 6-8 weeks. When Should You Actually See a Doctor? Don't wait for a crisis to get this checked.
• You notice breathlessness during activities that never used to bother you.
• A doctor has already mentioned hearing a heart murmur.
• You've had unexplained fatigue, swelling, or fainting spells.
• You were diagnosed with valve disease a while back and haven't had a recent follow-up. An experienced heart care specialist in Mira Road can properly assess how your valve is functioning and walk you through whether heart valve surgery makes sense for you, and if it does, which approach actually fits your case.

What to Know Before You Worry
Fear around valve surgery usually comes from old stories, not current data. The reality today looks considerably better than what most people expect when they walk into that first cardiology appointment. If you're sitting in that uncertain, waiting period right now, let the actual numbers do some of the reassuring. The odds are better than fear tends to suggest. A proper evaluation is still the fastest way to know exactly where you stand, rather than guessing in the dark. (Disclaimer: The above press release comes to you under an arrangement with NRDPL and Kashmir Observer takes no editorial responsibility for the same.).

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to apply for DEE Class Contractor Card registration. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of SE Baramulla within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mahjabeen Aleena
W/o Ishfaq Ahmad Peerzada
R/o Chichilora Tehsil Kawarhama

zk

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing regd no: JK05L 5507 while travelling from Pattan To Hyderpora. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the RTO Sopore within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohd Maqbool Ganaie
S/o Mohd Afzal Ganaie
R/o Nowlari Pattan

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Khalida Bano, D/o of. Mohammad Maqbool, resident of R.O. MasjidGam Gindiyal, Drass, would like to inform the public that I lost my important documents on 10 October 2026 while travelling from Drass to Kargil.

The lost documents include the following:
10th marksheet
JK board Registration Card
ST (Scheduled Tribe) Certificate
PRC (Permanent Resident Certificate)
Aadhaar Card
Health Card
ATM Card
Ayushman bharat Pm jay sehat card
Other important documents
I humbly request anyone who finds or has received these documents to kindly return them to me. Your cooperation and assistance would be highly appreciated.
Contact Number: 9906161184
Name: Khalida Bano
Address: R.O. MasjidGam Gindiyal, Drass, Kargil
Thank you for your kind cooperation.

fko

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

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No. 113005077 Session: November Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. The error committed by the concerned parent/ Institution against my Mother's name as Naziya Begum Instead of Shahnaza Begum Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.
Name: Razliya Sadiq
Father's name: Mohammad Sadiq Rather
Mother's Name: Shahnaza Begum
DOB: 28-06-2009
Residence: Gundjahangir Hajin Bandiora
Mobile no: 6006676712



fko

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education Sub Office Baramulla

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No.: 304212 Session: Annual (Regular) Year 2003 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. The error committed by the concerned parent/ Institution against my name as Mudasir Manzoor Instead Mudasir Manzoor Parray Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.
Name: Mudasir Manzoor Parray
Father's name: Manzoor Ahmad Parray
Mother's Name: Farida Begum
DOB: 01/10/1988
Residence: Ashtangoo Bandipora J&K 193502
Mobile no: 7889685572



fko

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR TILGAM EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS

Subject: Application of Shri Ishaq Ahmad Sheikh S/o Abdul Ahad Sheikh R/o Resraypora, Pattan, regarding obtaining of Legal Heir Certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, an application has been received from Shri Ishaq Ahmad Sheikh S/o Abdul Ahad Sheikh R/o Resraypora, Pattan, for the issuance of a Legal Heir Certificate in respect of his deceased brother, namely Shabir Ahmad Sheikh S/o Abdul Ahad Sheikh R/o Resraypora, Pattan, who expired on 18/07/1991. The details of the legal heirs, as furnished by the Patwari Halqa concerned, are given below:

S.No.	Name	Age	Relationship	Marital Status
01	Fata Begum	75	Mother	Widow
02	Mushtaq Ahmad Sheikh	48	Brother	Married
03	Ishaq Ahmad Sheikh	36	Brother	Married
04	Parveena Akhter	37	Sister	Married

Any person having any objection to the issuance of the said Legal Heir Certificate may file the same in writing before this office within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. In case no objection is received within the stipulated period, the matter shall be processed further as per rules.

fko

Executive Magistrate
Naib Tehsildar Tilgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my adhar as SAFIUNA BANO While as my actual name is SAFIYA BANO C/O FAROOQ AHMED R/O BAHADUR KOTE KARNAH KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193225. Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

SAFIYA BANO
C/O :- FAROOQ AHMED
R/O :- BAHADUR KOTE KARNAH, KUPWARA

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Nazir Ahmad Khan, presently serving in the Indian army under army service No 9097698W,S/o Shams Din Khan, R/o Halmatpora, Tehsil & District Kupwara, J&K, Unit No DSC PL 1237 INS KATTABAMMAN TAMILNADU, do hereby declare that the names of my children have been wrongly recorded in my Army records. The correct names are Nida Nazir (wrongly recorded as Nedha Naseer), Nimra Nazir (wrongly recorded as Memra Nazir) and Musaib Nazir Khan (wrongly recorded as Musib Nazir). All concerned are requested to make necessary corrections in the official records, objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within the period of seven days.

qns

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 4537 0059 8822 the name is entered as SWEETY while my actual name is KULSUMA HAMID. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

KULSUMA HAMID
D/O ABDUL HAMEED DAR
R/o DAR MOHALLA RAWALPORA.

mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No. JK-0420120016017 issued in favour of FAROOQ AHMED BHAT Parentage MAHDA BHAT

Whereas an application has been recieved by one FAROOQ AHMED BHAT Parentage MAHDA BHAT wherein he claimed that the Fathers Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as GH MOHI UD UDIN BHAT Which needs to be changed as MAHDA BHAT.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card <?> of my son bearing No 7297 8506 1866 the name is entered as Esam while his actual name is Mohammad Esam. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

TAWHEED SIDIQ
F/O MOHAMMAD ESAM
R/O SHAHEEN COLONY WANBAL RAWALPORA

mcb

اطلاع عام

برخاص وعا کم وڈر لیڈر شہباز مظلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ کھچھے ہے والد مرحوم محمد اکبر وادی جو کہ مورچہ 09 اکتوبر 2026 کو فوت ہوا ہے۔ اب اکی نو تھی رٹیفکیشن کاغذی مطلوب ہے۔ لہذا اس ضمن میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض باک ڈیو پلینٹ آفیسر بڈگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرے کے بعد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔
الشہر محمد یاسین وادی والد مرحوم محمد اکبر وادی
ساکن زوری گنڈ بڈگام مہنوں۔ 7006291966

SKIMS Medical College Steps Up Winter Preparedness, Director Reviews Facilities

Observer News Service

The deliberations also focused on strengthening IT-based parking management systems, developing electric vehicle (EV)



The Commissioner emphasised the importance of ensuring effective and timely compliance with MDC directions through coordinated efforts, clearly defined responsibilities and result-oriented interventions. The discussions focused on identifying existing gaps, addressing operational challenges and formulating practical measures to streamline traffic movement and improve the overall efficiency of the city's transport network.

The Commissioner emphasised the importance of ensuring effective and timely compliance with MDC directions through coordinated efforts, clearly defined responsibilities and result-oriented interventions. The discussions focused on identifying existing gaps, addressing operational challenges and formulating practical measures to streamline traffic movement and improve the overall efficiency of the city's transport network.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review was undertaken of key traffic management is-

SKIMS Medical College is an

The SKIMS administration has been monitoring the functioning of the institution with a focus on strengthening patient-centric healthcare, improving infrastructure and ensuring the uninterrupted delivery of services, particularly during seasonal challenges

Observer News Service

Additional Deputy Commissioner Imtiyaz Ul Aziz Mir, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadi Fared, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, IAS Probationer, Saikiran, Superintending Engineer, Hydraulics, Er. Ambreen Anjum, Executive Engineer, Water Works Division, Aijaz Rafiq, and other Of-

The vehicles were formally inducted into the fleet of the Jal

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the three water tankers, comprising one vehicle with a capacity of 6,000 litres and two with capacities of 5,000 litres each, had been procured at a cost of Rs 72 lakh through convergence of various schemes and funds at district level in coordination with Jal Shakti Department through the convergence of district-level funds.

The image is a scanned document of an official notice. At the top center is the Government of Jammu & Kashmir emblem. Below it, the text reads "Government of Jammu & Kashmir" and "District Industries Centre Pulwama" in bold. The email address "dicpulwama@gmail.com" is provided. The notice is titled "PUBLIC NOTICE". The main body states that M/s Himalaya Cold Chain Pvt. Ltd., IGC Lassipora, Pulwama, is formally registered with the government under Registration No. 01/005/23/02806/PMT/MSME dated 02.07.2024 for the line of activity "Integrated Cold Chain for Controlled Atmosphere Storage with Grading & Packing of Fruits" (5000 MTs). It then lists the existing directors/shareholders: Mr. Shameem Ahmad Dar (42%), Abid Hussain Ganie (10%), Gulzar Ahmad Dar (2%), Waheed Ahmad Dar (2%), Sheeraz Ahmad Dar (2%), Sabzar Ahmad Dar (2%), Fayaz Ahmad Khanday (25%), Azim Fayaz (5%), Umaid Fayaz Bhat (5%), and Asif Fayaz Bhat (5%). It mentions that the existing directors/shareholders have applied for a change of constitution, and the proposed shareholding is as under. The notice concludes by stating that any person, organization, or Government Department having an objection to the proposed change must submit it in writing to the General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC), Pulwama, within seven (07) days from the date of publication. A footer contains the notice number "NO: DICPL/ 2026/1841" and the date "DATED: 12-10-2026".

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
District Industries Centre Pulwama
dicpulwama@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that M/s Himalaya Cold Chain Pvt. Ltd., IGC Lassipora, Pulwama, District Pulwama, is formally registered with this office under Registration No. 01/005/23/02806/PMT/MSME dated 02.07.2024 for the line of activity "Integrated Cold Chain for Controlled Atmosphere Storage with Grading & Packing of Fruits" (5000 MTs).

The existing Directors/Shareholders of the unit are:

1. Mr. Shameem Ahmad Dar, S/o Abdul Rahim Dar, R/o Talangam, Pulwama.
2. Mr. Aabid Hussain Ganie, S/o Gh. Nabi Ganie, R/o Turkawangam.

Whereas, the existing Directors/Shareholders have applied for change of constitution of the unit by way of transfer of shares, whereby the proposed shareholding is as under:

1. Shameem Ahmad Dar – 42%
2. Abid Hussain Ganie – 10%
3. Gulzar Ahmad Dar – 2%
4. Waheed Ahmad Dar – 2%
5. Sheeraz Ahmad Dar – 2%
6. Sabzar Ahmad Dar – 2%
7. Fayaz Ahmad Khanday – 25%
8. Azim Fayaz – 5%
9. Umaid Fayaz Bhat – 5%
10. Asif Fayaz Bhat – 5%

Therefore, any person, organization, or Government Department having any objection to the proposed change in the constitution of the unit may submit the same in writing to the General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC), Pulwama, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice.

No objection received after the stipulated period shall be entertained.

NO: DICPL/ 2026/1841
DATED: 12-10-2026

General Manager,
District Industries Centre Pulwama

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice						
Sr.DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their Original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only.						
ender No.	Name of work	App. Cost. (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
251- Elect- T-24 R3- 2025- 26	A-Electrical work in c/w Interlocking of 4 No's manned L-Xing gates in c/w raising of sectional speed up to 130 KMPH of JUC- ASR section on Over FZR division. B-Electrical work in c/w Interlocking of 5 No's Non-Interlocked L-Xing gates having TVU >50000 over Firpozpur Division. C-Electrical work in c/w Provision of IBS between MOW-ASR, HMR-DIW and JRC-CEU-on-SNL-ASR section. D-Electrical work in c/w Conversion of-BH-01, BTTN and MAUL- from IBH to IBS, on Jalandhar Catt- Sāhnewal Jn Section.	Rs. 70,27,877.42/-	Rs. 14,06,00,00/-	06 Months	03.11.2026 after 17:00 Hrs	www.ireps.gov

No. 251-Elect/T.N Notice No. 24-R3-Elect/2025-26 Dated: 13.10.2026
3577/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5:10
ZUHR	12:18
ASR	4:23
Magrib	6:06
ISHA	7:25

- 533 - Byzantine General Belisarius makes his formal entry into Carthage, having conquered it from the Vandals
- 1522 - Emperor Karel I names Hernán Cortés governor of Mexico
- 1552 - Khanate of Kazan is conquered by troops of Ivan Grozny.
- 1756 - Saxon army surrenders to Prussia
- 1815 - Napoleon Bonaparte arrives on island of St Helena to begin his exile
- 1842 - Karl Marx becomes editor-in-chief of Rheinische Zeitung
- 1888 - German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche decides to write his autobiography "Ecce Homo" on his 44th birthday
- 1904 - The Russians are driven back by the Japanese in the Battle of Shaho; both sides suffer high casualties: Japanese (16,000) and Russians
- 1914 - Battle of Warsaw, begins (ends Oct 21)
- 1924 - US President Calvin Coolidge declares Statue of Liberty a national monument

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that I have lost the No Objection Certificate (NOC) issued by Mahindra Bank, Branch Office Karan Nagar, Sinagaur, in respect of the loan pertaining to my LMV Van bearing Registration No. JK01S-0561, while travelling from Nawabzargar to Saidakadal a few days ago. If anybody have found it may please be return back on the below mentioned address otherwise, I am apply for a duplicate of the same from the concerned branch of Mahindra Bank branch office Karanagar, Sinagaur

Any person having an objection to the issuance of the duplicate NOC may submit the same in writing to the concerned Bank branch within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

Javaid Ahmad Bhat
S/O Abdul Gani Bhat
R/O Ikhrapora Rustom Colony, Rajbagh, Sinagaur
Mobile Number. 7006343694

inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is information to the general public that my name in my Aadhaar Card bearing No:- 4292-7695-9203 has been wrongly entered as Mohammad Ahsan Pandith which is incorrect. while my correct and actual Name is Ahsan Pandith. Now I want the same to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/ she may file his/her objection in the Concerned Authority, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Ahsan Pandith S/o Mohd Pandith
R/o Goshbugh Aglar Tehsil Pattan
District Baramulla

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Farhana Sultan, D/o Mohammad Sultan Bhat, R/o Andergam, Pattan, hereby inform the general public that I intend to obtain a licence for the sale of fertilizers, pesticides and seeds. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same to the concerned authority as per rules.

fko

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE			
Northern Railway, Jammu Division/ invites online bids through Government e- Marketplace (GeM) for/ (GeM)			
Name of Work	Booking and Handling of Booked Parcel and Luggage Packages at Jammu Railway Stations for a Period of Three Years		
Estimated Bid Value	₹3,21,68,504/- (Inclusive of all taxes)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	₹3,11,000/-
Contract Period	Three Years	Minimum Average Annual Turnover	₹1,61,00,000/- during the last three financial years
Past Experience	Minimum three years of experience in similar services		Bid Submission Closing Date & Time 04.11.2026 up to 10:00 hrs
Bid Opening Date & Time	05.11.2026 at 10:00 hrs	Contact details	Sr DCM JAT Northern Railway Mob No- 9596732950

Interested and eligible bidders are advised to visit the GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in> in for detailed tender documents, eligibility criteria, scope of work and other terms and conditions. Bids shall be submitted online within the stipulated time.

Tender No.: GE/2026/B/ 8157660 Date: 14.10.2026

NORTHERN RAILWAY EXPRESSION OF INTEREST			
Chief Medical Supdt, Northern Railway, Jammu on the behalf of the President of India invites Expression of Interest on the prescribed form for the following work.			
Name of work	Expression of interest from ESI/ ECHS/ CGHS empanelled/ non-empanelled private hospitals for empanelling name for treatment of patients of Health Unit/SVDK (Katra), Jammu and Kangra Valley section of Jammu Division.		
Completion period	Two year from the date of commencement	Estimated cost of work	NA
Earnest money	NA	Cost of application form by Cash/By post	NA
Place& time of submission of bids	Complete file should reach in the office of Chief Medical Supdt, N.Rly, Divisional Hospital/ Jammu one month from the date of issue of notice time 13:00 Hrs.		
No.: Med/ JAT/ Recog/ JAT 2026		Date: 14.10.2026	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			3586/2026

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of
Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex,
Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Distribution & Advertising: Firdous Ahmad
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
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KO VIEW

Who Is Filling Lake?

Videos circulating on Kashmir’s social media over the past few days have raised an uncomfortable question about Srinagar’s current state of affairs.

Footage shared by citizens appears to show tractors and tippers dumping earth into Dal Lake near Hazratbal and other locations. The allegations need immediate investigation, but the images have already stirred public concern.

People want to know who is filling the lake, under whose authority and why such activity appears to be taking place in broad daylight.

Srinagar has spent decades losing its natural water bodies to encroachment, construction and unplanned urbanisation. Wetlands have shrunk, drainage channels have disappeared and waterways have suffered from neglect. The city has paid a heavy price for treating natural spaces as obstacles to development rather than essential parts of its landscape.

The latest videos raise fears that the same mistakes are continuing around one of its most precious water bodies.

Dal Lake covers about 18 square kilometres, while the wider Dal-Nigeen lake system, including floating gardens, settlements and other land within the lake, spans roughly 25 square kilometres.

These figures represent more than scenic beauty or tourist attractions. The lakes form part of a wider ecological system that helps regulate water flows and supports livelihoods, biodiversity and the city’s identity. Their degradation threatens far more than the views that draw visitors to Srinagar.

Srinagar’s own Master Plan 2035 acknowledges the consequences of unchecked urban growth. It identifies wetlands and flood absorption basins as targets of urbanisation and warns that encroachment blocks natural drainage, increasing the risk of flooding. The plan also notes that about 262 square kilometres of the 766-square-kilometre planning area experienced flooding during September 2014.

That experience should have cleared any doubt about the importance of protecting the urban natural drainage system.

Every truckload of earth dumped into a water body raises a question about the price Srinagar is willing to pay for development. A city that has already lost wetlands and waterways cannot afford to surrender more of its remaining open water to unregulated activity.

Dal Lake and Nigeen Lake are among the last major water bodies that still define Srinagar’s character. Their continued degradation would deepen the environmental damage and weaken the city’s ability to withstand future floods. The immediate responsibility rests with the authorities. The Lakes Conservation and Management Authority and other concerned departments must verify the videos, inspect the locations and establish whether illegal filling has taken place. Any violation should invite action under the applicable laws, regardless of who is responsible.

The elected government and the Lieutenant Governor-led administration must also address the issue together. Their constitutional and administrative differences cannot become an excuse for inaction when public resources and environmental protection are at stake.

Civil society, too, must remain watchful and report suspected encroachments through lawful channels.

Srinagar cannot protect its identity through speeches about its beauty while allowing its water bodies to shrink. The city must decide whether development will respect its natural boundaries or continue erasing the very landscape that makes Srinagar worth protecting.

Accountability
Before Ambition

A 2047 development blueprint proposes high-speed transport, renewable energy, AI education and digital governance. Its first demand is an inquiry into a disputed solar-power decision and safeguards against arbitrary administrative action.



Dr Dharam Pal Balgotra



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Ladakh gets almost as much sunshine as Rajasthan, about 7.5 kWh per square metre a day. Jaipur has turned that sunshine into 5,420 MW of solar power under PM-KUSUM. Gujarat has added 3,850 MW, and other states together have added 17,960 MW. Jammu and Kashmir has added nothing.

The reason comes down to one DISCOM official who rejected a solar tariff approved by the regulator, blocking investment, costing jobs and shutting J&K out of a major solar opportunity.

In 2021-22, the regulator, JERC, issued a statutory order approving solar power at Rs 4.65 per unit, and the official rejected it alone, with no written justification and no committee approval, in direct violation of Section 86 of the Electricity Act 2003.

Four years later, the bill stands at Rs 1,296 crore, 900 jobs that were never created and Rs 500 crore of investment that went to other states.

The JK VIKSIT 2047 plan begins with this failure.

It calls on the Lieutenant Governor, the Chief Minister, all opposition parties and the BJP’s Leader of Opposition to put political differences aside and work towards J&K’s development.

Before any project moves forward, it proposes two key reforms.

An Enquiry Committee chaired by a retired High Court judge, with retired IAS, regulatory and technical experts, would identify who decided, establish the violation, quantify the loss and recommend action. A gazette-notified seven-member Tariff Approval Committee would need five votes to reject any JERC tariff.

The plan argues that without accountability, officials will continue

to exercise unchecked power, putting J&K’s development at risk.

Some of the future has already come. The four-lane Banihal-Qazigund tunnel keeps vehicles moving, and the Vande Bharat Express, running through the new USBRL tunnels, has joined Kashmir to the railway network for the first time.

The plan adds a Dual Maglev. The 580 km Katra-Delhi line, through Jammu, Pathankot, Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Ambala, would reach New Delhi in 58 minutes, sparing eight million annual pilgrims the 10 to 12 hours they spend on the road and adding Rs 2,400 crore a year in tourism revenue.

The 293 km Jammu-Srinagar line, with seven stations, would run at 600 km/h, 365 days a year, around the clock and in all weather, and cover the distance in 29 minutes. It leaves existing modes in place and serves people for whom time is irreplaceable, including stroke patients in Srinagar who need Jammu’s hospitals, where the plan estimates 500 to 1,000 lives a year could be saved.

Projected revenue is Rs 27,000 crore a year, with an IRR of 189% on Rs 15,135 crore, built by the J&K Maglev Corporation, a new company wholly owned by the government.

Two metros would thin the traffic. Jammu’s 23.5 km line, with 21 stations from Gangyal to the Airport, 33 MW and Rs 8,500 crore, would take 1.2 lakh vehicles off the roads daily and save 2.4 lakh tonnes of CO2 a year.

Srinagar’s 26.8 km line, with 24 stations, nine kilometres underground near Dal Lake, 42 MW and Rs 12,500 crore, would remove 1.8 lakh vehicles and save 3.2 lakh tonnes.

A 200 MW battery energy storage system at Pampore would feed the Srinagar depot, and both lines would pass through the Twin Women’s Commercial Centers. Together they promise 18,200 construction and permanent jobs.

Power forms the core of this futuristic plan.

By 2047, J&K aims to generate 9,117 MW of power, with 77% coming from renewable sources. Solar projects would contribute 865 MW, including a 500 MW plant at Leh, billed as India’s highest-altitude grid-scale solar plant. It would generate power at Rs 3 per unit and produce 1,125 GWh a year. A 55 MW floating solar plant at Baglihar would supply power at Rs 2.42 per unit, the lowest tariff proposed for a floating solar project in the country, while saving 9.9 lakh cubic metres of water a year.

Three Himalayan sites would add 300 MW of wind power. The Sawal Kote project on the Chenab in Ramban would contribute 850 MW of round-the-



A train that covers 293 km in 29 minutes makes for an impressive promise on paper. The bigger test is whether the government can ensure that the next official who overturns a regulator’s order is held accountable.

clock power, including 350 MW for the Jammu-Srinagar Maglev. Battery storage systems at six locations would add another 400 MW.

Fifty gasification plants would turn pine needles into 100 MW, employ 11,000 women and cut forest fires by 60%. A 10,000 MW Solar Mission would test a 25 MW perovskite-silicon tandem before the Rs 10,500 crore Phase 3.

Revenue at Rs 3.90 per unit reaches Rs 8,485 crore a year, with an equity IRR of 16.8%. Smart grids in all 285 blocks would cut outages from six to eight hours to under 30 minutes, and AT&C losses would fall from 25% to 12%, saving Rs 800 crore a year.

The plan sees J&K’s young people as its greatest asset but argues that the current system leaves them ill-equipped for global competition and local jobs. It proposes a three-part approach to change that.

Twenty-two Schools of Coding, AI and Research, one per district, would take 40,920 students a year from the eighth class for five years of coding, AI tools, machine learning and robotics alongside regular schooling, with half the teachers women.

Top graduates would enter Year 1 of a B.Tech directly at the J&K Skill University, on 200 acres in Samba and autonomous under S&T, where 5,600 students a year earn Rs 1.5 to 2.0 lakh during the degree and 40% of students and faculty are women.

They would log 1,200 hours on real machines, from solar parks, wind turbines, BESS and SCADA to AI computing and injection molding, with an AI Film Studio, a Defense Research wing and an AI Judicial Technology Lab on campus.

Sixty graduates a year, thirty men and thirty women, would join training programs in 15 countries in seven tracks,

among them Power Systems, AI Film Making, Defense Innovation and AI Medical Equipment, at university expense.

Bollywood has filmed in Kashmir for seventy years, and J&K has earned comparatively little. The AI Film Making Centre would train students in Sora, Runway ML, Midjourney and Eleven Labs to make tourism films, documentaries, animation series, VR experiences of Amarnath, Gulmarg and Pangong, and feature films at a fraction of traditional costs.

Five students a year would go to Hollywood, Pinewood Studios UK and leading Korean and Japanese animation studios.

The targets by 2035 are Rs 500 crore a year, 1,500 creative jobs and 60% women.

A hundred GPU servers would build home-grown tools: Power Grid AI, which predicts failures 30 days ahead and saves Rs 200 crore a year; Kashmir Apple Intelligence, with frost alerts and direct farmer-to-buyer links; Healthcare AI, with 24-hour triage in five languages for Gurez, Zaskar and Kishtwar; Governance AI for all government services around the clock with zero queues; Metro and Maglev Operations AI; a Forest Fire Monitor; and a Tourism Concierge.

The plan projects Rs 2,000 crore a year in exports by 2047 and 100 J&K AI startups by 2035.

The plan blames unchecked officials, referred to as “Shukani”, in government departments for defying court orders with the backing of the bureaucracy. It argues that such disregard for judicial decisions has no place in a developed J&K.

The answer is a clock. A final order is digitised on the day of pronouncement, the AI names the responsible officer, and deadlines begin: 30 days for possession, 7 for reinstatement, 21 for payment.

Weekly automated alerts climb to superior officers, the High Court’s monitoring cell and the Chief Secretary are told once double the deadline passes, and citizens follow progress on their phones.

The AI would also recommend penalties based on the length of the delay, with monthly reports making compliance public.

A train that covers 293 km in 29 minutes makes for an impressive promise on paper. The bigger test is whether the government can ensure that the next official who overturns a regulator’s order is held accountable.

—

Dr Dharam Pal Balgotra is a Jammu-based retired senior hydro-construction engineer and corporate director. Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is a Srinagar-based environmental activist and policy analyst.

The Price of Hospitality

Unexplained bills and inconsistent price checks risk undermining the goodwill that Kashmir’s tourism industry depends on.



Dr. Rizwan Rumi

Gulmarg’s meadows, Pahalgam’s valleys, the golden calm of Sonamarg and the newer appeal of Doodhpathri draw visitors who come for scenery, and the scenery needs no help from the government. The next hour of the visit does.

A cup of tea, a plate of food, or a bottle of water comes with a price the visitor learns only when someone says it aloud. Thousands of Kashmiri families live on what happens at that moment.

Tourism here employs young people, sustains households and feeds the local economy, so the price of a snack is a question of livelihood on both sides of the counter.

Tourists and locals had earlier complained about high food prices in Gulmarg, including shops selling packaged drinking water above its printed MRP. A senior official said action would be taken once a written complaint was received.

That answer places enforcement on a visitor who may be gone within days and has no way of

knowing what the next stall charges.

Authority over the problem exists in abundance.

The Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department lists regulation of commerce aimed at tourists, and redressal of their complaints, among its duties. The tourism registration law of the Union Territory contains provisions on malpractice and on fixing certain prices and service charges.

On March 29, 2026, the Directorate of Tourism Kashmir published price notifications for tourism services at Pahalgam and Gulmarg, a welcome step. But a published list explains little until someone establishes which services it covers, whether it hangs where a hungry family can read it, and whether Sonamarg and Doodhpathri have anything comparable.

The Legal Metrology Department also plays a role. It inspects packaged commodities, checks mandatory price declarations and acts against sellers who charge above the maximum retail price.

A sealed bottle of water therefore costs the printed amount at a mountain meadow exactly as it does in a city shop. A freshly prepared meal follows different logic.

No universal ceiling governs restaurant food, and a kitchen in a remote destination can carry costs that a town establishment never meets. Seasonal businesses, long supply routes and difficult terrain explain many high prices, and honest merchants have every claim to a fair return.

The real problem becomes clearer here.



A visitor treated with respect recommends the destination, while one handed an unexplained bill can undo years of promotional campaigns. A reasonable profit made openly lasts longer than a quick gain from a customer who leaves resentful, and Kashmir’s name for warmth, courtesy and generosity depends on commerce that matches it.

A high price can be defended. A hidden price cannot, and neither can a missing menu or a bill that never appears.

When a visitor cannot tell a genuine charge from a tourist surcharge, the honest vendor pays for the dishonest one, because suspicion falls on everyone who sells.

Authorities should review the existing price lists for Pahalgam, Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Doodhpathri and other popular destinations to ensure they cover the services tourists use.

Restaurants, dhabas, cafés and food stalls should display a menu with prices, as the relevant rules allow, and the same information belongs in tourist information centres and on official digital platforms.

A visitor should see the price before ordering and not find it on the bill.

Inspections need to be regular, covering notified prices, MRP on packaged goods and billing practices, with prompt action on substantiated complaints.

A visible inspector changes behaviour more than an announcement that action will be taken. A QR code at prominent tourist locations could tell an overcharged visitor whom to contact and what evidence to keep, and periodic public summaries of inspections, complaints and action taken, with complainants’ identities protected, would show whether any of it works.

Restaurant owners, market associations,

tourism stakeholders and consumer representatives should help design the system, since food quality, the type of establishment, location and operating costs legitimately move prices.

The economics favour this.

A visitor treated with respect recommends the destination, while one handed an unexplained bill can undo years of promotional campaigns.

A reasonable profit made openly lasts longer than a quick gain from a customer who leaves resentful, and Kashmir’s name for warmth, courtesy and generosity depends on commerce that matches it.

So the useful questions concern the ground rather than the statute book. Are price lists visible? Are inspections frequent? Are complaints resolved? Do visitors know their rights, and do merchants know the rules that bind them?

Tourism remains central to the economic hopes of many people in Jammu and Kashmir, which gives the authorities good reason to answer.

The meadow needs no help to impress visitors, but the tea stall is where the administration must prove its promise, with clear prices, proper menus and bills that visitors can check.

—

The author is a Srinagar-based academic and commentator. He can be reached at rizwanroomi2012@gmail.com.

What Happened to Kashmir's Family Ties?

A sister's absence from her brother's son's wedding raises a larger question about how changing habits and unresolved grievances are weakening relationships in the valley.



Mohammad Ilyas Bhat

A few days ago, I attended a dinner hosted by an old friend to celebrate his son's wedding. Relatives, neighbours and friends had gathered to share the family's happiness. The hall was full, the greetings warmed up the "auspicious occasion", and people sat together over dinner. One absence, however, stood out.

My friend's sisters were nowhere to be seen.

I later learnt that he had invited them personally, but they had reportedly complained to mutual acquaintances that the invitation had not been extended properly. I cannot judge whether their grievance was justified. What troubled me was the thought that a family wedding could pass without sisters sharing their brother's happiness over a disagreement about how they had been invited.

The incident took me back to an older Kashmir, where family relationships were sustained through visits, shared meals and a willingness to overlook small grievances. We have gained remarkable conveniences in recent decades, but I wonder whether we have become less willing to give one another the time that relationships need.

Our elders understood that kinship involved responsibilities beyond reciprocating kindness. The Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, taught that true Silat-ur-Rahm, the preservation of family ties, means maintaining relationships even when others sever them. A person who continues visiting a relative who has stopped visiting him practises a deeper form of kinship than someone who merely returns another person's kindness.

This teaching once found expression in Kashmiri life. If a relative overlooked us on an occasion, we were encouraged to forgive the omission. If someone stopped visiting, we were expected to keep the

door open. Preserving a relationship often mattered more than establishing who had been right.

A wedding brought this understanding to life. The occasion belonged to the extended family, rather than merely to the parents of the bride or groom. Brothers, sisters, cousins, uncles, aunts and distant relatives all felt involved. News of a marriage was often enough to bring people together, even before formal invitations reached them.

Relatives would come several days before the ceremony. Some helped prepare the house, others looked after guests, and older family members sat together recalling stories from years gone by. Children moved between rooms, drawn into the excitement without fully understanding the occasion.

I sometimes think the real soul of a Kashmiri wedding lived in those nights. People slept in crowded rooms, shared whatever space was available and talked well into the night. Women gathered separately, children invented games, and the elderly brought family history to life through their stories. Arguments sometimes broke out, but yesterday's disagreement rarely prevented people from sitting together the following morning.

Nobody seemed eager to leave. Time belonged to the gathering, and being together was itself a reason to stay.

Much of that experience has changed. Professional event managers, caterers and decorators now handle arrangements that once brought relatives together through shared work. Weddings may have become more elaborate, with better organised venues and wider food choices, but relatives have fewer opportunities to participate in the preparations.

The buffet system has changed the experience of eating together, too. Guests collect their food, find a place to eat and leave when they finish. The older practice of serving one another created opportunities for conversation and affection. The newer arrangement prioritises convenience.

Transport has also changed family gatherings. A guest can drive to a wedding, exchange greetings, eat dinner and return home within a few hours. Close relatives rarely stay overnight, and a gathering that once extended over several days may end before the evening is over.

Better transport has made travel easier, but it has also reduced the practical need to stay with



A brother may stop speaking to his sister because she did not visit him. A sister may stay away because she believes her brother failed to show sufficient respect. Cousins who grew up together may become strangers over a dispute neither side wishes to forget. Years pass, children grow up, and older relatives die before reconciliation takes place.

relatives. When a journey took longer, spending the night was often unavoidable. Today, the ease of returning home can become a reason to leave early.

Eid reveals the same change.

I remember accompanying my parents on visits to relatives and friends, moving from one household to another throughout the day. Children learnt the geography of their family through these encounters. We came to know our uncles, aunts, cousins and distant relatives by visiting their homes, listening to their stories and sharing meals with them.

These visits taught us how families were connected. We learnt that an elderly man was our father's cousin or that an older woman was our grandmother's sister. Such knowledge came through personal contact, even before photographs and digital family groups became commonplace.

Today, a greeting on WhatsApp can stand in for an entire day of visits. A few words, a colourful image or a forwarded message can complete the exchange. We have become efficient at conveying greetings while finding fewer opportunities to spend time with the people receiving them.

Technology has brought genuine benefits, as mobile phones connect relatives living thousands of miles

apart, while video calls allow families separated by distance to see one another. For people who cannot travel home, these tools can ease the pain of separation. Dismissing their value would be unfair.

The difficulty begins when communication becomes a substitute for companionship. We can see a relative's face on a screen without visiting the person's home. We can hear a friend's voice without walking to his door. A message allows us to acknowledge someone's happiness or sorrow, but it cannot reproduce the experience of sitting beside that person.

Knowing that someone is well differs from making that person feel remembered through our presence.

My thoughts often return to my school, college and university days. We had neither mobile phones nor the conveniences available today, but we found time to meet friends almost daily. We walked together, argued about trivial things, discussed our ambitions and spent hours strolling along the Boulevard overlooking Dal Lake.

Sometimes we had no destination and nothing important to discuss. We simply enjoyed being together. Those hours, which might have seemed unproductive to an observer, became some of our most

treasured memories.

Today, faster vehicles, better roads and instant communication promise to save time, but many of us struggle to find a few hours for relatives and friends. Modern life is certainly demanding. Professional commitments have grown, families have become smaller, children live far away, and daily routines leave little room for spontaneous visits.

These changes help explain our distance, but they cannot account for all of it.

Relationships also ask us to accept inconvenience. They call for patience, forgiveness and a willingness to accommodate people whose expectations differ from ours. A disagreement over an invitation, a telephone call or an exchange of words can now become grounds for avoiding a family occasion.

A brother may stop speaking to his sister because she did not visit him. A sister may stay away because she believes her brother failed to show sufficient respect. Cousins who grew up together may become strangers over a dispute neither side wishes to forget. Years pass, children grow up, and older relatives die before reconciliation takes place.

Sometimes, the original grievance becomes difficult to recall. The

separation, however, remains.

We are also becoming more attentive to the gestures we expect from others than to the gestures we extend ourselves. We want relatives to visit, friends to telephone and family members to remember our occasions. We may overlook the times when we were too busy to do the same for them.

Perhaps we have begun to measure affection through formalities. Who called first? Who extended the invitation personally? Who visited on Eid?

Such questions have their place, especially when relationships involve genuine disrespect. But treating every omission as an injury leaves little room for the generosity that family life needs.

I still think about my friend's dinner because it revealed how easily a celebration can become a measure of old grievances. His sisters may have had reasons for staying away, and their account may differ from his. The larger concern lies in how readily a family occasion can become another casualty of unresolved resentment.

We cannot return to the Kashmir of our childhood, nor should we pretend that its social arrangements were free of difficulties. We can, however, recover the habit of visiting relatives without waiting for a special occasion, calling friends without needing a reason and forgiving minor offences before they harden into permanent divisions.

The time saved by modern life has no value within a family if we never use it to see one another. A message may reach a relative in seconds, but a visit asks us to give something that technology cannot manufacture: our presence.

One day, the crowded rooms, long wedding nights and Eid visits we remember may belong entirely to memory. The people who made them special will have gone, and the disagreements that kept us apart may seem painfully small.

I wonder whether we will then remember how carefully we protected our grievances, or how often we found the courage to put them aside and visit one another.

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

The Silence of the Marsh

The open skies and scattered flocks of today stand in sharp contrast to the spectacle remembered by generations of Kashmiris. Beneath that change lies a wetland under mounting environmental pressure.



Majed Hanief

Winter once arrived over Hokersar before it touched the calendar. A faint murmur rose in the sky above the wetland near Srinagar and soon swelled into a thunder of wings.

Birds from Siberia, Central Asia, and northern Europe turned this meditative water into one of Kashmir's great winter spectacles.

People in the valley spoke about Hokersar with deep affection. Elders often called it the Queen of wetlands, and the title felt deserved whenever thousands of birds descended upon the marsh.

Vast flocks wheeled above the water as the cold air filled with the powerful beat of wings, and anyone standing there felt the valley grow larger in that moment.

My earliest understanding of Hokersar came through family stories and occasional visits that left strong impressions.

Childhood memories contain images of birds moving together like flowing ink against the pale winter sky. Home talks often returned to those

scenes with warmth and pride, as if the wetland formed a living chapter in the valley's collective story.

Years passed and my studies moved toward literature, although Hokersar remained present in my thoughts as an image that blended nature with memory.

Poems and novels often describe landscapes that feel symbolic or larger than life, and Hokersar always felt like one of those places.

Each winter migration seemed to repeat a timeless passage written by nature itself.

Recent visits bring a different experience.

The sky above the wetland appears wide and open where dense flocks once gathered. The absence feels impossible to ignore once you spend time there. Water that once reflected sky and wings now shows signs of human neglect.

Walking along the edges of Hokersar reveals details that disturb the imagination. Plastic bottles, wrappers, and torn bags rest among the reeds as if someone decorated the marsh with the wrong materials.

Debris floats where ducks once glided through clear water. A visitor cannot ignore the sense that the wetland has received careless treatment from the very people who live closest to it.

Migratory birds undertake journeys that stretch thousands of kilometres. Storms, freezing temperatures, and long flights test their endurance every season. Instinct guides them toward Hokersar, which once served as a reliable resting ground rich with food and shelter.

The sight that greets them today



tells another story.

Environmental decline appears in several forms at the wetland. Silt slowly fills large sections of water and converts deep pools into shallow patches that fail to sustain bird populations. Encroachment eats into the marsh as surrounding land attracts human expansion. Wastewater and chemicals find their way into the ecosystem and reduce its ability to support wildlife.

These unchecked violations erode the character of Hokersar, and winter

migration exposes the damage.

Large flocks that once formed dramatic patterns above the wetland now appear smaller and scattered. A place that once thundered with wings now experiences long stretches of stillness.

This change touches something deeper than environmental statistics.

Hokersar plays an essential role in the ecological balance of the Kashmir valley. Wetlands purify water, support plant and animal life, and soften the impact of seasonal flooding.

Cultural memory also flows through this landscape, since many families hold stories and personal experiences tied to the annual arrival of migratory birds.

Loss at Hokersar therefore touches identity as well as ecology.

A wetland that once represented abundance now tells a difficult truth about human choices and environmental responsibility.

My interest in literature often leads me to think about how stories move through time and change direction

through human action. Hokersar now stands at a turning point in such a story.

People contributed to the damage that threatens this wetland, and people also possess the power to restore it.

Public authorities hold an important role in this effort. Effective environmental protection demands action that extends beyond written policy. Authorities can protect the wetland from further encroachment, manage the removal of silt with ecological sensitivity, and prevent untreated waste from entering the water.

Citizens share that responsibility as well. Community awareness about waste disposal and environmental care can transform daily habits that affect the wetland. Eco-talks among neighbours, students, and families can build a culture that respects Hokersar as a shared treasure rather than a dumping ground.

Education provides another path toward restoration. Schools and colleges could integrate Hokersar into lessons, creative writing projects, and environmental discussions. Students who grow up understanding the value of wetlands develop stronger motivation to protect them.

Literature often celebrates places that survive because communities decide they deserve care and attention.

Hokersar stands ready for such a chapter in its story.

— The author is student of English Literature at Islamia College Srinagar. He is an intern at JK Climate Action Group. He can be reached at ma1021722@gmail.com.

CJP Leaders Sent To Tihar For 5 Days

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Opposition leaders on Wednesday rallied behind Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) co-conveners Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka, who were sent to Tihar Jail for five days, with Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi saying they were fighting for the same cause as the INDIA bloc.

Das and Ranka were remanded to judicial custody for allegedly trespassing into a private property to reach Jantar Mantar, a denotified protest site, and violating bonds requiring them to maintain peace, Delhi Police said.

Their associate Ajinkya Shinde was bound down to maintain peace and good behaviour for six months and released on a personal bond and a surety of Rs 5,000.

The three were among 14 CJP members detained on Tuesday after allegedly breaching barricades and entering the Jantar Mantar area without authorisation. The protesters raised slogans against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and unfurled the national flag,

police said.

Reacting to the arrests, Gandhi said peacefully waving the Tricolour at Jantar Mantar was not a crime.

"Jailing youth for it is an act of cowardice. Students, Youth, Journalists, The INDIA bloc. Different banners, one cause. All protests are one: citizens demanding their constitutional rights," Gandhi said in a post on X. "Jantar Mantar belongs to the people of India. We will reclaim it," he added.

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke thanked Gandhi for speaking out against what he described as the illegal arrest of the two leaders.

Speaking to reporters in Nagpur, Dipke said the CJP was not opposed to the INDIA bloc and that both were campaigning against alleged irregularities in elections and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

"CJP is an independent pressure group and will always remain that, but it does not mean we are against the INDIA bloc. INDIA bloc's movement and ours are for the same cause," he said.

Dipke alleged that Das and

Ranka had been jailed for unfurling the national flag and urged people to assemble at Central Park in Connaught Place on Friday, October 16, with the Tricolour.

The arrests drew condemnation from several opposition leaders, including Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal, CPI(M) leader Pinarayi Vijayan and CPI general secretary D Raja.

Banerjee said people must unite to protect democracy and the democratic rights generations had fought for. She expressed solidarity with the two CJP leaders and assured young people of her support.

Kejriwal questioned whether waving the national flag in the country could be treated as a crime, while Vijayan said the right to protest should not be confined to a designated site.

"The flag belongs to the people, not those in power," Vijayan said, calling for unity to reclaim Jantar Mantar.

D Raja described the arrests as undemocratic and demanded the immediate release

of the two leaders. The CPI(M) also condemned the action, questioning whether defending the right to vote had become a crime.

CPI(ML) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya said the CJP members had entered Jantar Mantar as part of a symbolic protest against the Union Home Ministry's decision to denotify it as a designated protest site.

Rashtriya Janata Dal MP Manoj Jha questioned the charges against the activists, arguing that the right to protest belonged to the people.

DMK chief M K Stalin expressed solidarity with Das and Ranka and said his party was ready to provide them with legal representation and other necessary support. NCP (SP) leader Supriya Sule also condemned the arrests.

K T Rama Rao, working president of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi, which is not part of the INDIA bloc, also criticised the action, describing the five-day judicial custody for waving the national flag as a "new level of Emergency".

Khyber Aquaculture Set to Launch Packaged Trout Products

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Khyber Aquaculture, which operates an integrated Himalayan trout farming and processing facility in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district, has secured a licence from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), paving the way for the launch of packaged trout products and its first branded retail outlet.

The licence covers the manufacture, trade and retail of fish and fish products, providing the regulatory basis for the company to expand into consumer retail, distribution and institutional markets. The company operates a Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS)-based facility at Chak Akhal in Kangan, Ganderbal, integrating hatchery, fish farming, processing and packaging operations.

"We have invested in building the production and processing infrastructure needed to grow trout at scale. Our focus now is to bring our sustainably farmed, clean and biosecure trout closer to consumers,"

Yunus Trumboo, director of Khyber Aquaculture, said in a statement to Kashmir Observer.

The company plans to introduce packaged trout in fresh, chilled and frozen formats. Its initial product range will include boneless skin-on portion cuts, supreme fillets and trout steaks, followed by ready-to-cook curry cuts and sushi and sashimi products.

For the hotel, restaurant and catering (HoReCa) sector, the company will offer larger packs, including a 3.2-kg pack of supreme fillets containing four pieces, to cater to commercial kitchens.

The products are expected to have a chilled shelf life of five to eight days and a frozen shelf life of up to 12 months, subject to prescribed storage and handling conditions, the company said.

Trumboo said the company would also use Modified Atmosphere Packaging (MAP), which employs a controlled mixture of gases to help preserve the freshness of trout for longer.

Khyber Aquaculture is preparing to open its first branded retail store at Karan Nagar in Srinagar.

The outlet will offer live, fresh, chilled and frozen trout products. Customers will also be able to select live trout and have it cleaned, cut and packed at the store, the company said.

The facility has a processing capacity of up to 10 tonnes per day and an annual production capacity of 1,200 metric tonnes, which the company plans to scale up to 7,000 metric tonnes.

Following the FSSAI approval, the company plans to expand its distribution network across Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi-NCR and other northern Indian markets through distributors, modern retail, HoReCa and e-commerce channels.

It is also working towards obtaining Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) certification to support its plans for entering international markets, Trumboo said.

Founded in 2022, Khyber Aquaculture is part of the Khyber Group, a Jammu and Kashmir-based business conglomerate with interests in hospitality, cement, real estate, healthcare and aquaculture.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Fresh Rain, Snow

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 18.2 degrees Celsius, 4.6 degrees below the seasonal average. The minimum temperature settled at 10.5 degrees Celsius, 4.2 degrees above normal.

Kupwara recorded a maximum temperature of 15 degrees Celsius, 8.3 degrees below normal, while Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 8 degrees Celsius, 5.7 degrees below the seasonal average.

Pahalgam recorded a maximum temperature of 17 degrees Celsius, 2.6 degrees below normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 7.6 degrees Celsius, 4.9 degrees above normal.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast light to moderate rainfall at many places across Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, with light snowfall over higher reaches.

Thunderstorms, gusty winds and hailstorms are also likely at isolated places from late Wednesday afternoon through the night and into early Thursday morning, according to the weather department.

The weather is expected to remain generally dry on October 16, although brief spells of light rain may occur at isolated places. Dry conditions are likely to prevail across the region from October 17 to 24.

The MeT department has advised farmers to safely store harvested apples, paddy and other crops during October 14 and 15 in view of the possibility of rainfall, gusty winds and hailstorms.

Travellers, transporters and the general public have also been advised to plan their journeys accordingly and follow the latest traffic advisories, particularly in view of the possibility of snowfall on important mountain passes and highways.

DSEK Revises Kashmir

Srinagar municipal limits, including those in other districts of the Valley, will operate from 10:30 am to 4 pm.

The order directs all concerned institutions to adhere strictly to the revised timings without any deviation.

The change comes amid shortening days and a drop in daytime temperatures following rainfall in the plains and fresh snowfall in the higher reaches of Kashmir over the past two days.

LG Outlines Four

development and the conservation of natural resources, because I firmly believe that development achieved at the cost of nature's stability is not truly development. Our dream of a developed India will be meaningful only when the Himalayas remain safe, strong, and vibrant," he said.

Sinha outlined a four-pillar roadmap for sustainable mountain development, emphasising science-based planning, disaster preparedness, inclusive livelihoods and a circular economy.

The first pillar focuses on determining the carrying capacity of mountain regions and adopting appropriate zoning to ensure holistic planning and sustainable development. Such an approach, he said, would help align development activities with the ecological limits of the region.

The second pillar emphasises climate-resilient infrastructure and improved disaster preparedness. It calls for environmentally sensitive construction and stronger community-based early warning systems that combine modern technology with traditional local knowledge.

The third pillar focuses on promoting regenerative and inclusive

livelihoods through high-value horticulture, organic farming, modern sericulture, ecotourism and other green economy initiatives.

Sinha stressed the need to empower young people and women as entrepreneurs and job creators, while promoting livelihood opportunities that support local communities without undermining the fragile mountain ecosystem.

The fourth pillar advocates a zero-waste and circular mountain economy through improved solid waste management, wastewater treatment and recycling systems across urban and rural areas, as well as tourist destinations.

The Lieutenant Governor also commended the summit for preparing a draft policy addressing ecological security, responsible tourism, disaster management and sustainable livelihoods.

He expressed hope that the document would evolve into a comprehensive policy and implementation framework through extensive consultations, serving as the basis for a new social contract between society and nature.

Emphasising India's civilisational ethos of environmental stewardship, Sinha called for harmonising traditional practices with technological advances, local wisdom with modern science, and economic growth with ecological sustainability.

"Today, as we build a developed India, we must strike a balance between tradition and technology, local knowledge and modern science, and economic and ecological development. I am fully confident that the right policies and the right decisions on the ground can carry all of these forward together," he said.

Keep Human Compassion

the challenge of identifying complex underlying health conditions from seemingly simple symptoms, adding that internal medicine relies on clinical knowledge, experience, careful observation and an understanding of the human body as an interconnected system.

"Observation, reason, human understanding and courage remain the defining qualities of a physician," the Lieutenant Governor said, noting that doctors often serve as the first point of medical contact for families and build lasting relationships based on trust, compassion and scientific evidence.

Sinha lauded GMC Srinagar for its contribution to medical education and healthcare, saying generations of doctors trained at the institution continue to serve across Jammu and Kashmir and the country.

Highlighting emerging healthcare challenges, he said lifestyle-related disorders, including diabetes, hypertension, obesity, fatty liver disease and cardiovascular ailments, were assuming epidemic proportions even as infectious diseases continued to pose concerns.

He stressed the need to ensure that advances in diagnostics, therapeutics and medical technology reach physicians and patients in rural and remote areas as effectively as they do in urban centres.

"The greatest need today is to ensure that these innovations are not available only to physicians in large cities, but also reach doctors in villages. We must ensure that there is not even the slightest gap between urban and rural areas in access to facilities and available tools," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor called for strengthening indigenous medical research to generate evidence relevant to India's diverse population. He said

the country's demographic diversity, combined with the expertise and commitment of its medical professionals, offered significant opportunities for scientific discovery and innovation.

Sinha also outlined six key priorities for the medical community as part of a five-year roadmap. These include expanding access to advanced medical knowledge through digital health platforms and telemedicine, prioritising preventive healthcare and early detection, using technology and artificial intelligence responsibly while preserving clinical judgement, strengthening research capacity, addressing doctors' wellbeing and professional burnout, and keeping human compassion at the centre of healthcare delivery.

Urging physicians and internists to lead community-level prevention campaigns, he said early detection of diabetes, hypertension and liver disease could reduce treatment costs and help prevent complications.

"Early detection of diabetes, hypertension and liver disease is less costly and can help reduce treatment expenses. I urge all physicians and internists to lead prevention campaigns at the community level, because a doctor's voice can have an extraordinary influence on society," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasised the need to improve working conditions in hospitals and medical institutions, saying doctors' service and dedication must be recognised and their wellbeing prioritised alongside patient care.

"Along with caring for patients, hospitals and institutions, it should be ensured that doctors are cared for too. Providing them with better workplaces and working conditions should be a priority," he said.

Sinha urged young doctors to remain curious, embrace innovation and learn from experienced mentors. He also called upon senior physicians to share their clinical knowledge and guide the next generation of healthcare professionals.

Kulgam Police

of cases under the NDPS and the UAPA Acts, identification of security hotspots, vulnerability mapping, deployment arrangements, law-and-order preparedness and preventive security measures.

He directed officers to strengthen the security grid, intensify patrolling and naka checking, maintain heightened vigilance at sensitive locations and ensure timely preventive action against elements likely to disturb peace and public order.

Bhat also stressed the importance of effective surveillance outside prisons, in accordance with established legal procedures, to identify and prevent potential security threats.

Emphasising the importance of social media surveillance, the SSP directed officers to closely monitor online platforms for provocative, misleading and unlawful content that could affect public peace and security, and to initiate appropriate action in accordance with law.

J&K Notifies

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), with the maximum project funding limit set at Rs 20 lakh. The assistance will be available to eligible applicants for establishing or developing homestay facilities, subject to the scheme's conditions.

Homestay operators will also be eligible to pay electricity and water charges at residential rates instead of commercial tariffs, according to the policy.

The framework further provides for solar subsidies through the PM Surya Ghar scheme and access to low-cost

credit through J&K Bank to support the development of homestay facilities.

Bed and Breakfast Establishments Included

The policy also allows eligible residential properties that are not being used by families as their own residences to be registered as Bed and Breakfast establishments, expanding accommodation options for visitors and creating additional income opportunities.

Rural, border, heritage and emerging tourist destinations have been identified as key areas for expanding homestay-based tourism.

The initiative seeks to enable local residents to host visitors, showcase Jammu and Kashmir's culture and hospitality, and secure a greater share of tourism-related economic benefits.

By encouraging locally managed accommodation and widening the range of registered tourist stays, the policy aims to strengthen local economies and distribute tourism-related opportunities across more communities in the Union Territory.

Homestay Policy

opportunities across the Union Territory.

The government has notified the policy following its approval by the Council of Ministers, chaired by the Chief Minister, to provide a simplified framework for expanding tourist accommodation, particularly in rural, border, heritage and emerging destinations.

The policy introduces a streamlined registration mechanism with Silver and Gold classifications based on facilities, hygiene and safety standards. It aims to enable resident homeowners to host visitors, showcase the region's cultural heritage and hospitality, and generate sustainable income from tourism.

Eligible residential properties can also be registered as Bed and Breakfast establishments, expanding accommodation options for visitors and creating additional income opportunities for households.

Under the policy, provisional Silver registration will be granted within 28 days of submission of a complete application and will remain valid for six months.

The framework also provides for financial assistance, including a 35 per cent subsidy under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), subject to a maximum project funding limit of Rs 20 lakh and applicable scheme guidelines.

Eligible homestay operators will also benefit from domestic electricity and water tariffs instead of commercial rates.

The policy further encourages the adoption of clean energy through solar subsidies under the PM Surya Ghar scheme and facilitates access to low-cost credit through Jammu and Kashmir Bank, subject to relevant schemes and guidelines.

The Chief Minister said the initiative would help extend tourism beyond traditional destinations, strengthen local economies and ensure that the benefits of tourism reach communities across Jammu and Kashmir.

The policy is expected to encourage greater community participation in the tourism sector while expanding accommodation capacity and creating new avenues for local economic growth.

PM To Inaugurate

Dah-Hanu-Khalsi Transmission Line.

The projects are intended to strengthen power evacuation infrastructure, improve the reliability of Ladakh's electricity network and

support the region's renewable energy potential.

The Prime Minister will inaugurate a Petroglyph Conservation Park at Sindhu Ghat in Leh, described by the PIB as India's first such park.

Ladakh is home to hundreds of pre-historic rock art sites featuring carvings of wildlife, human figures and symbolic representations that offer insights into thousands of years of human history.

The park will provide a dedicated space for protecting vulnerable archaeological remains, raising public awareness and promoting responsible heritage tourism.

Modi will also inaugurate 40 water bodies developed across 40 villages under Project Him Sarovar.

The initiative seeks to address Ladakh's seasonal water challenges by conserving water when available and ensuring its availability during periods of need, particularly for agriculture.

According to the PIB, farmers in the region often face water shortages during the crucial sowing season despite substantial snowmelt and glacial runoff at other times of the year.

The project is intended to support irrigation, sustain agricultural livelihoods and strengthen long-term water security in the region, in line with the objectives of Mission Amrit Sarovar.

Parents Free To

private school associations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to examine complaints related to the issue.

"If there is any complaint, that will be examined. If it is found to be correct, then action will be taken against those schools," she said.

It too said the government was committed to addressing grievances and ensuring that students and parents did not face unnecessary academic or financial burdens.

HC Seeks Policy

president of the Jammu and Kashmir BJP, at a meeting held on August 14.

She submitted that the committee had recommended continuing the allotments in favour of both leaders.

The recommendations were subsequently placed before the competent authority, which, after due consideration, permitted them to retain their official residences until March 2027 or until the next review, whichever is earlier, Kohli told the court.

The bench, however, sought an explanation regarding the policy governing such allotments and the authority under which the designated committee considers requests by political leaders to retain government accommodation.

The court asked the administration to clarify the policy applicable in Jammu and Kashmir and the source of the committee's powers to recommend the continuation of such allotments.

Kohli sought time to file an appropriate affidavit and assist the court on the issue of a uniform policy governing the retention of government accommodation by political persons.

Allowing the request, the bench posted the matter for November 12.

During the hearing, conducted virtually as the bench is presently based in Srinagar, counsel for the petitioner argued that unauthorised occupation of government accommodation could not be justified on security grounds.

The petitioner's counsel, Senior Advocates S S Ahmad and Supriya Chauhan, referred to a December 26, 2022, order in which a division bench had declined to protect certain persons against eviction from government properties on security grounds.

They also cited judgments of the Supreme Court and the Delhi High

Court in support of their submissions.

The PIL, filed by Bhalla in 2020, had earlier led to the eviction of more than 180 politicians from government accommodation following the dissolution of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly in 2018 and subsequent intervention by the High Court.

The latest proceedings focus on the policy framework under which political leaders may continue to occupy government residences and the authority of the designated committee to recommend such extensions.

J&K's Local Power

1130 MWs in Jammu division respectively.

It also said that from the centrally owned hydel projects in Jammu and Kashmir that has a generation capacity of nearly 2200 MWs, the authorities were generating nearly 1100 MWs of power.

It was earlier reported that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are likely to witness a power deficiency of 14 per cent during the solar peak hours in the month of October.

The Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) in this regard had further said that the regions may face power deficiency of nearly 12 percent during the non-solar hours.

The official figures in this regard said that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is likely to face power paucity of 400 MWs against the available power position during the solar peak hours in the month of October.

It also said that during the non-solar peak hours, the regions may face a power shortage of 337 MWs.

Stating the revised anticipated power supply position for October-2026 for both the Union Territories, NRPC has said that there will likely be a peak availability of 2450 MWs against the requirement of 2850 MWs—keeping a loophole of 400 MWs during the peak solar hours.

The figures further said that during the peak non-solar hours, J&K and Ladakh are likely to require 2872 MWs of power against the availability of 2535 MWs.

As already reported by this news agency, Jammu and Kashmir will likely require nearly an additional 450 Megawatts (MWs) of power during the peak hours in the coming three years.

The official documents in this regard said that in the ongoing fiscal, Jammu and Kashmir may have a peak demand of 3813 MWs. (KNO)

HC Gives Govt

removal as well as time-bound removal of encroachments was being undertaken simultaneously.

They informed the Court that around 47 structures broadly fell within the scope of encroachment. Of these, 28 structures have so far been demarcated, while around 20 have already been removed. The remaining eight demarcated structures are likely to be removed shortly, they informed the court.

The authorities further submitted that once the demarcation exercise is completed, any encroachers who fail to remove the structures voluntarily would face removal during an anti-encroachment drive.

Allowing the 10-day time sought by them, the Bench directed the authorities to update the Court on the progress made in the demarcation and removal exercise. The matter has been listed for further hearing on October 27.

The PIL, filed by Mir Mohammad Shafi in 2023, seeks restoration of the centuries-old Shah Koul which traditionally served as a water-feeding channel for the Mughal-era Nishat Garden.

Prof. Vidhyadhiraja Engages Kashmir Scientists As CQAI Advances Quantum Research Ecosystem

Quantum Convergence | Industry Conclave 2.0 bring s advanced quantum research, computational physics and industry applications to Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant development for Kashmir's emerging deep-technology and scientific research ecosystem, Chinar Quantum AI (CQAI) hosted the first day of Quantum Convergence at CQAI | Industry Conclave 2.0 at its headquarters in Hyderpora, Srinagar, bringing advanced discussions on quantum science, simulation and computational physics to the region.

The two-day workshop, titled "Industry Applications of Quantum Hamiltonian Simulation — A Pathway to Quantum Advantage," features Prof. N. S. Vidhyadhiraja, Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru, as the Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker. His engagement provides students, researchers and aspiring scientists in Kashmir with an opportunity to connect with advanced scientific perspectives on one of the most consequential frontiers in contemporary computing.

The first day of the workshop focused on strengthening scientific understanding and advancing dialogue around Quantum Hamiltonian Simulation, quantum



many-body physics and computational physics, with an emphasis on the evolving relationship between fundamental research and the practical possibilities of quantum technologies.

K to Q: Building a Scientific Expressway from Kashmir to Quantum

Beyond the technical programme, Quantum Convergence reflects a broader ambition: to create stronger pathways connecting Kashmir's scientific talent with India's expanding quantum research ecosystem.

Through its K to Q — Kashmir to Quantum vision, CQAI seeks to

position scientific engagement as a bridge between local talent and national opportunities. The idea is to create an environment in which students can move beyond classroom learning, engage with distinguished researchers, explore advanced computational concepts and discover pathways into research, innovation and deep-technology careers.

The connection with established research institutions and scientific communities across India, including Bengaluru's research ecosystem, is particularly important in this context. Such engagements can help bring scientific expertise closer to aspir-

ing researchers while encouraging greater collaboration across institutions, disciplines and geographies.

The objective is not merely to introduce quantum science to a new audience, but to contribute to the conditions required for a stronger research culture — one built on curiosity, computational capability, mentorship and sustained scientific collaboration.

Advancing India's Quantum Ambitions Through Research and Collaboration

The workshop aligns with the broader objectives of India's National Quantum Mission, which seeks to advance scientific and industrial research and development, strengthen indigenous technological capabilities and establish a robust quantum technology ecosystem.

As quantum technologies continue to develop across computing, communication, sensing and materials, building the necessary ecosystem requires more than scientific breakthroughs alone. It calls for stronger institutional partnerships, skilled human capital, computational infrastructure and sustained engagement between research and industry.

Through initiatives such as Industry Conclave 2.0, CQAI aims to contribute to this process by bringing scientific expertise, computational research and industry-oriented perspectives into a common platform.

From Scientific Dialogue to Future-Ready Capabilities

For CQAI, the significance of the workshop extends beyond a two-day academic engagement. It reflects a continuing commitment to connecting fundamental research with applications, encouraging scientific collaboration and supporting the development of an innovation-driven technology ecosystem.

The presence of distinguished scientific expertise in Srinagar also reinforces the importance of creating platforms where emerging researchers can engage with advanced ideas and become active participants in India's technological development towards tech sovereignty.

From Kashmir to Quantum, the journey is about more than geographical connectivity. It is about connecting talent with opportunity, research with application, and regional potential with India's technological ambitions.

J&K Adopts Municipal Class-IV Rules as Basis for Regularising ULB Workers

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has adopted the Class-IV Services (Special Provision) Regulations, 2014, of the Jammu and Srinagar Municipal Corporations as the basis for formulating a similar regularisation mechanism for eligible workers engaged in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across the Union Territory.

The Housing and Urban Development Department issued Government Order No. 214-JK(HUD) of 2026, dated October 14, sanctioning the adoption of the regulations mutatis mutandis for eligible casual labourers, contingent paid workers, consolidated workers and other similarly placed employees working in ULBs across Jammu and Kashmir.

The order, issued by Commissioner/Secretary to the Government Mandeep Kaur, provides the basis for formulating a similar regularisation mechanism for the eligible categories of workers. (Observer News Service)

Ladakh HC Bench To Hear Cases From October 21

SRINAGAR: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday announced the commencement of sittings of its Ladakh Bench, with cases scheduled to be heard at Leh from October 21 to 23.

In a notice issued today, the High Court said that cases annexed with the notice had been preponed/scheduled for listing before the Ladakh Bench in accordance with the roster.

The accompanying list shows a total of 105 cases fixed for listing before the High Court at Leh, covering civil, criminal, writ, appeal, arbitration and contempt matters. The cases are scheduled for hearing during the period from October 19 to 23, with the notice specifically stating that the Ladakh Bench will function from October 21 to 23.

The scheduled matters include cases involving the UT of Ladakh and its departments, revenue and land issues, criminal proceedings, public works, health, education, insurance, employment and other disputes.

The commencement of regular sittings at Leh follows the Centre's decision to facilitate High Court sittings in Ladakh, aimed at bringing higher judicial remedies closer to residents of the geographically remote Union Territory. (KO Correspondent)

Jammu Jails To Get Improved Food Menu With Pulses, Milk, Dry Fruits, Eggs

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Prisons Department has reportedly initiated an 8.50-crore food procurement plan aimed at improving the quality and nutritional value of meals served to inmates in jails, with Central Jail Kot Bhalwal and District Jail Jammu among the facilities mentioned in reports.

According to reports, the revised diet plan envisages a wider range of food items, including different varieties of pulses, milk, vegetables, dry fruits, dates and eggs. Traditional Kashmiri food items, including haak and nadru, have also been mentioned, while mutton is reportedly included for non-vegetarian inmates.

The initiative is aimed at providing a more balanced and varied diet to prisoners, with greater emphasis on nutritional requirements and food quality. Director General of Prisons Deepak Kumar has reportedly issued the revised diet plan. (KNT)

Payment Apps Become India's Financial Companion as Tier-2 Cities Lead Digital Credit

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: India's digital payment ecosystem is increasingly evolving into a gateway for wider financial services, with Tier-2 cities emerging as major drivers of digital credit adoption, according to the How Urban India Pays Report 2026 released by Pahlé India Foundation in collaboration with Amazon Pay.

Based on a survey of 5,149 consumers and 1,054 merchants across 100 cities in 20 states, the report found that 75 percent of urban Indians had used at least one financial product through their primary payment app. However, despite 88 percent awareness of digital credit, only 31 percent of respondents reported using it.

The report introduced the Digital Credit Inclusion Index (DCII) 2026, which gave India an overall score of 55.85 out of 100, placing it in the "Emerging & Served" category. While the country scored 61.24 in access and 57.17 in adoption, its impact score stood at 49.16, indicating that wider access has yet to translate into comparable financial benefits.

Trust remains a key barrier to digital borrowing. Although users rated payment apps highly for security, confidence declined when the same platforms



offered credit. The report found that 51.5 percent of respondents would consider borrowing through their payment app if protection against unauthorised transactions were guaranteed.

"Having built this foundation of trust-based efficiency at scale, India is now ready for its next leap: extending the confidence earned in payments to borrowing, saving and investing," said Dr Rajiv Kumar, chairman of Pahlé India Foundation, stressing the importance of transparency, cybersecurity and lending models that recognise informal incomes.

Tier-2 cities recorded a DCII score of 58.64, surpassing Tier-1 cities at 53.10 and Tier-3 cities at 55.77. Adoption of buy-now-pay-later (BNPL) services stood at 60 percent in Tier-2 cities, while 41 percent reported applying for credit.

Digital payments have also become routine, with UPI leading across several spending categories, in-

cluding e-commerce, dining, travel, fuel, transport, medical purchases and groceries.

The report found that 77 percent of respondents spent at least 50 percent more during the festive season than usual, with fashion and beauty leading purchase volumes and consumer electronics and home appliances accounting for the highest-value purchases.

Among gig workers, 23 percent said they would first turn to a digital loan app during a cash crunch, around 3.4 times the national rate. However, informal earners continued to score lower on financial inclusion than salaried employees and business owners.

Merchant adoption was also strong, with 79.5 percent reporting efficiency or sales gains from digital payments. However, 72.1 percent of merchants hesitant to adopt them cited settlement delays as their primary concern.

Gen-Z Stages Protest in Jammu Against Crackdown On CJP Leaders, Activists In Delhi

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: A group of youngsters on Wednesday staged an anti-BJP protest here in support of the Cockroach Janta Party, condemning the police crackdown on the group's leadership and supporters over their protests against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in the national capital.

The Gen-Z protesters assembled at the Bahu Plaza and raised slogans, vowing to continue their agitation and asserting that police action would not deter them from exercising their constitutional rights.

Questioning the authorities over the handling of electoral data and voter-related issues, Agrya Singh Chauhan, a protester, challenged the BJP-led Centre to justify the restrictions imposed on the demonstrations.

She also questioned the promotion of an assistant commissioner of police (ACP) accused of harassing a woman journalist in Delhi.

"What kind of authority are you trying to demonstrate? What kind of power are you displaying?" she asked.

Referring to the denial of permission to protest at the Jantar Mantar in

Delhi, she said the venue is not just a protest site but a platform where people can raise their voices against injustice, question those in power and demand accountability.

Delhi Police on Monday officially denotified Jantar Mantar as a designated protest site, and designated the Ramlila Ground, Burari Ground and the CBD Ground in east Delhi as the new venues for protests and demonstrations.

"Delhi Police denied us permission to hold a protest at the Jantar Mantar, but it cannot stop us from raising our voices. If we are not allowed to protest at the Jantar Mantar, we will turn every part of the country into Jantar Mantar — from Kashmir to Jammu and beyond."

"You can deny us a venue, but you cannot take away our constitutional right to protest. No matter how many people you detain or how many jails you fill, we will continue our fight and make our voices heard," Chauhan said.

She added that the Constitution gives every citizen the right to pro-

test peacefully and express dissent.

"No amount of police action can weaken our resolve. If our questions are not answered, we will continue to raise them. Our protest will continue until our concerns are heard and justice is delivered," she said.

Another protester, Anmol Ori, also criticised the police for the "mistreatment" of women protesters in Delhi, alleging that all this is being done under a conspiracy to discourage women from taking part in the demonstrations.

"Women are a very important part of this protest, and that is precisely why this is happening," he said, accusing the police of attempting to intimidate the demonstrators.

Drawing a parallel with the political fallout after the 2012 Nirbhaya rape-murder case in the national capital, Ori warned of possible political consequences over the alleged police action.

"One government fell in 2014 after the Nirbhaya case; another will fall now because of what the police have done," he said.

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

Fax No: - 01954-222626

NIT NO.STDS/ 28 of 2026-27

Dated: 14/10/2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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	Construction/ Laying of Double Circuit 33 KV Line from Nehalpora Grid to Pattan Receiving Station under UT Capex
2	Estimated Cost(in Lakhs)	200.0
3	Cost of tender document in Rs. (Non- refundable)	₹ 3007/-
4	Cost of EMD@2% in Rs.	₹ 4,00,000/-

Critical Dates

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document/ Sale of Bid Document (Start) / Clarifications start date	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 14 th 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)	19 th 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	09 th November, 2026; 02:00 PM
D	Online Technical and Commercial e-Bid opening date & Time	11 th 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.

No: STDS/TS/1189-92
Dated: 14/10/2026

DIPK-NB-1878-26
DT: 14/10/2026

Sd/
Executive Engineer, KPDC
Sub Transmission Division Sopore



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DEPARTMENT

CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU/SRINAGAR

Subject: Acceptance of Degree in Mechanical Engineering and inclusion of name in the seniority list of Junior Engineers (Mechanical) degree holders -Notice thereof.

NOTICE INVITING OBJECTIONS

WHEREAS, Mr. Fareed Ahmad Khan Gojar, has been appointed as Junior Engineer (Mechanical) in PW (R&B) Department on the basis of Three Years Diploma in Mechanical Engineering.

AND WHEREAS, the Chief Engineer, PW(R&B) Department North Kashmir vide letter No. CE/NK/ESTB/2794 dated 01.07.2025, has submitted the case for acceptance of his B-Tech (Mechanical) Degree and inclusion of his name in the seniority list of Degree Holder Junior Engineers (Mechanical) with the following details :-

Name with design.	Date of confirmation/ appointment	Date of enrollment	Mode of degree	Name of university	Date of passing degree
Fareed Ahmad Khan Gojar (JE)	03.05.2024	2019-2023	Regular	University of Kashmir	28.12.2023

AND WHEREAS, the University of Kashmir authenticated the genuineness of the Degree/ marks certificates vide Online Application No. 97414 dated 02.07.2026.

AND WHEREAS, the above-named Junior Engineer has also furnished an undertaking in the form of a duly attested affidavit, affirming that the degree certificate is genuine, and if proved otherwise the department shall have right to take legal proceedings against him. That in case of any averments made in the affidavit is found to be incorrect or false, the deponent shall be personally responsible.

NOW, THEREFORE . before acceptance of the Degree acquired by the above named Junior Engineer and inclusion of his name at the appropriate place in the seniority list of Degree holders Junior Engineers (Mechanical), objections are invited from the members of the cadre who are likely to be affected. The objections, if any, shall reach this department through Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department North Kashmir or by Post (addressed to the Financial Commissioner/ACS, PW(R&B) Department, Room No. 518, 5th Floor, Civil Secretariat, Srinagar or via e-mail to compwd@rediffmail.com or through CRU, Civil Secretariat, Srinagar within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance/ publication of the notice. No claim, whatsoever, shall be entertained after expiry of the stipulated time period.

No.PWD-NGAZOCIV/2/2026-(7717118)

DIPK-6708-26

DT: 14/10/2026

(Hamid Hameed)

Under Secretary to the Government

6 in 10 Men 45+ Unaware of Prostate Cancer Status

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Nearly six in 10 Indian men aged 45 and above do not know whether they have ever been screened for prostate cancer, while 84 per cent are either unscreened, unsure of their screening status or believe screening is unnecessary, according to a survey.

The survey of 1,036 men across Delhi-NCR, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana and Maharashtra, by HEAL Foundation, highlighted significant gaps in awareness of prostate cancer risk factors, screening and treatment options, as well as reluctance among men to discuss prostate health with doctors.

It found that 68.9 per cent of respondents could not name a single risk factor for prostate cancer, while only 13.2 per cent recognised family history as a risk factor. Around 75 per cent believed prostate cancer monitoring should begin only at the age of 50 or later.

"These findings point to a fundamental awareness gap around prostate cancer. When nearly seven

in 10 men cannot identify even one risk factor, and six in 10 do not know whether they have ever been screened, it is clear that prostate health needs to become a more visible part of routine health conversations for men over 45.

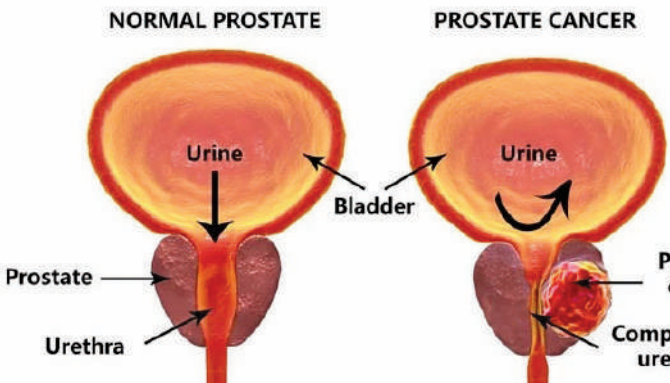
"Awareness of risk, screening and when to speak to a doctor is an important first step toward informed, personalised healthcare decisions," said Dr Devavrat Arya, Vice Chairman, Medical Oncology, Max Healthcare, Delhi.

The screening gap persisted despite nearly two-thirds of respondents reporting that they underwent annual general health check-ups.

While 60.8 per cent were unaware of their prostate cancer screening status, only around one in six said they had ever been screened.

Awareness of the prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test was also limited, with only 31 per cent having heard of it and just 14 per cent having specifically requested the test.

The survey brings out a worrying pattern that men are participating in general health check-ups, but pros-



NORMAL PROSTATE

PROSTATE CANCER

Labels: Urine, Bladder, Prostate, Urethra, Prostate cancer, Compressed urethra

tate health is still not consistently part of that conversation, said Dr Nitesh Rohatgi, Principal Director of Medical Oncology at the Fortis Memorial Research Institute (FMRI).

The fact that 84 per cent respondents are either unscreened, uncertain about their screening status or do not believe screening is necessary shows how much work remains in helping men understand prostate cancer risk and the role of early evaluation.

These conversations should begin proactively and be guided by individual risk and clinical advice. Awareness remains the first and most significant barrier in the prostate cancer journey.

Among elderly patients and their caregivers, there is limited understanding of the disease itself -- its symptoms are often dismissed as normal signs of aging leading to delayed diagnosis.

"Even after a diagnosis is made, the gap does not close. Patients and families frequently remain unaware

of advanced treatment options like radioligand therapy, leaving many to stick to conventional pathways simply because no one told them otherwise. Closing this awareness gap -- before and after diagnosis -- is critical to ensuring patients access the right therapy at the right time," said Dr Rohatgi.

The survey also highlighted gaps in awareness of specialist care. Although doctors were the most trusted source of health information, with 67 per cent placing their greatest trust in them, only 36 per cent correctly identified a urologist as the appropriate specialist for prostate cancer.

Around 44 per cent said they would seek a second opinion before starting treatment.

The reluctance to discuss prostate health with doctors was another concern, with 59.5 per cent of respondents saying they were uncomfortable raising prostate cancer screening or treatment with a doctor.

Only around 18 per cent said they would proactively initiate such a conversation.

At the same time, 84 per cent said

they searched online for health information, while 48 per cent said family or friends influenced their first conversation about prostate cancer.

"There is a clear disconnect between general health awareness and prostate-specific awareness. Many men are undertaking annual health check-ups, yet they may not know whether prostate cancer screening was discussed or whether they have ever undergone a PSA test," Dr Ishita B Sen, Principal Director Nuclear Medicine, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram.

Education needs to focus on helping men understand risk factors, the role of screening and the importance of having an individualised conversation with their healthcare professional rather than treating prostate health as something that can be ignored until symptoms appear, Dr Sen highlighted.

The awareness gaps were particularly pronounced among men aged 65 and above, with uncertainty about screening status rising to around 72 per cent and limited treatment knowledge reaching roughly 80 per cent.

Air India Frankfurt-Delhi Flight Diverted to Jaipur After Hijack Alert

Press Trust of India

JAIPUR: An Air India aircraft from Frankfurt to Delhi was diverted to Jaipur on Wednesday morning following a hijack alert, according to sources.

However, the alert turned out to be false.

The flight AI2030, operated with a Boeing 787-9 aircraft, made an emergency landing at the Jaipur International Airport and was taken to an isolation bay for security checks, the sources said.

The flight had 293 passengers and 13 crew members on board.

Assistant Commissioner of Police, Malviya Nagar, Shiv Dayal told PTI that airport authorities had informed police about the emergency landing of the flight following a threat.

Police sources said security personnel checked the aircraft in the isolation bay.

"The flight landed at

around 9.35 am. The flight was taken to the isolation bay within ten minutes for checking," the sources said.

As per the initial information, the pilot pressed 'Squawk Code 7500', which indicates unlawful interference, when the aircraft was in the Mumbai Flight Information Region (FIR). Subsequently, the plane was diverted to Jaipur, the sources added.

Jaipur airport management said security checks were conducted and later passengers were de-boarded and taken to the terminal building.

"The passengers were brought to the terminal building, and later their boarding began for the same plane for departure for Delhi. All are safe, and there is no situation of panic," airport sources said.

After the checks, the flight is now set to depart for Delhi, the sources said.

UK Study Visa Refusals Hit Foreign Students' University Offers

Press Trust of India

LONDON: International students, including Indians, are likely to be impacted as British universities revoke offers to courses amid a clampdown on study visas issued by the UK Home Office, according to a media analysis this week.

The Financial Times newspaper analysed official data to find that universities are taking the step to withdraw offers to students over fears of facing a blanket ban on their ability to recruit foreign students.

Under the Home Office rules, education institutions where more than 5 per cent of prospective international students given offers subsequently have their visa applications rejected face the risk of being banned from recruiting them.

This tightening of the previous 10 per cent threshold is aimed at what the UK government believes is the

abuse of the student visa route by certain nationalities, led by Pakistanis and Nigerians.

"Many refusals appear to rest on flawed, inconsistent and highly subjective reasoning, forcing universities to withdraw offers at scale to avoid breaching compliance thresholds," said Jamie Arrowsmith, director of Universities UK International (UUKI) -- which represents institutions recruiting abroad.

While acknowledging the need to maintain confidence in the immigration system, he stressed that "visa processing has become markedly less predictable".

The Financial Times said its analysis of Home Office data showed that in the first half of this year, 10.5 per cent of study visa applications to the UK ended up being withdrawn, up from 2.3 per cent in the same period last year and 0.4 per cent in 2023.

Home Buyers 'Fraud': ED Attaches Rs 136-crore Assets of Gurugram Realty Group

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate has seized land parcels and bank deposits worth more than Rs 136 crore in a money laundering investigation linked to a home buyers' "fraud" case against Gurugram-based realty firm Ocean Seven Buildtech Pvt Ltd (OSBPL), its promoter Swaraj Singh Yadav and his wife.

The attached properties include land parcels situated at Bilonchi village in Jaipur district and at Kotputli-Behror in Rajasthan; a residential plot in Sector-102, Gurugram, and the bank balances held in five accounts belonging to the company, Yadav and his wife Sunita Swaraj, the central agency said in a statement.

The total value of the assets is Rs 136.42 crore, including Rs 69.06 lakh in bank deposits, the agency said.

Swaraj Singh Yadav was arrested by the ED in November

2025 on the charge of duping buyers of affordable housing projects through arbitrary cancellations and re-allotments.

It is alleged by the ED that OSBPL collected more than Rs 118 crore from plot buyers in its four Rajasthan projects -- Amber Garden at Bilonchi and Kot Residency, Kot Farms and Kot Industrial Estate at Kotputli-Behror -- during December 2006-March 2015.

The agency stated that the money was collected based on the representation that the projects would be developed and possession of the allotted plots handed over within about three to four years.

In the Amber Garden Project, collections from buyers commenced in December 2006, years before OSBPL even applied to the Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) for the project map, the agency claimed.

Pope Leo XIV's Lung Cancer: What Is Adenocarcinoma?

AP

ROME: Pope Leo XIV had the lower section of his right lung removed after doctors diagnosed him with the most common form of lung cancer. While lung cancer is a leading cancer killer worldwide, it is very treatable if caught early, as the pope's tumour appears to have been. Here are some things to know.

What is lung adenocarcinoma?

The Vatican announced the pope's diagnosis as lung adenocarcinoma. That's a specific subtype of lung cancer -- one of the types of so-called non-small cell lung cancer.

According to the Lung Cancer Foundation of America, adenocarcinomas can be found earlier than some other types of lung cancer because they tend to form on outer layers of the lung and to grow more slowly.

Smoking is the leading cause of lung cancer, but people who never have smoked also can get it. Other risks include exposure to radon gas, asbestos, air pollution, radiation and certain metals, according to the American Cancer Society.

How is lung cancer detected?

Lung cancer symptoms don't usually appear until the cancer is advanced, according to the cancer society. They can include a persistent cough, chest pain, a hoarse voice, shortness of breath, and recurrent pneumonia or bronchitis.

Sometimes, lung cancer can be found unusually early when someone has an X-ray or other imaging that shows a spot in a lung that needs further investigation. That's called an incidental finding, leading doctors to investigate well before symptoms and possibly early enough that the cancer hasn't yet spread. In the pope's case, a nodule in his lung was spotted during another exam.



MI Securities

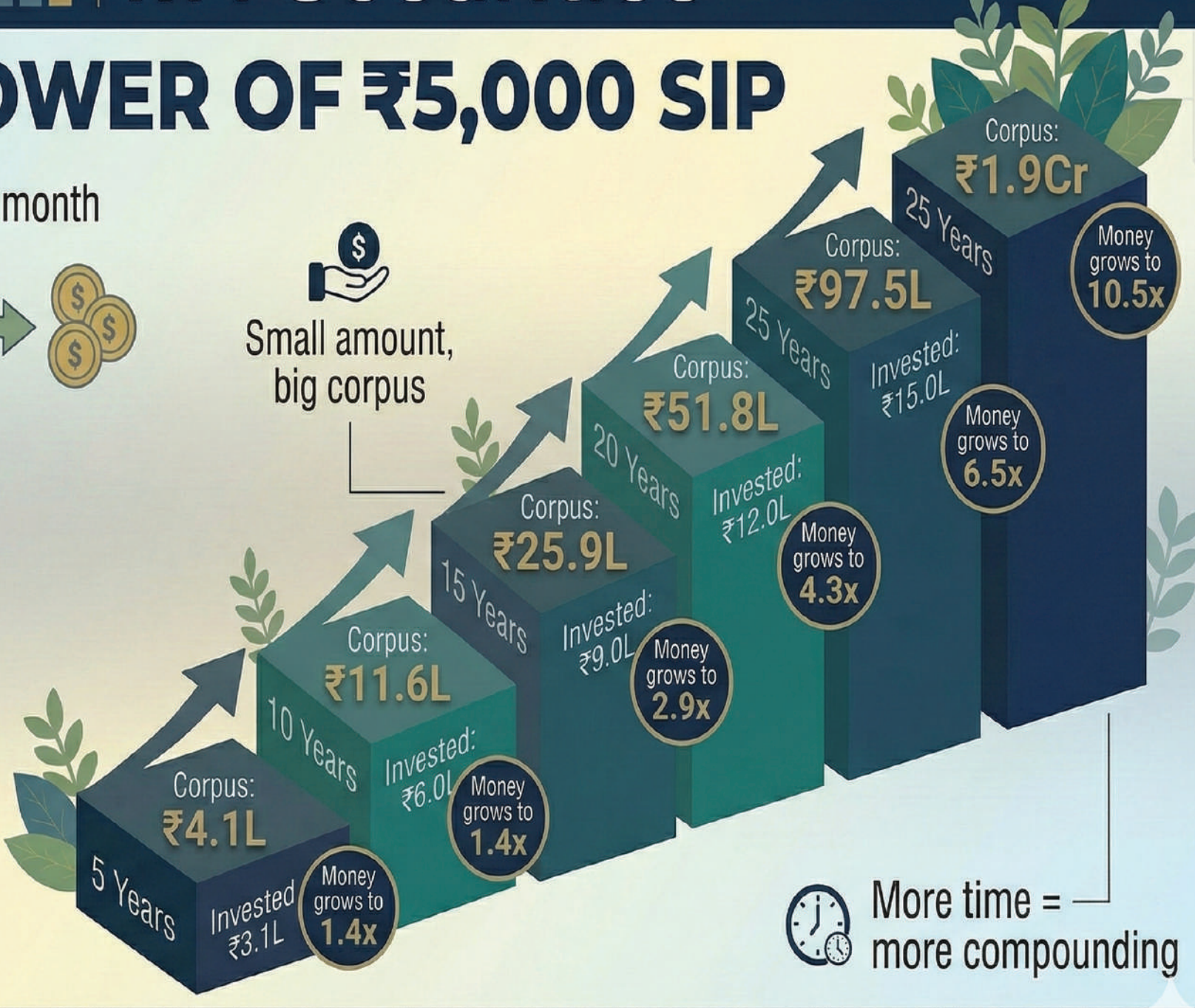
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25	15.0L
30	18.0L



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