

## Kashmir Seeks A New Tourism Policy To Protect Its Natural Heritage

The Ecotourism Association of Kashmir has begun consultations on a proposed policy that would balance tourism growth and local livelihoods with the protection of mountain ecosystems, water bodies and biodiversity.

**Syed Sammar Mehdi**

Srinagar: At a meeting in Srinagar on Thursday, hoteliers, adventure tourism operators, environmentalists, legal experts and academics gathered to discuss a question facing Kashmir's tourism

industry: how can the region attract visitors and generate income while protecting the landscapes that draw them here?

The meeting, held at Hotel Palm Springs in Wazir Bagh, marked the first round of consultations convened by



the Ecotourism Association of Kashmir to formulate a comprehensive ecotourism policy for Jammu and Kashmir.

The association plans to hold further discussions with industry representatives, environmental specialists, academics and local communities

before preparing a white paper for submission to the government.

The initiative comes as Kashmir seeks to establish a framework for tourism development that accounts for the environmental sensitivities of its mountains, water bodies

and biodiversity. These natural assets underpin the region's appeal to visitors and support livelihoods linked to hotels, adventure tourism and other hospitality businesses.

Participants argued that a structured policy could help reconcile those | [More on P6](#)

## 'Nobody Can Browbeat Judiciary' SC Seeks EC Reply On SIR Plea

**KO Web Desk**

Srinagar: The Supreme Court on Thursday sought responses from the Election Commission of India and other officials on a plea filed by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and several opposition leaders alleging large-scale voter deletions and irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi issued notices to the poll panel, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, while tagging the petition with pending cases.

"We are issuing notice ... Tagging with pending cases. But we would like to ask one of the petitioners about his conduct," the bench said.

During the hearing, lawyers referred to the march led by Gandhi and other opposition leaders to the Supreme Court on Monday to submit their petition over the alleged SIR irregularities.

"Nobody can browbeat judiciary. We are not sitting in ivory towers," the bench observed.

The court also issued notices to Gandhi, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and others on a plea challenging their march to the apex court over the alleged irregularities.

The proceedings come amid protests in the national capital demanding the resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner over alleged irregularities in the SIR exercise. Separately, the Supreme



Court issued notices to the Centre and other respondents on various petitions concerning the Election Commission, including pleas filed by leaders such as Asaduddin Owaisi. The court also agreed to examine a petition challenging the de-notification of Jantar Mantar as a designated protest site.

During the hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta referred to an unconditional apology tendered by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan in a contempt matter, submitting that an unconditional apology did not prevent a party from defending its actions and was part of the legal process.

The bench, however, said it was not taking cognisance of media reports concerning authorities tendering unconditional apologies before the court.

The contempt matter related to allegations that the court's direction to ensure there was no "complete prohibition" on Metro and train services in Delhi had been violated in the wake of an October 10 protest called by the Cockroach Janta Party.

Gandhi and other opposition leaders had marched to the Supreme Court on Monday to file their | [More on P6](#)



Photo : Abid Bhat

## Rain, Snow Lash J&K; Mughal Road Closed, Temperatures Dip

MeT forecasts more rain, gusty winds and isolated hailstorms

**Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Rain lashed several parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, while higher reaches of the Kashmir Valley received fresh snowfall for the third consecutive night, bringing down temperatures

and disrupting road connectivity, officials said.

The snowfall led to the closure of the Mughal Road, the alternate route connecting the Kashmir Valley with the Jammu region, as authorities deployed men and machinery to clear snow from

affected stretches.

Udhampur recorded the highest rainfall in the region at 59.6 mm, followed by Poonch at 39.5 mm, Samba at 34 mm, Shopian at 34 mm, Baramulla at 29 mm, Katra at 23.1 mm, Kulgam at 18 mm, Ramban at 17 mm, | [More on P6](#)

## 'Development Of Ladakh Top Priority For Centre: PM Modi

Inaugurates projects worth Rs 3,350 crore, including new Leh airport terminal and strategic road

**Observer News Service**

New Delhi: New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday virtually inaugurated and dedicated development projects worth around Rs 3,350 crore in Ladakh, including a new terminal building at Leh airport and a strategic road aimed at improving connectivity in the Union Territory.

Highlighting the Centre's focus on the region, Modi said the development of Ladakh remained a top priority, with particular emphasis on improving opportunities for the younger generation through



education, infrastructure and skill development.

"Our special focus is on the new generation of Ladakh. The youth of Ladakh will now be able to get better

opportunities for higher education, research, and new skills right in their own region," he said.

Among the major projects was the new terminal building at Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport in Leh, constructed at a cost of around Rs 650 crore. The facility is expected to increase the airport's annual passenger-handling capacity from 10 lakh to 35 lakh, strengthening air connectivity and supporting tourism in the region.

The terminal incorporates geothermal heating and solar energy systems, with a focus on energy | [More on P6](#)

## HC Bans Motorboats, Jet Skis On Dal Lake

Asks government to explore solar-powered engines

**M Ahmad**

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has barred the operation of fuel-operated motorboats, including motorised shikaras and Jet Skis, in Dal Lake until further orders, citing concerns over pollution and the protection of the lake's ecosystem.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Dr Pushpendra Singh Bhati and Justice Rajesh Sekhri passed the directions while hearing a petition filed by Mohammad Rafiq Mir and others, concerning the licensing and operation of motorboats in Dal Lake.

The court observed that the existing system for granting

permission to operate motorboats lacked uniformity and transparency, while concerns had also been raised over pollution, the number of permitted vessels and the ecological impact of motorised boats on Dal Lake.

The petitioners argued that licensing criteria must be uniform, transparent and environmentally sustainable, submitting that Jet Skis, motorboats and other motorised vessels could adversely affect the lake ecosystem and therefore required strict regulation.

The government, meanwhile, acknowledged that pollution in Dal Lake was an issue that needed to be addressed while maintaining | [More on P6](#)

## Sports Can Help Build Drug-Free Society: LG

Hails Jashn-e-Dal-2026 as nearly 600 young athletes compete in 20 water-sports disciplines

**Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday congratulated the Jammu and Kashmir Police on the successful completion of Jashn-e-Dal-2026, saying sports can play a significant role in empowering young people and building a healthy, drug-free society.

In a message, Sinha said sports celebrated human capability, perseverance and collective aspiration, while instilling determination, patience and courage among young people.

He said Jashn-e-Dal had evolved beyond an annual sporting competition into a cherished tradition with an emotional connection to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Nearly 600 young athletes participated in 20 water-sports disciplines during the event, including kayaking, canoeing, rowing, sculling and the traditional shikara race, showcasing the region's sporting potential and water-sports culture, he said.

Urging athletes to dream without limits and pursue excellence with dedication



and sincerity, the Lieutenant Governor said young sportspersons were inheritors of a proud legacy and ambassadors of Jammu and Kashmir's sporting future.

Emphasising resilience, hard work and self-confidence, Sinha said no challenge was insurmountable when faced with determination and perseverance.

He also called upon athletes and citizens to contribute towards building a healthy and drug-free society, observing that sports provided a constructive avenue for youth empowerment.

Initiatives such as Jashn-e-Dal channel youthful energy towards nation-building, creativity and positive social transformation, he said.

The Lieutenant | [More on P6](#)

## Viral Video Triggers Outcry In Kashmir Bureaucracy

The 'JKAS Fraternity' seeks an independent inquiry into the alleged abuse of JKAS officer and challenges the department's claim that the viral video was AI-generated.

**Shahid Mehrhaj**

Srinagar: A controversy has erupted in Jammu and Kashmir's bureaucracy after a video circulated on social media purportedly showing Labour and Employment Secretary Rajeev Ranjan addressing a Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officer, in abusive language during a departmental review meeting at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar on October 14

The JKAS | [More on P6](#)

## Labour Dept Says Viral Clips Lack Full Context

The Jammu and Kashmir Labour and Employment Department on

Thursday said video clips circulating on social media from a departmental review meeting held on October 14 did not provide the full context of the proceedings. The department | [More on P6](#)

## Kashmir Student Filmmakers Win Top Honours At IUST Festival

A national film festival in Awantipora screened 27 short films and documentaries, bringing student filmmakers together while raising questions about creativity, media education and the role of universities.

**Tahir Mushtaq**

Srinagar: A short film titled Deception, made by Afnan Manzoor of the Islamic University of Science and Technology, won the top prize at a national film festival on Thursday, as student filmmakers from institutions in several Indian states presented their work in Awantipora.

The festival, organised by the university's Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, screened 27 short films and documentaries. Of those, 22 were shortlisted



for competition among school, college and university students.

Compulsion, from Amar Singh College, won second prize, while Bindiya, from the Central University of Haryana, took third. Lemonade, another

production by the IUST journalism department, received a special jury mention.

The awards highlighted student filmmaking as universities seek to expand opportunities for | [More on P6](#)



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02

## DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, KASHMIR

HEALTH SECRETARIAT, BEMINA BYPASS, SRINAGAR-190018

E-mail: dhsk-pa@jk.gov.in Website: www.Dhskashmir.org Tel. No. 0194 - 2493712. 0194-2493711

### Subject: First Tentative Seniority list of Para Medical Supervisors (PMS) 2210-Med of Divisional Cadre NOTIFICATION

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that the First Tentative Seniority List of Para Medical Supervisors (PMS) 2210-Med (Divisional Cadre Kashmir) working under the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir has been prepared on the basis of available service records maintained in the Directorate and information furnished by the subordinate offices.

While due diligence has been exercised in compilation of the said seniority list, the possibility of inadvertent omissions, clerical errors, or discrepancies in the sen/ice particulars cannot be ruled out.

Accordingly, the First Tentative Seniority List of Para Medical Supervisors (PMS) 2210-Med is hereby circulated for information of all concerned and for inviting objections, if any. All the concerned PMS are advised to carefully verify their particulars.

In case of any discrepancy, the concerned official may submit a representation duly supported with documentary evidence through proper channel to this Directorate within a period of seven (07) days from the date of issuance of this circular. After stipulated period no objection shall be entertained.

The Tentative Seniority List shall also be uploaded on the official website of this Directorate and will be published in two leading newspapers of the valley for wider circulation.

#### First Tentative Seniority List of Para Medical Supervisors (PMS) 2210-Med

| S. No | Name of the Employee   | Date of Birth | Date of 1st Appointment | Date of promotion as PMS | Place of posting |
|-------|------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1     | Mr. Javid Ahmad Malyar | 28.11.1969    | 26.03.1996              | 11.03.2016               | Block Shangus    |
| 2     | Mr. Bilal Ahmad Vaid   | 03.12.1970    | 13.08.1996              | 11.03.2016               | Block Shangus    |

No: DHSK/NG/Est-5th/E-7915310/5161-80  
Dated: .10.2026

DPK-6758-26  
DT: 15/10/2026

Sd/-  
Director Health Services  
Kashmir.

#### UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

## KASHMIR GOLF CLUB, M.A ROAD SRINAGAR

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER E-NIT NO. 09 OF 2026-27 DATED 15.10.2026

For and on behalf of the Administrator KGC, e-tenders are invited on two cover system by Executive Engineer Kashmir Golf Club by e-tendering mode on Percentage basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State UTI , PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Govt. for the following works:-

| S No | Name of work                                               | Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) | Earned Money (in Rs)                                                    | Cost of T/Doc                                                                                                                             | Time of Completion | Class of Contract | Major Head of Account |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1    | Up gradation of Office and Club House Kitchen at KGC, Sgr. | 7.30 lacs               | Rs. 14,600/- in shape of CDR or FDR in favour of Executive Engineer KGC | Rs. 800/= Non Refundable in shape of Bank Challan CD-0005010100005998 J&K Bank Branch Residency Road Srinagar in favour Administrator KGC | 60 DAYS            | CEE / DEE CLASS   | 5452 Tourism          |

Position of AA: Accorded  
Position of TS: Obtained

- Note: Bidders are advised to read all the terms and conditions of this E-NIT and its accompanying documents carefully before submitting their bids. All annexures enclosed with this E-NIT shall be filled in completely, accurately, and duly signed wherever required. Incomplete, unsigned, or improperly filled annexures, or omission of any required information or document, shall render the bid liable to rejection. The bidder may be disqualified at any stage of the tendering process without any further notice.
- No exemption shall be allowed; therefore, all bidders must upload proof of payment for the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee.
  - The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason at any stage.
  - Intending bidders shall upload scanned copies of a valid Registration Certificate (renewed for the year 2026-27), PAN, GST Registration Certificate, along with the latest GST return/receipt for the month of September 2026 Or 2nd Quarter of FY 2026-27 (July-Sept 2026). The successful bidder shall produce the original documents for verification before the issuance of the contract.
  - The typographical error in the BOQ like Unit of item Quantity of item etc, if any found during e- NIT or after end date of NIT shall be rectified in the allotment as per the estimate.
  - The Time is the Essence of this Contract. Agencies are requested to supply the item within the stipulated period of time, which is much mandatory.

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

|   |                                                  |                                                                               |
|---|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Date of Issue of Tender Notice                   | 15.10.2026 3:00 PM                                                            |
| 2 | Period of downloading of bidding documents       | From 15.10.2026 to 29.10.2026 (3.00 PM on wards)                              |
| 3 | Bid submission Start Date                        | 15.10.2026 3:00 Pm on wards                                                   |
| 4 | Bid Submission End Date                          | 29.10.2026 upto 03:00 PM                                                      |
| 5 | Date & time of opening of Technical Bids(Online) | 30.10.2026 at 10: 00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer RSGC Srinagar |
| 6 | Date & time of opening of Financial Bids(Online) | To be notified after Technical Bid Evaluation is completed                    |

#### General Conditions:

- The financial bid (BOQ) of only eligible, responsive bidders shall be opened on line on the date mentioned above in the office of Executive Engineer, KGC, and Srinagar. In case of any avoidable circumstances the tenders shall be opened on the next working day or any subsequent date convenient to the Authority.
- The 1st lowest bidder (Successful) has to submit performance security @ 5% of the Contract Value in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer, KGC, Srinagar drawn from any recognized Bank, which should reach to the office of Executive Engineer, KGC Srinagar within 05 days from the date of opening of on line bids. In case of failure the bid shall be treated as non-response.
- The bidders will submit the e-mail address, postal address and cell No's on a separate page along with their bids.
- The bids for the works shall remain valid for 90 days from the date of opening of tenders.
- The department shall not be responsible for any technical error or delay in submission of on line bids due to any reason.
- Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder.
- The department can modify the terms and conditions, specification of work if need arises before the dead line date of receipt of tenders.
- Un-balanced Bid: The bidders have to produce additional security in shape of CDR/FDR of recognize scheduled/commercial Bank, pledged to Executive Engineer RSGC Srinagar. The CDR/FDR shall be valid for maximum six months or more after the last date of receipt to bids along with the bid document as per following break up: Additional Security online in shape of CDR/FDR: (As Finance Department Circular No. FD-Code/441/2024-02-158 Dated 08-08-2025)

| S No | Percentage of Unbalanced Bid viz; Advertised cost on account flow rates | Additional Security On L1 value of work as percentage of Advertised cost |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | Up to and including 10% below                                           | Nil                                                                      |
| 2    | Greater than 10% up to 20% below                                        | 1%                                                                       |
| 3    | Greater than 20% up to 30% below                                        | 3%                                                                       |
| 4    | Greater than 30% up to 40% below                                        | 5%                                                                       |
| 5    | Greater than 40% up to 50% below                                        | 7%                                                                       |

The bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ .In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ down loaded should be used for filling the item rate/Percentage inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

- The date of start of work shall be reckoned within one week from the date of issue of LOI /allotment,
- In case of delay in completion of the work beyond stipulated period of completion, penalty up to 5% of the allotted cost shall be imposed.
- No advance payment shall be paid to the Service / contractor.
- The contractor shall ensure execution of an agreement with the Department within 20 days from the date of issue of LOI/allotment.
- All disputes and differences between the parties arising out any relating to the NIT, Letter of intent, Allotment, work done bills and agreement to be signed between the Officer of KGC and the contractor including interpretation of its terms and conditions shall be preferable to Administrator KGC Srinagar whose decision shall be final and binding upon all the parties
- The bidders are advised to quote their rates in Percentage which includes Income tax, GST, Labour cess etc.
- The employer may terminate the contract if the contractor causes a breach of the contract.
- The tender is liable to rejection if it does not fulfil the requirements as laid down in the NIT/ Agreement
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD form-25 double /FC-31.
- The Contractor is bound to work / supply the material of best quality as per specifications. Any material found Substandard / defective shall not be entertained and contractor is bound to replace it immediately at his own cost.
- Any item found to be necessary execute on site not covered by allotment the same shall be paid on in vogue rate along allotted percentage.
- The DLP shall be reckoned from the date of successful completion of work shall be upto the period of not less than 12 Months.
- Rates should be quoted in INR inclusive of all taxes / Charges / FOR.
- No escalation of rates shall be allowed whatsoever during the period of rate contract.
- In case of the unsuccessful tenderer the CDR/FDR shall be released after completion of the rate contract with successful tenderer.
- The EMD in shape of CDR/FDR with validity of not less than 24 months from any nationalized/Scheduled bank preferably J&K Bank pledged to Executive Engineer KGC and should be uploaded on the portal with tender.

No. KGC/EE/2026-27/63-66  
Dated: 15/10/2026  
DIPK-NB-1893-26  
DT: 15/10/2026

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Kashmir Golf Club  
Srinagar

### NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

I, Mohd Mustafa Dar, S/o Gh Hassan Dar, R/o Takipora, Budgam, Jammu & Kashmir, hereby notify the general public and all concerned authorities that my name has been incorrectly recorded as "Mohmad Mustafa Dar" in my JK HRMS (Human Resource Management System) record of the School Education Department, Jammu & Kashmir. My correct name is "Mohd Mustafa Dar", instead of the incorrectly recorded name "Mohmad Mustafa Dar." I request the concerned authorities, particularly the School Education Department, Jammu & Kashmir, to kindly make the necessary correction in my JK HRMS record and update my name as Mohd Mustafa Dar in all relevant official records. Any person or authority having any objection to the above-mentioned correction may raise the same before the competent authority within the prescribed period. Sd/-Mohd Mustafa Dar S/o Gh Hassan Dar R/o Takipora, Budgam, Jammu & Kashmir.

### NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card of my son bearing No 710680381588 the name is entered as DANISH YOUSUF LONE while his actual name is DANISH ALI LONE. 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.  
MOHAMMAD YOUSUF LONE  
F/O DANISH YOUSUF LONE R/o PARISABAD BUDGAM.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have change my name from (old name) Fozia Yousuf to (new name) as Fouzia Yousuf. Also I have change my Father's Name from (old father's name) Mohd Yousuf Wani to (new Father's name) Mohammad Yousuf Wani. In futuer I would be known as Fouzia Yousuf and Father's name would be known as Mohammad Yousuf Wani if anybody has any objection may contact Passport Office Srinagar within 7 days.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of Pesticides license. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Plant Protection Officer Lal Mandi Srinagar within seven day. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Farhana Sultan  
D/O Mohammad Sultan Bhat  
R/O Indergam pattan

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My Son' name has been wrongly mentioned as ABDUL HADI S/O MOHAMMAD ALTAF TELI in his date of Birth certificate issued by SDH kreeri bearing Registration No .B- 202601004310000018 While his correct name is ABDUL MANNAN TELI which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in the office of SDH /BMO office KREERI within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained  
Name: MOHAMMAD ALTAF TELI  
F/O : ABDUL MANNAN TELI  
R/O : SHEIKHPORA KREERI  
Tehsil: KREERI, DISTT: BARAMULLA

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as RAFIQA BEGUM While as my actual name is RAFIQUA BANO C/O GH MOHAMAD TANTARY R/O NAGRI MALPORA KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222. Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

RAFIQUA BANO  
C/O :- GH MOHAMAD TANTARY  
R/O :- NAGRI MALPORA, KUPWARA

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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

JAFREEN JAN  
C/O :- GULAM MUHAMMAD TANTARY  
R/O :- NAGRI MALPORA, KUPWARA

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as HASEENA AKHTER While as my actual name is HUSSIANA AKHTER C/O GULAM MOHAMMAD TANTARY R/O NAGRI MALPORA KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222. Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

HUSSIANA AKHTER  
C/O :- GULAM MOHAMMAD TANTARY  
R/O :- NAGRI MALPORA, KUPWARA

### اطلاع عام

برخاص وعام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کی جاتا ہے کہ مجھے اپنے بچے ایگر بسنٹ زیر کٹریو نمبر 0206010004640 جو کہ میرے چاچا کے نام پر یعنی غلام رسول بھگت کے نام پر ہے۔ اب اسکو میرے نام یعنی عبدالغنی بھگت کے نام پر کروانا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر ایکٹو کیٹیو انجینئر پی ڈی ڈی بڈ گام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

عبدالغنی بھگت ولد گل بھگت ساکن ایچ گام بڈ گام

MBG

### NOTICE

It is information to the general public that my name in electricity connection bearing Consumer ID:- **0213040067994 has been wrongly entered as GH. Qadir Ganie which is incorrect.** while my correct and actual Name is **Ghulam Mohammad Ganie.** 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.

Ghulam Mohammad Ganie  
S/o Abdul Aziz Ganie  
R/o Hanjiwera Bala  
Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that I intend to transfer the electricity connection bearing **Consumer ID 0204050001010**, presently registered in the **name of Mohammad Rafiq Sheikh, to Muzaffar Ahmad Sheikh, resident of Muslim Abad, Gulab Bagh.** Any person having any objection to the proposed change of name may submit their objection to the concerned Electricity Department within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. In the absence of any objection within the stipulated period, the matter may be processed in accordance with the applicable rules.

MEDIA LINE ADS

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **NOOR UN NAEEM FAZILI**, son of **ABDUL MAJID FAZILI**, resident of Friends Lane, 90 Feet Road, Shadab Colony, Ahmad Nagar, Srinagar, hereby give notice to the general public that I intend to have the spelling of my name and my father's name corrected in my Driving Licence in accordance with my Aadhaar Card. The correct particulars are as follows:

Name: **NOOR UN NAEEM FAZILI**  
Father's Name: **ABDUL MAJID FAZILI**

Any person having any objection to the aforesaid corrections may submit such objection, together with supporting documentary evidence, to the concerned RTO Kashmir within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

**NOOR UN NAEEM FAZILI**  
Son of **ABDUL MAJID FAZILI**  
Friends Lane, 90 Feet Road, Shadab Colony, Ahmad Nagar, Srinagar.

MEDIA LINE ADS

#### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

### DIRECTORATE OF INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE KASHMIR

1st Floor Sanat Ghar, Qamarwari Road  
(Behind Bemina Woollen Mills), Srinagar - 190018

Email: di@director-industries@jk.gov.in Website: industries@kashmir.jk.gov.in  
(Registration Section)  
Phone: 0194-2493034 / 124990018

Subject:  
Re-registration of Society of Kashiyaana Khadi Ashram, Nowshara, Srinagar, Kashmir

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Through the medium of this notice, the general public is hereby informed that the Society of Kashiyaana Khadi Ashram, Nowshara, Srinagar, Kashmir, was registered with this office under Registration No. 6018-S on 20-06-2011 under the Societies Registration Act, 1941 A.D. (now repealed).

The Society has applied for re-registration under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, along with the proposed new list of its Managing Body, as detailed below:  
1.Sh. Sheikh Mushafiq Shabir, S/o Sheikh Shabir Ahmad, R/o Lakhpora, Nowshera.  
2.Sh. Owais Niyaz, S/o Niyaz Ahmad, R/o Kag haz Gari Mohalla, Nowshera.  
3.Sh. Naseer Ahmad Wani, S/o Ghulam Nabi Wani, R/o 90 Feet Road.  
4.Sh. Manzoor Ahmed, S/o Ghulam Qadir Rather, R/o Nowshera.  
5.Sh. Noor Mohammad Bhat, S/o Abdul Ahad Bhat, R/o Nowshera.  
6.Sh. Arshid Ahmad Sheikh, S/o Mehraj-ud-din Sheikh, R/o Mandibal, Nowshera.  
7.Smt. Parvna Akhter, W/o Niyaz Ahmad, R/o Nowshera.

Any person having any objection may file the same before the undersigned within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the stipulated period, no objections shall be entertained.  
Dated: 15-10-2026

Sd/-  
Registrar of Societies and Firms, Kashmir  
Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Kashmir  
Date: 15/10/2026

Media Line Ads

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that the name in the electricity connection bearing **Consumer ID: 0204040029583**, presently registered in the name of Irfana Yousuf, is proposed to be **changed to Shabir Ahmad, S/o Ali Mohammad, R/o Lakhpora, Nowshera, Srinagar.**

Any person having any objection to the proposed change of name may submit the same to the concerned Electricity Department within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. In the absence of any objection within the stipulated period, the matter shall be processed as per the applicable rules.

MEDIA LINE ADS



## Srinagar Police Attaches Assets Worth Over ₹13.43 Crore In NDPS Crackdown



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Srinagar Police has frozen or attached residential properties and a vehicle collectively valued at more than ₹13.43 crore under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, as part of a crackdown on assets allegedly acquired through proceeds of drug trafficking.

The action was carried out by six police stations—Khan- yar, Pantha Chowk, Shalteng, Safakadal, Soura and Ahmad- nagar—across different po- lice subdivisions of Srinagar. Police said the properties were identified during fi- nancial investigations into suspected proceeds of illicit narcotic activities.

The proceedings were initiated under Sections 68-E and 68-F of the NDPS Act, which deal with the iden- tification and forfeiture of illegally acquired property, subject to the prescribed legal process.

Police Station Khanyar accounted for assets valued at approximately ₹8 crore, including four residential properties and a Volkswa- gen Polo. The properties are linked to cases registered at the police station in 2016 and 2022, while the vehicle is connected to a case regis- tered in 2025.

At Khanmoh, Police Sta- tion Pantha Chowk attached a residential house valued at ₹1.24 crore belonging to Saq- ib Bashir Bhat alias Sakpal. Police linked him to NDPS cases registered at Pampore, Banihal and Khrew between 2024 and 2026.

Police Station Shalteng

froze a two-storeyed resi- dential house with one kanal of land at Panzinara, valued at ₹1.21 crore, in connection with an NDPS case registered in 2023.

At Safakadal, a three- storeyed residential house with an attic, valued at ₹10.15 lakh, was attached in connection with a case registered in 2026 under provisions of the NDPS Act, Arms Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Police Station Soura initi- ated freezing or attachment proceedings against a residential property in Umar Colony-B, Lal Bazar, valued at ₹1.18 crore, excluding the land value. The property is linked to an NDPS case registered in 2025.

Two separate properties in Shah Mohalla, Ahmadnagar, were also covered by the ac- tion. One was valued at ap- proximately ₹1 crore and the other at ₹80 lakh, in connec- tion with cases registered at Ahmadnagar. Police said the proceedings were carried out under the relevant provisions of the NDPS Act, including in the presence of an Executive Magistrate.

Srinagar Police said the action was aimed at target- ing the financial gains alled- gedly generated through drug trafficking, alongside inves- tigation and prosecution in narcotics cases. The depart- ment reiterated its commit- ment to taking legal action against assets suspected to have been acquired through illicit proceeds.

The attachment and free- zing proceedings do not, by themselves, establish guilt in the underlying criminal cases, which remain subject to due process of law.

## SWD Organises International Day For Rural Women 2026 BBBP

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANK- ALP-HEW Srinagar, organised a programme to commemo- rate the International Day of Rural Women 2026 at Higher Secondary School Kothibagh, Srinagar, in collaboration with the National Rural Live- lihoods Mission (NRLM), under the Beti Bachao Beti Pad- hao (BBBP) initiative.

The programme aimed to highlight the significant contribution of rural women to society, promote women's empowerment, and create awareness about opportuni- ties for their social and eco- nomic development.

The programme wit- nessed participation from Officials of SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, the members of Na- tional Rural Livelihoods Mis- sion, and other stakehold-

ers. A resource person from the Chief Agriculture Office Srinagar participated in the programme and highlighted the important role played by rural women in agriculture, allied activities, household food security, and rural eco- nomic development.

During the programme, emphasis was laid on the need to empower women through education, skill de- velopment, vocational train- ing, entrepreneurship, and access to livelihood opportu- nities. Participants were sensitised about the impor- tance of encouraging girls to pursue education, develop their skills, and become self- reliant. The programme also highlighted the significance of ensuring equal opportuni- ties for girls and women and fostering an environment in which they can participate actively in social and eco-

## NIT Srinagar Sensitises Students, Staff On Cyber Threats

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The National In- stitute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar organised a cyber security awareness session for mathematics students, re- search scholars and teaching and non-teaching staff, focus- ing on safe digital practices and prevention of cyber fraud.

The session, conducted by Dr Atendra Kumar, (Assistant Prof. Mathematics) covered key aspects of cyber hygiene, phishing attacks, password security, social engineering, data protection and respon- sible use of digital platforms.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof Anurag Mishra, emphasised the need to build a digitally aware and security-conscious campus community, stressing the

importance of responsible online behaviour in an in- creasingly technology-driven environment.

Dr Zamrooda Jabeen, Head of the Department of Math- ematics, also highlighted the importance of awareness and vigilance in preventing cyber fraud and protecting users from online threats.

Participants were encour- aged to remain vigilant while using online services, verify suspicious links and messages, and adopt secure digital prac- tices to safeguard personal and institutional information.

The session aimed to strengthen participants' un- derstanding of common cy- ber threats and encourage the adoption of preventive mea- sures to ensure safer digital engagement.

## Husband, 2 In-Laws Get Life Term For Smothering Woman To Death

M Ahmad

**SRINAGAR:** A court here on Thurs- day sentenced a woman's hus- band, mother-in-law and brother- in-law to life imprisonment for smothering her to death at Nund- Reshi Colony-B, Bemina, in 2022.

The Court of Additional Ses- sions Judge Srinagar, Farooq Ah- mad Bhat, sentenced Shahnawaz Ahmad Dar, husband of the de- ceased, Mst. Hafeeza Begum, her mother-in-law, and Parveez Ah- mad Dar alias Bilal, her brother-in- law, to simple imprisonment for life under Section 302 read with Section 120-B IPC.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 each on the three con- victs. In default of payment, they will undergo a further six months' imprisonment each.

The court had convicted the trio, holding them guilty of mur- der in furtherance of a criminal conspiracy.

"It has been observed time and again by the Courts that cases are frequently coming before the Courts where husbands, due to strained marital relations and doubts as regards the character, have gone to the extent of killing their wives," the court said. These crimes, the court said, are gener- ally committed in complete secrecy inside the house, and it becomes very difficult for the prosecution to lead evidence.

No member of the family, even if he is a witness to the crime, would come forward to depose against another family member, the court said

"It is further observed that the role of the Courts such circum- stances assumes greater impor- tance, and it is expected of the Courts to deal with such cases in a more realistic manner and not

allow the criminals to go scot-free on account of procedural techni- calities, perfunctory investigation or insignificant lacunae in the evidence, as otherwise serious crimes would go unpunished," the court said, adding, "The Courts are expected to be sensitive in cases involving crimes against women."

The case relates to the death of Mst. Tasleema, wife of Shahnawaz Ahmad Dar, at Nund-Reshi Colo- ny-B, Bemina, on June 17, 2022.

According to the prosecution case, police initially received information that Tasleema had died under mys- terious circumstances. A report un- der Section 174 CrPC was registered and an inquiry was initiated.

The deceased's body was taken into possession and subjected to post-mortem at Medical College, Srinagar. The post-mortem re- port, received on August 2, 2022, concluded that she had died due to respiratory failure caused by smothering.

Following the post-mortem report, Batmaloo Police regis- tered FIR No. 109/2022 under Section 302 IPC and commenced investigation. Sections relating to cruelty, criminal conspiracy and disappearance of evidence were subsequently added to the case.

The prosecution said that Tasleema had been subjected to harassment by her in-laws over her inability to conceive despite nearly nine years of marriage. The investigation further alleged that the family wanted to remove her from the matrimonial home and arrange another marriage for Shahnawaz.

The challan stated that Tasleema had also faced physical har- assment and that Parveez Ahmad Dar had, on an earlier occasion, allegedly attempted to electrocute her with a heater.

The prosecution also relied upon call-detail records to es- tablish the movements and com- munication between the accused around the time of the incident. According to the investigation, Tasleema spoke to her aunt at around 11:01 a.m., after which calls made by her sister between approximately 11:30 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. went unanswered.

The prosecution said that the accused, after committing the of- fence, did not properly inform the deceased's parental family about her condition and attempted to create an impression that she had been taken to hospital.

During the sentencing proceed- ings, the prosecution sought the death penalty, describing the kill- ing as gruesome and arguing that the manner in which the deceased was smothered was sufficiently horrific to shock the collective conscience of society.

The court, however, held that the case did not fall within the category of "rarest of rare" cases warranting capital punishment.

The court observed that the ag- gravating and mitigating circum- stances had to be weighed and balanced before deciding the ap- propriate sentence.

"When the aggravating and mitigating circumstances are weighed and balanced, I do not think that this case falls within the definition of 'rarest of rare cas- es' warranting the imposition of the death penalty," the court ob- served, holding that life imprison- ment was sufficient punishment. It also acquitted two sisters-in- law of the deceased.

The court further directed that the period already undergone by the convicts during investigation and trial shall be set off against their sentences under Section 428 CrPC.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
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### HIGHWAY STATUS

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



### PRAYERS

|        |         |
|--------|---------|
| FAJR   | 5 : 13  |
| ZUHR   | 12 : 16 |
| ASR    | 4 : 18  |
| Magrib | 6 : 00  |
| ISHA   | 7 : 19  |

## This Day In History

- 1710 - British troops occupies Port Royal, Nova Scotia
- 1757 - Austrian troops occupy Berlin
- 1793 - Battle of Wattignies: French defeat Allied forces and lift siege of Maubeuge.
- 1900 - Great Britain and Germany sign the Anglo-German Treaty, agreeing to maintain territorial integrity of China and support 'open door' policy called for by US Secretary of State
- 1901 - Baron Hayashi of Japan begins negotiations in London to make an alliance with the British and strengthen Japan's position against Russians
- 1913 - Booth Theater opens at 222 W 44th St NYC
- 1915 Great Britain declares war on Bulgaria
- 1926 - Mohammed Nadir Khan begins coup in Afghanistan, 1200 killed
- 1926 - Troop ship sinks in Yangtze River, killing 1,200
- 1934 - Mao Zedong & 25,000 troops begin 6,000 mile Long March
- 1943 - US 1st Army establishes headquarter in Bristol
- 1944 - Hungary: Horthy government falls/nazi count Szalasi becomes premier
- 1945 - UN's Food & Agriculture Organization comes into existence
- 1951 - The first Prime Minister of Pakistan, Liaquat Ali Khan, is assassinated in Rawalpindi.
- 1952 - Pakistan's 1st Test starts, v India at Delhi
- 1953 - Fidel Castro sentenced to 15 years (Havana)
- 1957 - USAF sends 2 aluminium bullets into space

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public that I intend to correct the name on my aadhar card bearing no. 331039013060 from Fansi Akther to Fancy Jan. In this regard if anybody have any kind of objection he/ she may file the same with concerned authority within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

Fancy Jan  
W/o Mohd Amin Taillee  
R/o Amshipora Shopian

PRO



(Government of Jammu & Kashmir)

## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ANGORA RABBIT FARM WUSSAN PATTAN

### SHORT TERM QUOTATION

Short term quotations are invited from interested persons/parties for Pruning of Fruit trees viz Almond trees 330 No., apple trees 20 No., pear trees 08 No. & plum trees 12 No. at Fodder Farm Tapper Pattan for the year 2026 on the following terms and conditions:

1. The quotations should reach this office by or before 21-10-2026 and shall be opened on same date at 1:00 PM.
2. The total of 370 fruit trees that require pruning.
3. The rates should be quoted @ per tree.
4. The rates should not exceed @ Rs. 40 per tree including collecting of twigs.
5. This office will not provide any pruning equipment; the selected quotationer has to carry all the required equipments along with.
6. The payment shall be made only after completion of pruning process completed in all respects.
7. The interested persons / parties can visit the site / fruit trees at Fodder Farm Tapper on any working day from 9:am to 5 : Pm by or before the last date of quotation.
7. This office reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation/contract without assigning any reason

Sd/-  
(Dr. Waseem Muzaffer Malik)  
Assistant Director,  
Angora Rabbit Farm,  
Wussan.

DIPK-6745-26  
DT: 15/10/2026

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**

**PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA**

Email: rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in

NO: T-1/EEA/9003-07

Dated: 15/ 10/2026

**EXTENSION NOTICE**

Subject: -

1. Upgradation and construction of road from zahoor ahmad ganie , chandhara,pampore.
2. Macadamization of bathnoor road.

Reference: -

1. This office e-NIT No. 135/EEA/RNB of 2026-27/8435-45 Dated 01-10-2026.

The critical dates for the above noted Works are hereby extended as under:

|   |                                                   |                            |
|---|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Bid Submission End Date                           | 19-10-2026 up to 12:00 P.M |
| 2 | Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) | 19-10-2026 up to 03:00 P.M |

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NIT.

Sd/-  
Technical officer

DIPK-6763-26  
DT: 15/10/2026

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Awantipora

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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KO VIEW

Kashmir's Service Shame

Kashmir was shocked by an ugly exchange between two civil servants that spread across social media on Thursday. A video showing senior IAS officer Rajeev Ranjan allegedly using abusive language against a woman officer has left people questioning the standards of a service that attracts thousands of young aspirants.

The controversy raises a basic question: can an institution command public respect when its own officers struggle to uphold professional conduct?

The Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service Fraternity has condemned the alleged verbal abuse and public humiliation of Beenish Wani, a senior JKAS officer of the 2015 batch. According to the fraternity, the incident occurred during a departmental review meeting at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar on October 14. Wani joined the meeting virtually while on leave following a fracture.

The department's subsequent claim that the circulating video was generated by artificial intelligence has added to the controversy. The fraternity disputes that explanation, saying Wani and other officials who attended the virtual meeting confirmed the footage was authentic. Such conflicting claims call for an impartial inquiry, rather than public assertions that leave the facts unsettled.

The administration should establish what happened during the meeting, examine the video's authenticity through an independent technical assessment and determine whether anyone violated service rules. The inquiry should also examine the department's clarification.

Public confidence depends on officials explaining their actions with evidence, particularly when their statements contradict accounts from people who attended the meeting.

The fraternity has also alleged that the incident reflects a wider problem of senior officials using demeaning language. Other civil servants have described similar experiences on social media. These claims need proper examination.

If abusive exchanges have become common within government offices, the administration must confront the culture that allows them to continue.

Senior officers have a legitimate responsibility to question delays, demand better performance and hold their teams accountable. Public administration depends on discipline. But discipline cannot mean that junior officers must accept personal insults as part of their jobs.

A review meeting should help officials identify failures and solve problems. Abusive language only undermines the professional standards that such meetings are meant to uphold.

The issue also touches a sensitive nerve among young people in Kashmir. Many spend years preparing for civil service examinations, often sacrificing income and personal time to pursue these careers. They look to the administration as a place where competence, fairness and public duty count. Allegations of workplace humiliation can weaken that faith before these aspirants even enter government service.

The Lieutenant Governor, chief secretary and General Administration Department should order an impartial inquiry, protect the female JKAS officer from retaliation and recommend disciplinary action if investigators establish misconduct. The administration should also introduce clear safeguards against abusive behaviour in official meetings.

A senior officer's authority should command respect through conduct, rather than fear through rank. Kashmir's civil services must uphold that principle if they expect the next generation to believe in them.

Keep Politics Off Pulpits

The J&K Waqf Board's proposed standardisation of Friday sermons raises a fundamental question about the reach of administrative authority and the independence of religious institutions.



The law must provide the answer before administrative power enters the pulpit. If the Waqf Act grants the chairperson the authority she claims, the relevant provision should be made clear. If it does not, the limits of her office must prevail.



Hamid Rather

A mosque in Kashmir is a place of worship, but it is also an institution governed by rules, responsibilities and religious traditions.

When an administrative authority seeks to prescribe what an Imam should say during Friday prayers, the question extends beyond the sermon itself.

It concerns the limits of public power and the law that defines them.

Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board, has asserted a position on uniform Friday sermons that raises serious questions about the statutory authority of her office.

The Board has an established responsibility to oversee waqf properties and institutions. Whether that responsibility extends to determining the content of religious sermons is a separate question, one that must be answered through the law.

The distinction calls for scrutiny because administrative authority can easily acquire a wider meaning than the legislature intended.

A body created to manage religious endowments may exercise substantial



powers over their administration. Those powers, however, do not automatically extend to the religious speech delivered within the institutions it oversees.

The Waqf Act of 1995, as amended, provides the legal framework for examining this question.

Its principal purpose is the administration, supervision and proper management of auqaf, or waqf properties. The legislation also contains provisions governing the appointment, removal and regulation of mutawallis, the people responsible for managing waqf institutions.

These provisions establish an administrative mandate. They do not, on their face, establish an unrestricted authority for the chairperson to prescribe the themes, subjects or wording of Friday sermons.

The difference between managing an institution and directing its religious instruction cannot be erased simply because both activities take place within the same institution.

A statutory office derives its authority from the legislation that creates it. Its powers must be traced to specific legal provisions rather than inferred from the position an officeholder occupies.

The chairperson cannot expand her mandate through an assertion of authority, and the Board cannot assume powers beyond those conferred by the statute.

This principle has practical consequences for Kashmir's mosques.

An administrative decision made at the Board's headquarters can reach an Imam standing before a congregation on Friday. If the decision prescribes what he should discuss, it moves

beyond the management of waqf affairs and into the substance of religious expression.

Such an intervention needs a clear legal foundation.

The question is therefore precise: which provision of the Waqf Act authorises the chairperson to determine what Imams should say from the pulpit?

The Board should identify the provision on which it relies and explain how that provision supports the proposed intervention.

A legal explanation would allow the public to distinguish between powers the legislature has granted and powers an administrator believes would be useful. That distinction is essential to accountable government.

The argument does not place religious institutions beyond lawful supervision. Waqf properties and institutions remain subject to the applicable law, and their administrators must fulfil their responsibilities.

Proper management, financial accountability and compliance with statutory obligations are legitimate concerns for the Board. The existence of those responsibilities, however, cannot by itself establish control over religious sermons.

The distinction also protects public institutions from the effects of excessive discretion.

When an officeholder exercises authority without a demonstrable legal basis, statutory boundaries become dependent on individual interpretation.

The next intervention may then rest on the same assumption, gradually expanding administrative control into areas the original legislation never

expressly assigned to it.

That is why the proposed standardisation of Friday sermons needs a legal examination before the Board proceeds on the assumption that its administrative role provides sufficient authority.

The question concerns the limits of the office, rather than the personal intentions of its chairperson. Good intentions cannot substitute for statutory authorisation, just as public criticism cannot substitute for a proper reading of the law.

Kashmir's religious institutions need a system in which public authorities discharge their responsibilities without exceeding their mandate.

The Board can supervise waqf affairs while respecting the difference between institutional administration and the content of religious instruction.

Establishing that boundary would strengthen the credibility of its own authority.

The law must provide the answer before administrative power enters the pulpit. If the Waqf Act grants the chairperson the authority she claims, the relevant provision should be made clear. If it does not, the limits of her office must prevail.

A public position holds responsibility, but the statute, not the officeholder, determines how far that responsibility extends.

— The author is a lawyer, policy consultant, and young political leader practicing at the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. He can be reached at hamidrather111@gmail.com.

Kashmir's Imams Must Speak Freely

Common themes for Friday sermons could help religious leaders confront social problems, but coordination must leave Imams free to speak to the needs of their own congregations.



Muhammad Arbaaz Niazi

A Friday sermon in Kashmir begins with a common and characteristic gathering.

Shopkeepers leave their counters, workers set aside their tasks, and families make their way to mosques.

For a short time, people with different worries sit together and listen to the same voice.

The Imam speaks about faith, family, personal conduct and the obligations people owe one another. Sometimes his words comfort, but at times they challenge habits that have taken root in the community.

The value of that moment depends partly on a simple condition: the Imam must be free to judge what his congregation needs to hear.

That is why the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board's proposal to identify common themes for Friday sermons needs careful review.

The stated aim of encouraging religious scholars to address drug addiction, suicide and problems confronting young people is reasonable. The

difficulty lies in deciding where guidance ends and institutional control begins.

Kashmir has serious social problems that need attention from its religious institutions. Drug addiction is damaging families, while young people face unemployment, uncertainty and emotional distress. Domestic violence, corruption, extravagant spending and weakening family relationships also call for honest discussion. Religious leaders, whose words hold impact in many households, can help people confront these concerns.

An Imam who speaks about addiction may encourage a family to seek help for a son. A sermon about parental responsibility may lead someone to reconsider how children are treated at home. A discussion of honesty may challenge the everyday practices through which people justify cheating others.

Religious guidance has a place in these efforts. The question is who decides how that guidance should be delivered.

There is a difference between recommending a subject and prescribing a sermon.

A recommendation gives an Imam room to use his knowledge, understand his congregation and decide how to approach a problem. A prescribed agenda can reduce that judgement to a formality, even without an explicit order compelling religious leaders to follow identical scripts.

The Waqf Board has clarified that it has not ordered Imams to deliver the same Friday sermons. That clarification is important. A proposal to coordinate

themes is different from an administrative direction, and both differ from a compulsory rule.

Treating these stages as interchangeable would distort the debate before it has properly begun.

Still, the absence of a mandatory order does not address the larger question. The terms of any initiative need to be clear. Are the themes voluntary? Can an Imam set them aside when his congregation faces a different problem? Will he remain free to discuss subjects that the Board's suggested list leaves out?

These are practical questions about how an institution intends to exercise its authority. Clear answers would help the Board build confidence in its initiative and prevent a useful idea from becoming a source of suspicion.

The need for discretion becomes apparent when one considers the differences between Kashmir's communities.

A congregation in a village in Kupwara may be dealing with circumstances unlike those facing worshippers in Srinagar or a town in Jammu.

One community may be grappling with addiction, another may be struggling with family disputes, debt or the loss of traditional livelihoods.

An Imam may know that a recent incident has unsettled his congregation and that people need guidance on a particular religious question.

A common list cannot anticipate all these circumstances, nor should it try to.

Some concerns, however, cross geographical and social boundaries. Drug addiction, for instance, warrants a coordinated response involving mosques, schools, families, health professionals

and community organisations.

The Waqf Board could bring scholars together to discuss the problem, share reliable information and identify ways religious institutions might support people seeking help.

Such an initiative would benefit from the participation of the Imams expected to put it into practice.

Religious scholars should help identify the subjects, explain local concerns and assess whether the proposed approach would work. Their experience within communities is an asset that an administrative office cannot easily replicate.

Consultation would also protect the Imam's freedom to speak about issues beyond social problems.

Imams must sometimes speak about uncomfortable subjects, including injustice, corruption and the conduct of influential people. Their religious obligations may lead them to challenge practices accepted by prominent members of their own congregations.

A system that encourages common themes must leave room for such criticism. An Imam who worries that a particular subject might displease the institution overseeing his mosque may begin to restrict himself without receiving any formal instruction to do so. The effect on his independence could emerge through caution rather than an explicit prohibition.

That possibility makes clear safeguards important.

Voluntary recommendations, freedom to address local concerns and the right to raise legitimate issues would help establish the boundaries of the Board's role.

Such assurances would protect religious scholars while giving the institution a clearer basis for public support.

The debate also needs room for disagreement without assigning motives.

People who question the proposal may support efforts to address addiction and other social problems while remaining concerned about institutional influence over religious guidance.

Those who favour common themes may sincerely believe that coordinated sermons could help communities confront shared difficulties. Neither position automatically settles the question of what arrangement would work best.

The Waqf Board has an administrative role in supporting religious institutions and educational activities. It can bring scholars together and encourage initiatives for public welfare. Those responsibilities can complement the independent judgement of Imams, provided the Board does not confuse administration with religious authority.

A practical arrangement could begin with a group of respected scholars identifying pressing social concerns, followed by consultations with local Imams. The resulting themes could guide sermons without dictating their wording or preventing scholars from addressing other subjects. Religious leaders could adapt the material to their congregations and draw on their own knowledge of local circumstances.

Such cooperation would also recognise the limits of religious guidance.

An Imam can speak against drug addiction, but families and communities must help people seek treatment. A sermon can condemn corruption, but

public institutions must act against it. Religious teaching can encourage responsible conduct, while the work of practising those values continues at home, in workplaces and in public offices.

Asking mosques to speak about social problems is a reasonable beginning. The larger test lies in whether the institutions responsible for addressing those problems respond with equal seriousness.

The Friday pulpit retains its value because people expect the person standing before them to speak with knowledge, conviction and an understanding of their lives. Institutions can help that work by supporting scholars and bringing them together around shared concerns. Their involvement should strengthen the trust between an Imam and his congregation.

When the congregation gathers this Friday, the Imam may speak about addiction, family responsibilities or a concern specific to his neighbourhood. His words may comfort some listeners and challenge others. Their value will depend on his understanding of the people before him and his freedom to decide what they need to hear.

A common theme can begin a useful discussion, but the freedom to take that discussion where conscience and local knowledge lead is what gives the sermon its force.

— The author is a student examining the links between socio-economics, environmental issues, public policy, and education. He can be reached at arbaazniazi01@gmail.com.

# Kashmir's Teacher Wants to Go Viral

A government schoolteacher chasing online fame has begun neglecting his lessons, losing sleep and questioning his worth, exposing the hidden cost of a digital economy built on views, likes and the promise of overnight success.



Zafar Iqbal

A few weeks ago, I noticed something unusual on the WhatsApp status of a man I know. I will call him Shahid, a government schoolteacher.

His updates once featured family photographs and occasional quotations. Suddenly, they were filled with videos of him speaking into his phone, trending music playing behind him, and captions asking people to like, share and follow.

New videos appeared throughout the day, usually with a small plea for support.

I knew Shahid had a permanent government job, a salary many people in his town would envy and a pension to look forward to. Teaching had earned him respect in his neighbourhood. His new videos suggested a man who felt he had fallen behind.

I messaged him to ask whether everything was fine at home. He replied after some time. His family was well, he said. He was simply tired.

When we spoke on the phone, we began with routine things, including the weather, school and his children's examinations. Eventually, I asked why he had started making so many videos. He laughed briefly before explaining that a relative had told him about someone earning lakhs of rupees a month through reels.

"He was a nobody," Shahid said. "Now he has a car. And I have been teaching for fifteen years." He started making videos the following week.

The results were disappointing. One video received 400 views. Another attracted nine likes. He recited those numbers as though they were a verdict on his life.

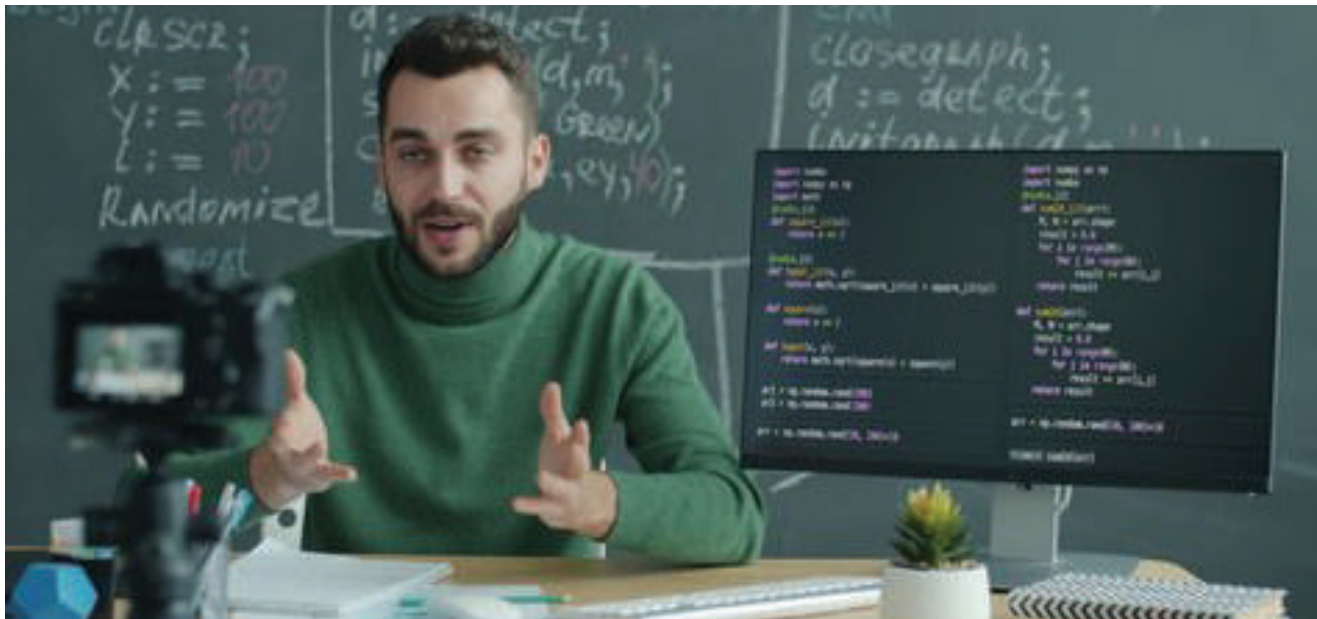
Then he told me what had changed at school.

He used to spend evenings preparing lessons, working out how to explain difficult chapters and identifying students who needed extra help. Now he entered class, taught whatever came to mind and checked his phone during breaks to see how his videos had performed.

For the first time in fifteen years, he could not tell me whether his students had understood their lessons.

That admission unsettled me.

A man who had spent years earning respect through his work had begun judging himself by the response of strangers on a



screen. The pursuit of online recognition was taking time away from the very profession that had given his life purpose.

Shahid also told me he had been sleeping badly for weeks. He woke around 3 a.m. and reached for his phone before he was fully awake. His appetite had diminished. Frequent headaches and tightness in his chest worried his wife, who wanted him to see a doctor. He kept postponing the visit while making more videos.

His symptoms need medical attention, and social media alone cannot explain them. But his experience shows how the pursuit of online approval can enter a person's health, home and working life.

The World Health Organization estimates that more than a billion people worldwide live with mental health disorders, including anxiety and depression. In India, WHO updates put the number of people living with depression at more than 50 million and those with anxiety disorders at about 38 million.

These figures describe a much larger public health concern, but Shahid's story gives it a face: a man who has a secure income and a respected job, but feels inadequate because his videos attract too few viewers.

His students are the part of this story he cannot see.

A government schoolteacher may teach well over a hundred children in a year. Over fifteen years, Shahid has stood before thousands. Those children know nothing about his reels, their disappointing view counts or his early-morning phone checks. They experience only the teacher who walks into their classroom.

A difficult question might get a rushed answer. A child who needs something ex-

plained again might be left confused. A student who once stayed back to ask for help might stop doing so when the teacher turns his attention to his phone.

Such losses rarely produce complaints. A girl who misses an explanation may conclude that she is bad at mathematics. A boy who receives little encouragement may decide that reading is beyond him. Neither child can know that an adult's distraction has helped form that belief.

Research provides some reason for concern. A systematic review of 14 studies involving 5,311 teachers and 50,616 students found preliminary evidence linking teacher burnout with lower academic achievement and weaker student motivation.

A large American study linking records for more than a million children with tax data found that students assigned to high-performing primary school teachers were more likely to attend college, earned higher salaries and were less likely to become teenage parents.

Researchers estimated that a one-standard-deviation improvement in teacher quality in a single grade increased earnings at age 28 by about 1 percent. They calculated that the cumulative effect of a high-quality teacher on one class exceeded \$1.4 million in lifetime earnings.

These are American findings, rather than predictions about Shahid's students. They show, however, how a teacher's work can influence children's lives long after they leave the classroom.

Meanwhile, the online success Shahid hopes to achieve remains elusive for most creators.

A 2024-25 Koflurence report found that 88 percent of Indian content creators earned less

than 75 percent of their income from social media. More than half earned less than a quarter of their total income through these platforms. Another analysis estimated that only eight to ten out of every hundred active creators earn meaningful income from their content.

Reporting in Mint, cited by Outlook Business, found that nearly 200,000 creators had left the field since 2024, citing burnout, unstable earnings and the pressure to remain constantly active online.

The public sees the people who make fortunes and buy cars. It sees far less of those who spend hours producing videos for little return. Shahid has heard the success stories without fully seeing the odds against him.

His decision is understandable. Smartphones have made it possible to compare our lives with strangers around the world, at any hour. Someone else's earnings, possessions and popularity appear within seconds. A secure job can suddenly feel inadequate when a person sees someone apparently making in a month what he earns in a year.

The pandemic accelerated this shift, pushing work, education and social contact online. WHO reported that anxiety and depression increased by 25 percent worldwide during the first year of the pandemic. Short-video platforms gained ground, promoting the promise that anyone could become famous with a phone and an internet connection.

The platforms also have a financial incentive to keep users engaged. Advertising revenue depends partly on the time people spend scrolling, watching and returning. Notifications, autoplay and endless feeds encourage them to keep checking. Shahid may believe he is pursuing an independent am-



**HIS DECISION IS UNDERSTANDABLE. SMARTPHONES HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE TO COMPARE OUR LIVES WITH STRANGERS AROUND THE WORLD, AT ANY HOUR.**

Someone else's earnings, possessions and popularity appear within seconds. A secure job can suddenly feel inadequate when a person sees someone apparently making in a month what he earns in a year.

bition, but his day is now organised around numbers generated by a system whose rules he cannot control.

I do not think he should be ridiculed for wanting a better life. His mistake is harder to recognise because it looks like ambition. He is sacrificing sleep and neglecting his work for a chance at recognition that may never come.

I keep returning to the contrast between the audience Shahid wants and the one he already has.

Four hundred views leave him disappointed. Nine likes make him question his worth. But thirty or forty children sit before him each morning, ready to learn from someone they trust.

They are not watching him for a few seconds before moving to another video. They need him to explain a difficult lesson, notice when they are struggling and encourage them to try again.

A screen can count views, likes and followers. It cannot tell Shahid whether a child has finally understood a lesson or found the confidence to ask another question.

He may never become famous online. But he already has work that can change lives, and thousands of children who will remember the teacher he was long after they forget his lessons.

The troubling question is how a man can spend fifteen years earning respect, then begin to feel like a failure because strangers on a screen have yet to notice him.

— The author is a youth development practitioner with a decade of grassroots experience in education and community empowerment.

# The Teacher With the Handy Bag

In a small government school in Budgam, one teacher is showing children that education begins with care, kindness and a sense of belonging.



Muntashir Kifayat Hussain

I was recently on an academic visit to a small government primary school nestled in the hills of Budgam, my home district in Kashmir. It was meant to be a routine inspection, a check on foundational literacy and numeracy. I came in with a notebook, some questions, and, admittedly, a few assumptions. I left with something far deeper.

The first thing I noticed was an elderly teacher with a white beard, sitting comfortably on the floor with a group of tiny children. One leg stretched out, he looked like just another mystic figure in a meditative place.

I started asking the children questions about letters, numbers, shapes. To my surprise, they answered everything quickly and correctly.

Delighted, I looked at the teacher, half-expecting a modest smile. Instead, he burst out joyfully, "It is we who taught them!" That small "we" said everything.

As we talked, a small child ran up to him shouting something in broken Urdu. "Shar... shar... shirt ka button gir gaya!" The button



of my shirt fell off. The words were rushed, childlike, adorable.

Without missing a beat, the teacher reached into a small bag slung over his shoulder, pulled out a needle and thread, and calmly stitched the button back on. No scolding. No fuss. Just quiet care.

I started noticing that bag more. We strolled through the school lawn: lush green, with a hill rising nearby. The teacher limped slightly. He told me he had gout, but brushed it off.

A boy, no more than four, had fallen on the grass and his face was dusty and streaked with tears. Again, the teacher hurried over. He didn't just wipe the child's face. He picked him up, carried him to the wash-

room, took out soap from that same handy bag, and gave him a bath. Clean clothes, gentle hands, no drama.

I realised then that I wasn't here just to monitor. I was here to learn.

The school had about 15 children in its pre-primary classes: nursery, LKG, UKG. When the lunch bell rang—than, than, than—they ran outside in a flurry and sat in a half-moon formation on the soft grass.

The teacher rolled up his sleeves and started feeding them, one by one, with his hands. "Me first, me first!" they giggled and shouted, falling over each other in excitement. He smiled, feeding them patiently, lovingly. It was like watching poetry in motion.



**INSIDE THE SCHOOL BUILDING, THE WALLS WERE PAINTED IN BRIGHT COLOURS WITH DRAWINGS** and lessons on morals and discipline. Curious, I asked him how it was all funded. He looked at me as if the answer was obvious. "From my salary," he said. "I earn Rs 70,000. I can spare Rs 10,000."

I wondered how, in this tiny building with peeling paint and no fancy resources, the children looked so loved and happy. And then I saw why.

Just as we were settling for our own lunch, we heard a loud cry. The teacher rushed out, bag still on his arm, and I followed. A child had scraped his elbow on the fence. The teacher unzipped the bag and pulled out antiseptic, gently applying it as the child sobbed into his shoulder.

That bag, it wasn't just a bag. It was a toolkit of compassion.

Inside the school building, the walls were painted in bright colours with drawings and lessons on morals and discipline. Curious, I asked him how it was all funded. He looked

at me as if the answer was obvious. "From my salary," he said. "I earn Rs 70,000. I can spare Rs 10,000."

Later, in a corner of the lawn, I noticed a small tin shed, just six by eight feet. Inside were carefully arranged Kashmiri cultural artefacts: woven baskets, miniature samovars, old musical instruments. "I collected these from nearby villages," the teacher said. "Children should know where they come from."

Even the corridor walls had portraits of great personalities, each one with a short biography in simple words. He believed in teaching values, not just syllabi.

I didn't want to leave. But the final bell rang—than, than, than—and the children began to leave, one by one. Each one hugged him before stepping out of the gate. He kissed their foreheads, whispering something to each of them. Not one wanted to let go.

The bag was still there, hanging from his arm. Ready for the next bruise, the next broken button, the next tear.

As I left the school, the words of Khalil Gibran came to mind: Your children are not your children... they are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.

I had walked into that school thinking I was the educator. But it was that white-bearded teacher with a limp, a gentle smile, and a small handy bag, who truly taught me what it means to teach.

— The author is a Budgam-based teacher. He can be reached out at muntashirkifayat@gmail.com.

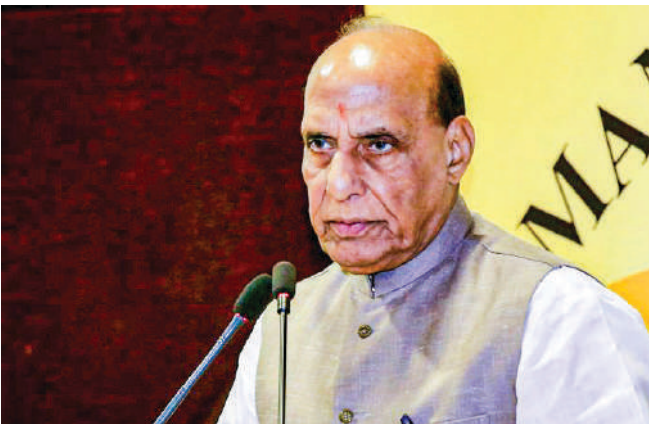
# Any Terror Act from Pak will Draw Strong Response: DM

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Any future terrorist act originating from Pakistan will draw an even "stronger response", Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday, asserting a decisive shift in India's response with Operation Sindoor, Balakot airstrikes and surgical strikes.

These strikes symbolised a move from diplomatic condemnation to proactive action aimed at rooting out terrorism by reaching its very source, he said. Singh said that since 2014, the "shelf life" of most terrorists has fallen to less than a year, with security forces neutralising them within a year of their taking up arms against India, the defence ministry said in a statement.

Speaking at a defence conclave in Delhi, Singh also referred to a recent incident involving a co-pilot who allegedly attempted to crash a passenger aircraft, but was fought off by Captain Smit Machchhar, who "risked his life to avert a



major terror attack."

"The incident underscored the threat posed by lone-wolf attackers while demonstrating how the courage and commitment of an individual could thwart the designs of those driven by hatred," he said.

"A single alert and courageous individual could help foil an entire terrorist plot. The fight against terrorism requires not only the capabilities of security agencies but also the active participation of aware

and responsible citizens," the minister was quoted as saying in the statement.

Singh underscored the need for heightened vigilance and preparedness in an era of hybrid, high-tech and hyper warfare.

He highlighted the growing complexity of security threats in the digital age, identifying what he described as the '5D security threat' -- "disinformation, destabilisation, disruption, deception and destruction."

Singh said terrorism is evolving beyond organised groups, and emerging threats include 'lone-wolf' attacks and 'white-collar terrorism', which make it increasingly difficult for security agencies to identify radicalised individuals and prevent potential attacks.

Singh underlined the need to combine 'hard power' with 'soft power' and called for a shift towards 'smart power'.

"Modern defence strategies must integrate precision-guided weapons and loitering munitions with cost-effective weaponry, human intelligence with artificial intelligence, and advanced systems with low-cost, agile and adaptable technologies to address evolving security challenges," he said.

India hopes for peace, but it remains prepared for war, the minister asserted.

"Our commitment to peace remains steadfast, yet we are fully prepared to confront any challenge. Our goal is to build an India that, while advocating for peace, remains vigilant

when it comes to security and is fully capable of safeguarding its sovereignty, integrity, and national interests," Singh said.

The minister said that any further terrorist acts, originating from Pakistan, would draw an even "stronger response."

"Operation Sindoor, Balakot airstrikes and surgical strikes weren't just military operations; they symbolised a decisive shift in the nation's approach, moving from diplomatic condemnation to proactive action aimed at rooting out terrorism by reaching its very source," he said.

Singh emphasised that while India's cultural ethos favours dialogue, co-existence and peaceful resolution of disputes, its commitment to peace should not be mistaken for weakness.

Singh described Operation Sindoor as a demonstration of India's growing technological capabilities and the defence forces' confidence in advanced indigenous systems, including the Akash missile system and BrahMos.

# Caller Name Display Service To Roll Out From November 1



KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has directed all telecom service providers to roll out the Calling Name Presentation (CNP) service across all service areas from November 1, allowing users to see a caller's name alongside their phone number.

Under the service, the name registered in the originating telecom operator's subscriber database will appear on the recipient's phone when a call is received. The service will be available to all users without

requiring a separate request. For incoming international calls from numbers not saved in a recipient's contacts, the display will show "International Call", according to the DoT.

The department said telecom service providers had already conducted trials of CNP on wireless terrestrial networks using 4G and higher-generation technologies.

The introduction of the service on 2G and 3G wireless networks, as well as on public switched telephone networks (PSTN), will be considered separately, it added.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Kashmir Seeks A

interests by setting out practical recommendations for responsible tourism and environmental conservation.

Mushtaq Chaya, president of the Jammu and Kashmir Hoteliers Club, chaired the meeting. Sameer Baktoo, president of the Ecotourism Association of Kashmir, convened it as part of the association's effort to bring tourism businesses and environmental specialists into a common policy discussion.

The gathering included Vinit Chhabra, general manager of The Khyber Himalayan Resort & Spa in Gulmarg; Akib Chaya, chairman of the Hoteliers Club's Gulmarg chapter; Rouf Trambo, president of the Adventure Tour Operators Association; and Nasir Shah, chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir chapter of the Indian Association of Tour Operators.

Advocate Nadeem Qadri, the ecotourism association's legal adviser, environmentalist Tausif Bhat and Riyaz Ahmad, a professor in the University of Kashmir's Department of Tourism Studies, also attended.

Their discussions focused on building a policy that recognises the region's ecological constraints while supporting economic opportunities for residents and the continued development of tourism.

Baktoo said the industry's future depended on linking tourism development with environmental protection. He called for greater attention to sustainable tourism practices, environmental awareness, responsible visitor behaviour and effective waste management, particularly at destinations with sensitive ecosystems.

The proposed framework would also seek to strengthen cooperation among tourism associations, hoteliers, adventure operators, environmental organisations and academic institutions. Participants said their combined expertise could help translate broad commitments to conservation into practical recommendations suited to Kashmir's geography and environmental conditions.

That coordination will be important as the association develops its proposal. Tourism businesses understand the commercial pressures involved in attracting visitors and maintaining facilities, while environmental specialists and academics can contribute expertise on ecological protection. Legal advice could help establish how proposed safeguards might fit within existing rules and government policy.

The association has presented the initiative as a consultative exercise rather than a completed policy. Baktoo said further meetings would gather suggestions and technical input from stakeholders before the group prepares its final white paper.

Once completed, the document will go to the relevant government authorities for consideration and possible incorporation into a policy framework for ecotourism in Jammu and Kashmir.

The proposed consultations are also intended to include local communities, whose livelihoods and surroundings can be affected by tourism development. The association said their perspectives would help ensure that recommendations reflect the region's particular environmental and geographical conditions.

The association has set the process in motion. Whether its pledge, "Love for Kashmir, Love for the Environment," leads to meaningful

change will depend on the recommendations it makes and the action the government takes.

### SC Seeks EC

petition concerning alleged irregularities in the SIR exercise. The court's notice to the Election Commission seeks its response to the allegations, while the proceedings concerning the march raise separate questions about the conduct of the petitioners.

### J&K Govt To

develop Gojri, Punjabi, and Pahari languages through institutional mechanisms such as the Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

It is worth mentioning that the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 empowers the UT Assembly to enact legislation for the adoption of any language as an official language of the Union Territory.(KNO)

### Rain, Snow Lash

Anantnag at 16 mm and Jammu city at 7.6 mm, according to weather data. Heavy rainfall also triggered flash flood-like situations in several areas of the Jammu region, officials said.

Widespread rain lashed the Kashmir Valley, including Srinagar, which recorded 12 mm of precipitation during the night. The weather remained cloudy across most parts of the region on Thursday morning.

Fresh snowfall was reported in higher reaches, including the tourist resorts of Sonamarg and Gulmarg, while areas in the Jammu division, including Bhaderwah, Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Rajouri and Kathua, also witnessed snowfall in upper reaches.

The snowfall and rainfall prompted authorities to deploy personnel and machinery to clear affected roads. Traffic movement on the snowbound stretches will be allowed after the roads are cleared, officials said.

The wet spell over the past three days has brought a noticeable dip in temperatures across Kashmir, with daytime temperatures remaining several degrees below normal.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 17.4 degrees Celsius, while the minimum settled at 6 degrees Celsius, officials said. Jammu recorded a maximum of 33.1 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 17.6 degrees Celsius.

Sonamarg recorded a minimum temperature of 2 degrees Celsius. No data was available for Pahalgam at the time of filing this report.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast light to moderate rain at many places across Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, with light snowfall likely over higher reaches. Thunderstorms, gusty winds and hailstorms are also possible at isolated places.

The weather department has forecast generally dry conditions on October 16, with a brief spell of light rain at isolated places, followed by largely dry weather till October 24.

Another spell of unsettled weather is possible from October 25 to 27, with light rain at scattered places and light snowfall over higher reaches, according to the extended forecast.

Travellers and transporters have been advised to plan their journeys carefully in view of possible snowfall over important mountain passes and roads and to follow traffic advisories.

Farmers have also been advised to safely store harvested apples, paddy and other crops in view of the adverse

weather forecast.

### 'Development Of Ladakh

efficiency and sustainability. Modi also dedicated the 298-km Nimmu-Padum-Darcha road, developed by the Border Roads Organisation at an estimated cost of around Rs 2,500 crore. The strategic road is expected to significantly improve connectivity, reducing travel time on the route from around 12 hours to three hours.

The road is also expected to strengthen access to remote areas and improve logistical connectivity in the strategically important region.

Other projects included the 9 MW Hanu small hydroelectric project and a 66 kV double-circuit transmission line connecting Dah, Hanu and Khatsti. The projects are aimed at improving electricity generation and transmission infrastructure in the region.

Under Project Him Sarovar, 40 water bodies and reservoirs have also been developed across 40 villages to strengthen water availability and support local needs.

The Prime Minister further highlighted the establishment of India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park at Sindhu Ghat in Leh, aimed at preserving the region's ancient rock carvings and cultural heritage.

Focus on education and skills

Emphasising the need to expand educational opportunities in Ladakh, Modi said young people should have better access to higher education, research and skill development within their own region.

He referred to plans for a centre of excellence in Leh and proposals for satellite campuses of IIT Jammu and IIM Jammu, which could broaden access to specialised education and professional training.

The Prime Minister also underlined the importance of digital connectivity, including through the BharatNet initiative, in connecting remote communities and expanding access to services and opportunities.

He said improved infrastructure and connectivity could help strengthen tourism, create livelihood opportunities and support the region's economic development.

Boost to connectivity and livelihoods

The projects are expected to improve transport links, energy infrastructure and water availability while supporting tourism and other economic activities across Ladakh.

The expansion of Leh airport is expected to accommodate growing passenger traffic, while the Nimmu-Padum-Darcha road is intended to provide faster access through a key strategic corridor.

Modi also stressed the role of sports and skill development in creating opportunities for young people, linking infrastructure development with broader efforts to strengthen local livelihoods.

"Together, we will take Ladakh to new heights of development," he said.

### HC Bans Motorboats

a balance between tourism and cleanliness. It submitted that the lake had played a significant role in the civilisation of the territory and said a scientific and expert-based approach would be adopted towards motorised tourism activities.

The court noted that with lake systems becoming a growing concern for civilisation, policies must seek to prevent pollution while balancing tourism activities and ensuring

uniformity among stakeholders. It further observed that solar and electric boats could provide a possible solution for balancing tourism with the sustenance of lakes.

"Thus, in the larger interest of justice," the Bench directed the Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), Tourism Department and Police to ensure that no fuel-operated motorboat, including a shikara motorboat or Jet Ski, operates in Dal Lake until further orders.

The court made it clear that operation of any motorised boat in violation of its directions would constitute contempt of court and directed the authorities to strictly enforce the prohibition.

Boats operated by the administration and other authorities for emergency services, law and order, disaster management and safety purposes, however, have been kept outside the ambit of the restriction.

The court further directed the government to frame a comprehensive policy governing motorised boats in consultation with experts, with a focus on minimising pollution while balancing tourism and environmental concerns.

The authorities have also been asked to examine the feasibility of replacing complete motorisation with solar-powered electric engines. The matter has been posted for further hearing on October 30.

### Kashmir Student

creative expression beyond conventional academic instruction.

Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, the IUST vice chancellor and chief guest, said traditional education systems often stifled students' inherent creativity. Universities, he said, were developing environments that encouraged innovation and entrepreneurship while promoting the ethical use of technology and media.

The festival brought together participants from institutions including the University of Kashmir's Media Education Research Centre, the Central University of Punjab, Government College for Women on M.A. Road in Srinagar, Government Medical College and Hospital in Chandigarh, and colleges and schools in Jammu and Kashmir.

Five additional films produced by the IUST journalism department were also screened.

Dr. Rabia Noor, head of the department, said media education needed to extend beyond classrooms and textbooks. The festival was designed to give emerging filmmakers a platform to present their work and learn from experienced practitioners, she said.

The competition jury included Prof. Shahid Rasool, dean of academic affairs at the Central University of Kashmir; Bollywood actor-director Mir Sarwar; and Danish Renu, a filmmaker and founder of Renzu Films.

After the screenings, the jury members participated in a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Hafiza Mohammad Ahsan, an assistant professor at IUST.

The event also featured the release of a special edition of Times Echo, the university's news magazine. Titled IUST@2047: Special Edition on Institutional Development Plans, it brings together departmental and institutional plans outlining the university's development goals towards India's 2047 vision.

Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, IUST's dean of academic affairs, and Dr. Afroz

Ahmad Bisati, dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, attended as guests of honour, alongside other university officials.

For the student filmmakers, the festival provided a public stage for their work, bringing stories developed in classrooms and campus studios before a national jury and an audience of peers.

### Viral Video Triggers

fraternity has demanded an impartial inquiry into the incident, alleging that Beenish Wani, a member of the 2015 JKAS batch, was subjected to personal insults, verbal abuse and public humiliation during the meeting.

The video, which has since drawn criticism from civil servants and social media users, purportedly captures Ranjan telling Wani, "You are bloody shit, I can always talk to you like that."

The authenticity of the recording, however, has become a point of contention. The department reportedly described the video as fabricated and generated using artificial intelligence, a claim the fraternity has rejected.

The association has maintained that Wani and other officials who attended the virtual meeting could testify to the recording's authenticity. It has called for an independent technical examination to establish the facts.

Wani reportedly joined the meeting despite being on leave following a fracture. The fraternity has argued that her participation in the virtual meeting does not establish that the recording was fabricated.

Ranjan's response to the allegations was not available at the time of publication.

Officers express solidarity

The controversy has triggered a wider debate over workplace conduct, hierarchy and accountability within the administration.

JKAS officer Mantasha Binti Rashid expressed solidarity with Wani in a social media post, saying the video appeared to show a woman officer attempting to explain herself to her superior while being subjected to alleged unparliamentary language.

"What happens in these meetings is often humiliating and demeaning," Rashid wrote.

She urged senior officers to recognise the limits of acceptable conduct, particularly when dealing with local officers who often possess detailed knowledge of ground realities.

Emphasising that professional accountability should not come at the cost of dignity, Rashid wrote, "We work but not at the cost of respect. You can extract work but not by trampling others."

Her remarks drew support from social media users, some of whom said the alleged exchange reflected broader concerns about the treatment of subordinate officials in government departments.

One commenter, citing 15 years of professional experience, alleged that similar treatment of subordinate JKAS officers was not uncommon. The commenter also raised concerns about contractual professionals working in government missions, claiming that some senior officials dealt with employees according to personal preferences rather than established rules and professional standards.

The responses highlighted concerns about the vulnerability of contractual employees, whose dependence on senior officials for continued employment may leave them with

fewer avenues to challenge alleged mistreatment.

Fraternity seeks action

A signed statement issued by "JKAS Fraternity" has sought the intervention of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and the General Administration Department.

Its demands include an impartial inquiry, protection for Wani against possible retaliatory action, a public apology from Ranjan and appropriate proceedings over the alleged misconduct. It has also called for scrutiny of what it describes as a false statement about the video's authenticity.

"An apology should mark the beginning of corrective action, not be followed by conduct that further aggravates the matter," the fraternity said.

The association has also called for a zero-tolerance policy towards abusive behaviour during official meetings, arguing that administrative discipline must be grounded in fairness, mutual respect and accountability.

While the allegations and the authenticity of the recording remain to be established through an impartial inquiry, the controversy has brought renewed attention to the standards of conduct expected of senior officials and the safeguards available to subordinate employees.

The episode has also raised questions about how government departments can enforce accountability and maintain professional discipline while ensuring that differences over performance or official decisions do not descend into personal insults or humiliation.

### Sports Can Help

Governor also commended the J&K Police for its Civic Action Programme and youth-oriented initiatives, including "Run for Unity" and the upcoming "Pedal for Paradise" rally, saying such efforts had strengthened public trust, community participation and youth engagement.

Congratulating the medal winners, Sinha urged them to remain humble and encouraged other participants to treat setbacks as stepping stones towards future success.

He expressed confidence that Jammu and Kashmir's water-sports ecosystem would continue to expand, creating greater opportunities for young athletes in the coming years.

### Labour Dept Says

said the meeting, chaired by the Secretary, Labour and Employment, reviewed the performance of the department across all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The complete recording is available with the National Informatics Centre (NIC), it added.

The meeting focused on the implementation of Mission YUVA, with the chair urging district officers to work with dedication and ensure timely delivery of benefits to eligible youth.

The department also stressed the importance of discipline and professional decorum in official interactions, stating that provocative remarks and inappropriate language had no place in administrative engagements.

Expressing concern over the circulation of selectively edited clips, the department said the matter would be taken to its logical conclusion under applicable rules and regulations.

It appealed to the media and the public not to rely on unverified or sensationalised content circulating on social media.

# CM Omar Inaugurates Projects, Lays Foundation Stones Worth ₹58.26 Cr in Ganderbal

Reviews Ring Road, Sindh River Front and Town Hall projects; interacts with fruit growers at Zazuna Mandi

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday reviewed the overall development scenario in Ganderbal district, inaugurated five completed development projects worth ₹16.72 crore and laid foundation stones for two new projects worth ₹41.54 crore, taking the total value of the projects to ₹58.26 crore.

The projects include improved road connectivity, a new school building, a bridge over the River Jhelum and a multi-purpose auction platform at the Fruit and Vegetable Mandi, Zazuna, aimed at strengthening public infrastructure and supporting the district's horticulture economy.

The Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the construction of a bridge over the River Jhelum at Guzama Shilwat at a cost of ₹39 crore. The bridge is expected to improve connectivity for local residents. He also laid the foundation stone for a multi-purpose auction platform at the Fruit and Vegetable Mandi, Zazna, at a cost of ₹2.54 crore to strengthen trading facilities for fruit and vegetable growers.

The Chief Minister inaugurated five completed projects, including roads connecting Tehsil Bagh with Lar Bypass and Yanihama with Dangerpora; the road from Dar Mohalla Wattalbagh to Dangerpora and



allied links; the double-storey building at High School Gogjigund; the widened and upgraded road from Fatehpura Dak Bangloo to Gadoora Bridge; and the Pati Waskura to Kharbagh Bund road along the River Jhelum. These works, completed at a combined cost of ₹16.72 crore, are expected to improve local connectivity and educational infrastructure.

During the tour, the Chief Minister reviewed the progress

of the Srinagar Ring Road project and was briefed by engineers at Dr Farooq Abdullah Environmental Park, Manigam, on the ongoing construction and upgradation of the Pandaach-Manigam section.

The 12.115-kilometre highway project, being executed by the National Highways Authority of India at a cost of ₹290.51 crore, involves upgrading the existing two-lane road to a four-lane dual carriageway. The

project includes bridges, a flyover, culverts and service and slip roads, and is scheduled for completion by May 2028.

The Chief Minister also reviewed ongoing works on the Sindh River Front and the Municipal Town Hall in Ganderbal. The first phase of the Sindh River Front project, being developed at an approved cost of ₹4.83 crore, includes a protection wall, landscaping, a paved walkway, a viewpoint, a patio

café and ornamental lighting.

Reviewing the Town Hall upgrade and extension project, approved at a cost of ₹3 crore, the Chief Minister directed the concerned officers to expedite the works and ensure their early completion so that the facilities could be made available to the public at the earliest.

During his visit to the Fruit and Vegetable Mandi at Zazuna, the Chief Minister assessed arrangements and activities during the ongoing harvest season and interacted with farmers and progressive growers. The growers apprised him of issues affecting their work and the horticulture sector. Omar Abdullah assured them that their genuine demands would be taken up for appropriate resolution.

The Chief Minister's visit focused on reviewing ongoing infrastructure projects, assessing the implementation of development works and addressing issues raised by local residents and growers.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Ministers Sakina Itoo and Javid Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Shreya Singhal, along with senior officers, heads of departments, engineers and other concerned officials, accompanied the Chief Minister during the tour.

## J&K Artisan Conferred National Award For Carpet Weaving

**SRINAGAR:** A Kashmiri master artisan has been conferred the National Award 2025 in the Hand-Knotted Carpet category by the Union Ministry of Textiles, an official spokesperson said.

Rafiq Ahmed Sofi, a resident of Eidgah locality here, is the sole awardee from the Union territory, winning the award for a carpet that features intricate floral motifs, traditional architectural patterns and calligraphic elements.

"This honour recognises his exceptional craftsmanship and contribution to the traditional art of hand-knotted carpet weaving," the spokesperson of Kashmir's Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom said. The spokesperson added that the award will give further traction to the Valley's carpet industry.

Kashmir's hand-knotted carpets represent a centuries-old tradition that combines fine knotting techniques with distinctive design elements and education, for which it was awarded GI registration in 2016, based on its source of origin.

A formal award ceremony is scheduled in December in which amongst other winners, Sofi will also be felicitated. (PTI)

## Govind Jaiswal Appointed Principal Secretary To LG Manoj Sinha

**SRINAGAR:** Senior IAS officer Govind Jaiswal was on Thursday appointed principal secretary to Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, according to an official order.

The order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD) said Jaiswal, a 2007-batch IAS officer, would serve as the principal secretary to the lieutenant governor. He will also hold the additional charge of chief executive officer of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board until further orders, the order said. (PTI)

## SPO Goes Missing With Weapon in Kishtwar, Search Operation Launched

**JAMMU:** A 54-year-old special police officer went missing in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district while returning home from a police post with his weapon, prompting police and security forces to launch a search operation, officials said.

Bashir Ahmed left the police post early Wednesday morning but did not reach his home in Trigham village, following which his family members informed the police, they said. Ahmed was carrying a weapon when he went missing.

Taking a serious view of the incident, police and security forces launched a search operation in the area to trace him, officials said.

Senior police officers also visited the area to assess the situation and monitor the search operation. (PTI)

# J&K Bank Holds Customer Interaction, Felicitation Meet at Lassipora

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Strengthening its engagement with the industrial and horticulture sectors, J&K Bank organised a customer interaction cum felicitation meet at Industrial Growth Centre (IGC), Lassipora. Held under the theme "Our Customer—Our Privilege", the programme brought together over 50 representatives of controlled-atmosphere (CA) storage businesses, fruit trade and other industrial estate activities.

The Bank's Chief General Manager (Credit) Ashutosh Sareen chaired the interaction in presence of General Manager & Divisional Head (Kashmir) Arshad Qadri, General Manager Suresh Kumar Chowdhary, Zonal Head (Srinagar) Sheikh Mohammad Muzaffar,

Zonal Head (Pulwama) Masood Ahmad Lankar, DGM & Head M&LC (Kashmir) Nuzhat Parveen, Cluster Heads and other senior officials.

The participant customers were led by President of Industrial Estate Lassipora, Mukhtar Ahmad Khan; President Jammu Kashmir Fruits and Vegetables Processing and Integrated Cold Chain Association (JK-PICCA) Bashir Ahmad Naik



and President Fruit Mandi (Pulwama) Javad Ahmad.

In his presidential address to the participants, CGM Ashutosh Sareen reaffirmed the Bank's unwavering commitment in supporting the Agriculture/Horticulture industry.

"When you describe J&K Bank as your own bank, it places a special responsibility on us to honour that trust through our service and support. At Lassipora, supporting industrial growth also means supporting growers, strengthening the apple value chain and sustaining employment. Our commitment to this shared progress is unshakable and long term," he said.

Urging participants to understand the regulatory requirements within which the Bank operates, he emphasised the importance

of working together to address their banking needs.

"Customer engagement becomes meaningful when listening leads to action. We are committed to address the concerns raised here and translating your suggestions into practical improvements within the Bank's laid-down guidelines and the applicable regulatory framework. Our shared endeavour must be to ensure that viable enterprises receive timely and responsive banking support," he added.

Earlier, speaking on the occasion, President, Industrial Estate Lassipora, Mukhtar Ahmad Khan expressed profound gratitude to the Bank's leadership for its commitment in supporting apple production, storage and processing. He said the estate houses around

950 industrial units employing nearly 20,000 people, underscoring its importance to the local economy.

"We consider Jammu & Kashmir Bank not merely a banking institution, but our own bank—a financial partner that we have trusted for generations," he said.

Highlighting rising input costs, working capital requirements, delays in credit disbursement and issues concerning collateral-free credit guarantee schemes, he sought continued support for the industrial community.

"We also request the Bank to consider a dedicated mechanism through which the Association can periodically discuss industry-specific banking issues with the concerned authorities," said President (JK PICCA) Bashir Ahmad Naik on the occasion.

# Life Skills Training Concludes Across 53 Rajouri Clusters

Observer News Service

**RAJOURI:** The second phase of the Life Skills Curriculum Development and Implementation Program has successfully culminated across all 53 clusters of District Rajouri, marking a significant step towards strengthening life skills education in schools and promoting the holistic development of students.

The district-wide cascading of the training was initiated on September 17, 2026, at the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Rajouri, where 82 Key Resource Persons (KRPs), representing different zones and clusters of the district, were trained by resource persons of national repute. The program was organized by Bharti Airtel Foundation in collaboration with SCERT Jammu and DIET Rajouri, using both offline and online modes to

facilitate effective capacity building.

Following the initial training, the first level of cascading was completed at the respective schools of the KRPs, where the staff members of the concerned institutions were oriented towards the objectives and implementation of the Life Skills Curriculum. The second phase commenced on October 1, 2026, at the cluster level, involving two teachers from every middle and high school, along with staff from higher secondary schools, to facilitate wider dissemination and effective implementation of the curriculum at the school level.

The successful completion of the program across all 53 clusters is marked by having imparted online as well as offline training to around 2000 teachers while as to another 1300 in offline mode. Culmina-

tion of exercise on October 15 reflects the coordinated efforts of the KRPs, Cluster Heads and the education authorities at the zonal level. The Cluster Heads played a pivotal role in organizing and supervising the training activities, while the Zonal Education Officers extended valuable cooperation in ensuring the smooth conduct of this extensive district-wide exercise.

The successful culmination of this multi-level initiative is widely attributable to the dynamic leadership of Sanjeev Kumar Suri, Principal DIET Rajouri, whose continuous guidance, encouragement and personal monitoring sustained the momentum of the program. His emphasis on teamwork, coordination and timely progress helped translate the training initiative into a structured district-wide capacity-

building exercise.

Dr. Mohd Farooq, Senior Lecturer, DIET Rajouri, District Nodal Officer and Convener of the cascading program, played a central role in conceptualizing, coordinating, planning and monitoring the process of training dissemination and curriculum implementation. Working through the various stages of planning, follow-up and coordination, he ensured continuity between the initial training of KRPs, school-level staff orientation and the subsequent cluster-level cascade. His sustained efforts behind the scenes helped maintain coordination among the participating stakeholders and contributed significantly to the successful completion of the program. Role and responsibilities of whole DIET Faculty Rajouri contributed towards the successful culmination program.

## GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

NIT No: 142/EEA/RNB of 2026-27/9013-23 | Dated: 15/10/2026

E-tenders (In single cover system) from qualified contractors registered with the J&K UT Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments are invited for Snow Clearance (Stage-wise) on a Percentage Rate basis for a contract period of one year that may be extended to three years depending on the performance of the successful bidder.

| Name of the Stage Contract                                                                                                                             | Name of the Stage Road                                                                                               | Road Length (km) | Stage Length (km) | Earnest Money | Class of Contractor | Tender Document Cost |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Stage Contract-11<br>Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW (RnB), Sub-Division Pampore, for emergency snow clearance during 2026-27 | Interior Roads at Pampore                                                                                            | 38.50            | 46.50             | 5,000         | DEE to AAY          | 500                  |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Bafinabalthama Road, including allied links                                                                          | 5.50             |                   |               |                     |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Pampore Yechnambal Zafron Colony via Valley Model School                                                             | 2.50             |                   |               |                     |                      |
| Stage Contract-12<br>Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW (RnB), Sub-Division Pampore, for emergency snow clearance during 2026-27 | Samboora Hatiwara via Alochibagh                                                                                     | 2.50             | 30.30             | 5,000         | DEE to AAY          | 500                  |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Interior Roads of Samboora, Alochibagh and Hatiwara                                                                  | 6.70             |                   |               |                     |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Karnabal Link Road                                                                                                   | 1.00             |                   |               |                     |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Samboora Bugbagh Link                                                                                                | 1.30             |                   |               |                     |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Interior Roads of Kadlabal across the bridge                                                                         | 4.00             |                   |               |                     |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Link Road from Galander to SLWM                                                                                      | 3.00             |                   |               |                     |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Railway Link, Pampore, including HP Bottling Plant at Pampore                                                        | 3.50             |                   |               |                     |                      |
| Stage Contract-13<br>Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW (RnB), Sub-Division Pampore, for emergency snow clearance during 2026-27 | Patalbagh Link Road, including Mohammadia Yateem Trust, Shah Colony and Palaash Road                                 | 4.50             | 46.85             | 5,000         | DEE to AAY          | 500                  |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Patalbagh to Beglugh via Srinagar International School                                                               | 3.80             |                   |               |                     |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Interior Roads at Khrew                                                                                              | 14.00            |                   |               |                     |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Interior Roads of Wuyan, including Wuyan Banglapora                                                                  | 6.50             |                   |               |                     |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Wuyan Shalwani Road                                                                                                  | 4.35             |                   |               |                     |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Zintrag Nagander Sathukpran Incl., Khrew Bathen, with interior links of Ismail Colony Sathukran                      | 12.00            |                   |               |                     |                      |
| Stage Contract-14<br>Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW (RnB), Sub-Division Pampore, for emergency snow clearance during 2026-27 | Khrew to Baddalaw Road, including allied links                                                                       | 8.00             | 38.75             | 5,000         | DEE to AAY          | 500                  |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Bathen to Bajnari                                                                                                    | 2.00             |                   |               |                     |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Ladho Nagbal, Jeevan Sahab Gujjarbasti, including allied links                                                       | 5.00             |                   |               |                     |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Ladho Mandakpal, including Ladho to Batapora                                                                         | 2.75             |                   |               |                     |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Ladho to Naimeshab, including allied links, interior roads of Mandakpal and Mandakpal Shar Road                      | 9.00             |                   |               |                     |                      |
| Stage Contract-15<br>Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW (RnB), Sub-Division Pampore, for emergency snow clearance during 2026-27 | Shar Shooting Lodge to Baddlow, including Canal Road                                                                 | 7.00             | 38.50             | 5,000         | DEE to AAY          | 500                  |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Shar Wahabsahb Road, Shar Gujjarbasti Road and Shar Batapora, with allied links and interior roads of Shar and Ladho | 15.00            |                   |               |                     |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Interior Roads of Chandhara and Krinchhoo                                                                            | 6.50             |                   |               |                     |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Dussoo Khyber, including Dusoo Munpora with allied links                                                             | 8.00             |                   |               |                     |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Interior Roads of Meer Konibal                                                                                       | 6.00             |                   |               |                     |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                        | National Highway to Konibal via Power Grid, Tulbagh and Fish Farm at Dooninar                                        | 7.00             |                   |               |                     |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Pampore Meer via Panchayat, Lalpora Chatlam Road, including interior roads of Chatlam and Konibal Wuyan Road         | 8.00             |                   |               |                     |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                        | Androsa to Konibal Road                                                                                              | 3.00             |                   |               |                     |                      |

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

|    |                                            |                                                                                     |
|----|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Date of Issue of Tender Notice             | 15/10/2026                                                                          |
| 2. | Period of downloading of bidding documents | From 15/10/2026                                                                     |
| 3. | Bid submission Start Date                  | 16/10/2026                                                                          |
| 4. | Bid Submission End Date                    | 22/10/2026 up to 4.00 P.M                                                           |
| 5. | Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)    | 23/10/2026 at 12.00 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Awantipora |

- Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department.) (The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- A of the NIT and submit/upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document/Tender Fee to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG) (In case the participating bidder wishes to deposit the requisite amount physically at any branch of the Bank other than using UPI or any other mobile application, the said bidder has to upload the Transaction Receipt as per devised format forming Annexure-2 to this NIT, duly signed by the concerned Branch Manager with proper seal.)
- All bidders are required to submit bid security or earnest money for an amount of Rs.5000/= at the time of tendering in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG). (In case the participating bidder wishes to deposit the requisite amount physically at any branch of the Bank other than using UPI or any other mobile application, the said bidder has to upload the Transaction Receipt as per devised format forming Annexure-2 to this NIT, duly signed by the concerned Branch Manager with proper seal.). The successful bidder will be required to provide performance security in the amount of Rs.10,000/= at the time of contract award. Following the fixing of the contract in favour of the successful bidder, the unsuccessful bidders will receive the earnest money/bid security. The successful bidder's performance security will be released only after completed successfully performance of the Contract.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Div. Awantipora (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
  - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within three days from the date of intimation.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 15 days.

Sd/-  
Draftsman  
No.142/EEA/RNB/2026-27/9013-23  
DATED: 15/10/2026

Sd/-  
Tech officer

DIPK-6782-26  
DT: 15/10/2026

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division  
Awantipora

## PCI Issues Guidelines for Protest Coverage

Press Trust of India

New Delhi, Oct 15: The Press Council of India (PCI) has asked journalists covering protests and demonstrations to maintain objectivity and impartiality while reporting, visibly display their press identity cards and comply with lawful police instructions.

The guidelines, adopted at a meeting of the council on October 14, ask journalists to refrain from participating in demonstrations, taking sides or provoking confrontations, urge them to maintain distance from clashes, and remain alert to potential threats.

The guidelines come against the backdrop of the detention of several journalists covering recent protests in the national capital against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Press bodies condemned the police action, alleging that reporters were detained despite displaying press identity cards and that some had their phones and reporting equipment seized.

"In view of the prevailing scenario and the need to facilitate the orderly and effective coverage of protests and demonstrations," the council said.

It said it adopted the guidelines to promote journalists' safety, responsible reporting and better coordination with law enforcement authorities.

Under the guidelines, journalists have been advised to carry identity cards issued by their media organisations or PIB/DIP accreditation, as applicable, and keep them visibly displayed while covering demonstrations.

"Remain respectful, follow police orders, avoid arguments during tense situations, and comply with lawful instructions," the guidelines state, and advise journalists to "calmly assert their press status" when necessary.

The council advised journalists to be alert to changes in crowd behaviour and identify escape routes in advance.

## China, Pakistan Begin Military Drills Using Chinese Weapons

Press Trust of India

Beijing, Oct 15: The armies of China and Pakistan began joint military exercises in a high-altitude area in Xinjiang, using weapons and equipment provided by the Chinese military, official media reported here on Thursday.

According to the Chinese military, this is the first joint army exercise between the two countries, which hold annual joint air force and naval drills.

Significantly, all the weapons used in the exercise, including Type 191 rifles, Type 201 squad machine guns, Type 11 armoured assault vehicles, Type 08 infantry fighting vehicles, as well as artillery, unmanned and anti-unmanned systems, were provided by the Chinese military, state-run CCTV reported on Thursday.

China supplies over 80 per cent of weapons to all three Pakistan military forces.

The opening ceremony of the exercises named Karakoram 2026 was held at a training base in Korla, Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

A Chinese military affairs expert told the official media that the choice of medium-weight wheeled vehicles for high-altitude operations, and Pakistan's use of an all-Chinese lineup, signal deepening military trust and potential future procurement.

The joint exercises with Chinese weapons in high-altitude areas were significant considering the Chinese military's experience in the Himalayan border region with India.

The opening ceremony for the exercises was held at a training base in Korla, Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.



It is the first joint army training between the two countries, themed on joint counter-terrorism and clearance operations in high-altitude areas, the CCTV reported.

Wang Yunfei, a military affairs expert, told state-run Global Times that the two types of vehicles deployed for exercises are both wheeled platforms.

In high-altitude areas, wheeled armoured vehicles have their own advantages. Unlike tracked vehicles, they are faster, especially during road manoeuvres and easier to maintain, making them well-suited for movement and combat missions on the plateau.

The all-Chinese equipment lineup covers multiple categories and forms a relatively complete combat system, he said.

On one hand, it shows China has provided weapons and equipment technology to Pakistan. On the other hand, these weapons could be procured by Pakistan in future military trade, further expanding the presence of Chinese equipment

in the Pakistan Army, the expert said.

This joint training thus serves as a rehearsal and a process of familiarisation.

From a broader perspective, it also reflects strategic mutual trust, showing that military cooperation between the two countries has reached a high level. Building this kind of deep interoperability will lay a solid foundation for future joint operations between the two armies in counter-terrorism, border control and other areas, he said.

Zhang Jueshe, another military affairs expert, told the Global Times that China and Pakistan complement each other well in the field of counter-terrorism, while cooperation can be advanced via intelligence sharing, joint operations, technology transfers, experience exchanges and economic cooperation.

"China could provide Pakistan with technical and drone support, including drones and smart combat platforms, to boost its surveillance and early

warning capacity against terrorist groups, and also conduct experience training," he noted.

Pakistan's experience in addressing complex border security situations, handling local separatist forces and coordinating counter-terrorism efforts can also provide references for China to tackle similar non-traditional security challenges, Zhang added.

On Saturday, Senior Colonel Chen Xi, a spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of National Defence, said the drills focussed on joint counter-terrorism operations in high-altitude areas. The activity will include skills training in UAV operation, on-the-move target search and firing, and long-range sniping, and cover joint command and live-force exercises.

The exercise will expand the scope of China-Pakistan military cooperation, reflect growing mutual trust, and strengthen counter-terrorism collaboration through the sharing of experience and expertise, Zhang said.

## Converted Muslims Can't Claim Backward Class Quota Benefits: SC

Press Trust of India

New Delhi- The Supreme Court on Thursday held that Hindus belonging to backward classes cannot claim quota benefits of that category after converting to Islam, saying backwardness suffered in the antecedent social order can't be carried forward.

The court also said that a person professing a religion other than Hinduism, Sikhism, or Buddhism cannot be believed to be a member of a scheduled caste.

A bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Shree Chandrashekhar dismissed the Tamil Nadu government's plea against the Madras High Court order, which held that a person converting to Islam can't claim reservation under the Backward Class (Muslim) category solely on the basis of conversion.

While upholding the high court order which had quashed the Tamil Nadu government's notification to grant reservation to converted Muslims, the top court said it called for no interference.

"No statutory benefit, protection, reservation, or other entitlement under Article 16(4) of the Constitution, which is predicated upon membership of a scheduled caste status," it said. It said that conversion to a non-Hindu social order does not by itself confer upon him the status of a backward class in the region to which he has converted..." it said.

The top court further held that a person who professes a religion other than Hinduism, Sikhism, or Buddhism cannot be believed to be a member of a scheduled caste.

"Consequently, upon conversion to a religion not specified therein, such person ceases to possess the scheduled caste status attached to his antecedent caste and cannot claim any affirmative action benefit of a backward class under Article 16(4) of the Constitution, which is predicated upon membership of a scheduled caste status," it said.

It said that conversion to a non-Hindu social order does not by itself confer upon him the status of a backward class in the region to which he has converted..." it said.

"A person's pre-conversion caste or community status cannot, merely by reason of conversion, be transposed into membership of a distinct notified backward class community in the post-conversion social order," it said, adding social backwardness, which forms the basis of the person's pre-conversion status, cannot by itself be the only legal foundation for conferring upon a membership of a different notified backward class community after conversion.



not by itself be carried forward so as to confer upon him the status of a backward class in the region to which he has converted..." it said.

The top court further held that a person who professes a religion other than Hinduism, Sikhism, or Buddhism cannot be believed to be a member of a scheduled caste.

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"A person's pre-conversion caste or community status cannot, merely by reason of conversion, be transposed into membership of a distinct notified backward class community in the post-conversion social order," it said, adding social backwardness, which forms the basis of the person's pre-conversion status, cannot by itself be the only legal foundation for conferring upon a membership of a different notified backward class community after conversion.

## Mumbai Police Ask Actor Imran Khan to Leave India

Press Trust of India

Mumbai - A notice by Mumbai Police asking Bollywood actor Imran Khan, a US citizen, to leave the country by October 28 for participating in demonstrations against CEC Gyanesh Kumar has triggered a controversy, with the film star deciding to move the Bombay High Court and opposition parties terming the decision as "dictatorial".

Khan, an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholder who has acted in several Bollywood films, including 'I Hate Luv Storys' (2010) and 'Mere Brother Ki Dulhan' (2011), was served the notice by the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for allegedly violating provisions of the Immigration and Foreigners Act.

Khan, nephew of Bollywood superstar Aamir



Khan, participated in an agitation at Mumbai's August Kranti Maidan on October 10, where protesters demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Police had briefly detained Khan during the demonstration.

A police official said a formal notice instructing Khan to leave the country by October 28 was served on the 43-year-old actor

and further administrative procedures were on.

Following the agitation last week, a video surfaced showing the actor responding to a reporter's query about his participation in the protest as he was being escorted to a police vehicle. "I have no demands. I am not part of any organisation," he had said.

BJP leader Kirit Somaiya, known for making

hardline speeches, had urged Mumbai police to act against Khan for joining a protest here in support of the Cockroach Janta Party despite being a "foreign citizen" and sought clarity on whether the actor could participate in such agitations.

The BJP leader on Thursday welcomed the police action against the actor and demanded that others involved in similar activities also be deported.

Meanwhile, the actor is likely to approach the Bombay High Court on Friday or Monday through his advocate Zulfikar Memon, challenging the notice.

According to the draft plea, no provision of law or rule prohibits an OCI cardholder from participating in a peaceful protest.

## India Opens Makkah Control Room for Stranded Umrah Pilgrims

Press Trust of India

Dubai- India has established an additional control room in Makkah to assist its nationals, particularly Umrah pilgrims, affected by flight disruptions between India and Saudi Arabia, the Indian Consulate in Jeddah has said.

Flight disruptions across Saudi Arabia come amid heightened tensions in the Gulf region following a series of deadly drone and missile attacks targeting civilian infrastructure in the country by the Yemen-based Houthi rebels.

The consulate on Wednesday said the new control room has been set up at the Indian Haj Pilgrims Office (IHPO), Makkah, while its existing 24-hour control room in Jeddah will continue to operate.



On Tuesday, the consulate had advised Indian nationals, particularly Umrah pilgrims travelling to and from Jeddah and Madinah, to remain in regular contact with their airlines and check flight status before heading to airports.

Umrah is an Islamic religious ritual that can be undertaken at any time of the year, unlike the annual Haj pilgrimage. Umrah pilgrims travel to Saudi Arabia to perform a pilgrimage to Makkah, the holiest city in Islam.

Indian nationals requiring

assistance can contact the Makkah control room at +966 553646966, the consulate said in a post on X.

Passengers were also advised to stay in touch with travel agents, tour operators and Umrah service providers regarding cancellations, rescheduling, alternative travel arrangements and accommodation, wherever required.

The consulate said it was in regular contact with airlines and local authorities to facilitate assistance to affected Indian nationals and would share updates on flight

operations through its official social media channels.

It had also established a 24-hour control room in Jeddah to assist affected passengers. The helplines are +966 12 2614093 and +966 556122301, while assistance is also available through WhatsApp at +966 536209704 and email at pbskcg@gmail.com.

On Wednesday, the Indian Embassy in Riyadh advised Indian nationals in Saudi Arabia to follow local authorities' instructions, stay indoors in case of an aerial attack and refrain from circulating videos or news related to ongoing events.

Flight operations remained suspended at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, while flights from Dammam, Jeddah and Madinah continued with some disruptions, the embassy said on Wednesday.

