29th year OF PUBLICATION

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J&K Faces ₹4.16 Cr Refund Over Failed Apple Project

Centre Cancels Pack-house Project After Nearly Two Decades Of Delays

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Government of India has sought a refund of over ₹4.16 crore from Jammu and Kashmir over a long-delayed project to establish modern infrastructure for grading, packing and storage of apples, after the initiative failed to take off nearly two decades after funds were released.

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), functioning under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, had released ₹1.42 crore to the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) in September 2005 for developing an integrated pack-house.

According to documents available, the project had an estimated cost of ₹3.88 crore. However, it remained unexecuted despite repeated extensions granted by APEDA to accommodate constraints cited by JKHPMC.

The last extension was granted in June 2022, but the project failed to materialise.

Citing prolonged delays, cost escalation and the obsolescence of the technology envisaged for the pack-house compared with existing apple-packaging technology, APEDA decided to cancel the memorandum of understanding signed with JKHPMC on July 15, 2005, and the related agreement dated July 22, 2005.

The cancellation has left JKHPMC facing a refund demand of ₹4,16,21,680, including interest on the amount released nearly 21 years ago.

Citing Rule 231 of the General Financial Rules | More on P6

Around 97,500 students began their Class 10 annual regular examinations across Kashmir and Jammu's winter-zone areas on Monday. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

Srinagar Airport Lifts 5 PM Flight Restriction

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Srinagar International Airport has withdrawn restrictions on operational hours, paving the way for flights beyond 5 pm ahead of the commencement of the winter schedule on October 25.

The airport authorities said the earlier restriction limiting operations to between 8 am and 5 pm had been withdrawn, allowing flights to be scheduled in accordance with the applicable timings, subject to operational requirements.

"Srinagar International Airport wishes to inform passengers and stakeholders that the previously imposed restrictions on airport operational hours, limiting operations to 0800 hrs to 1700 hrs, have been withdrawn," the airport authority said in a statement.

It added that the restriction on airport operations beyond 5 pm no longer applied and flights could be planned as per the applicable schedule, subject to operational requirements.

Flight operations at Srinagar airport had been restricted to 8 am to 5 pm since April this year to facilitate runway upgrade work by the Indian Air Force.

Meanwhile, the winter flight schedule for 2026 will come into effect on | More on P6

Two Months On, Stipend Hike Order Eludes Medical Interns

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Nearly two months after receiving a written assurance on stipend enhancement, MBBS and BDS interns across Jammu and Kashmir on Monday evening held candlelight marches at Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) and SKIMS Medical College Hospital, Bemina, protesting the delay in issuing a formal government order.

The interns expressed resentment over repeated assurances without concrete action, alleging that the government had failed to honour its commitment to implement the hike within a month.

An AIMSA representative said that representatives of the interns met the Director General, Finance (Budget), and the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Health and Medical Education Minister at the Civil Secretariat on Monday to discuss the demand.

However, the meeting failed to provide clarity on when the stipend enhancement order | More on P6

CJP Leaders' Judicial Custody Extended By 2 Days

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Cockroach Janta Party leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka were on Monday sent to judicial remand for two more days after being produced before a newly appointed Special Executive Magistrate at Mandir Marg police station, an official said.

The development came amid allegations by the CJP that the bail proceedings in the case were deliberately delayed to prevent the release of its two co-convenors, who were initially sent to five-day judicial custody on October 13 after they defied restrictions to protest at Jantar Mantar.

The two were taken into custody after they allegedly climbed over a locked gate to enter Jantar Mantar, which had earlier been denotified as a designated protest site.

Along with other CJP workers, they displayed the national flag at the site and shouted | More on P6

After Haryana, Kashmir-Bound Bus Attacked In Punjab

No Injuries: Punjab Police Register FIR, Scan CCTV Footage

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: A Delhi-to-Srinagar passenger bus was pelted with stones near Doraha in Punjab's Khanna area on Sunday night, a day after another bus belonging to the same transport company was attacked in Haryana.

Police said a stone thrown from the roadside smashed a windowpane of the bus as it was passing through Doraha on the GT Road. No one was injured in | More on P6

'Called Us Terrorists': Driver Recounts Haryana Attack

A Srinagar-bound luxury sleeper bus was allegedly attacked during a dinner stop in Haryana on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday, after a confrontation in which the driver claimed he was called a "terrorist" and threatened over the vehicle's Jammu and Kashmir registration. The incident, near Nilokheri in Karnal district, left two people injured, with the bus's windows allegedly smashed during the attack. Driver | More on P6

Attacks On J&K Buses Could Worsen Situation: Farooq

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Monday called for an immediate end to attacks on Jammu and Kashmir-registered buses in neighbouring states, warning that such incidents could worsen the situation. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a party convention in central Kashmir, Abdullah said Chief Minister | More on P6

LG, CM Extend Festive Greetings To J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday extended greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasions of Vijayadashami, Dussehra and Maha Navami.

In his message on the eve of Vijayadashami, which will be celebrated on October 20, the Lieutenant Governor conveyed his best wishes to the people, saying the festival symbolises the triumph of good over evil, truth over untruth and dharma over adharma.

He said the life of Maryada Purushottam Bhagwan Shri Ram exemplifies these timeless virtues and inspires people to lead a virtuous life.

Sinha expressed hope that Vijayadashami, Dussehra and Durga Puja would bring peace, happiness and prosperity to all.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah extended warm greetings to the people on the occasions of Maha Navami and Dussehra.

In his message, | More on P6

'It Makes No Difference': Dr Farooq On Ruhullah's Resignation

Says Cabinet Expansion Likely After LG Sinha Returns To Valley

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) president Farooq Abdullah on Monday said the expansion of the Omar Abdullah-led cabinet would take place after Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha returns to the Valley.

Responding to questions about the cabinet expansion, Abdullah said the process would take place after the Lieutenant Governor's return.

On the expected resignation of Srinagar Member of Parliament Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on November 3, Abdullah said Ruhullah was free to take his own decision.

"If Ruhullah wants to resign, he is free to do so. It makes no difference," Abdullah said.

Reacting to the attack on a Kashmir-bound bus in Haryana, Abdullah said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had sought strict action against those responsible and compensation for | More on P6

Govt Asks Meta To Ensure Diverse Narratives

Asks To Check Algorithmic Amplification Of Misleading Content

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The government has asked Meta, owner of Instagram and Facebook, to ensure that its recommendation systems do not result in "disproportionate exposure of users to a single or limited set of narratives", and to step up checks on content that could cause public disorder or incite violence or other unlawful activity.

The advisory by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), dated October 10, asked Meta to undertake appropriate measures to provide adequate context in relation to photographs, videos, graphics, or other content depicting ongoing public events, particularly where the authenticity, date, location or circumstances of such content may not be readily apparent to users.

Although the advisory does not identify any specific incident that prompted its issuance, it comes amid protests led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) | More on P6

When Foreign Job Offers Become Trafficking Traps

Crime Branch DIG Abdul Qayoom Flags 'Cyber Slavery', Urges Verification Of Recruitment Agencies

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lucrative overseas job offers are being used to lure job seekers into human trafficking networks, with victims allegedly diverted through multiple countries, stripped of legal protection and forced into exploitative situations.

The growing trend has also brought new forms of exploitation, including what has been described as "cyber slavery", into focus, as fraudulent recruitment agencies and criminal syndicates target people seeking employment abroad.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function on Monday, Crime Branch DIG Abdul Qayoom said bogus placement agencies and consultancies attract job seekers with promises of high-paying jobs but may later confiscate their passports, force them into illegal activities or leave them stranded in foreign countries.

"In some cases, victims promised jobs in Dubai are allegedly diverted through multiple transit countries, including Thailand, to restrict their movement and deprive them of legal protection," Qayoom said.

He said several victims had been | More on P6

NIT Rourkela Patents Jackfruit Peel-Based Material To Remove Fluoride From Drinking Water

Press Trust Of India

Researchers at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela, have patented a low-cost material made using jackfruit peel, which can remove excess fluoride from contaminated groundwater, it said.

According to Susmita Mishra, Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, NIT Rourkela, by using activated carbon made from jackfruit peel and modifying it with zirconium to improve its fluoride-capturing ability, the patented material offers a promising approach to addressing a drinking water challenge that affects communities across India.

Fluoride contamination has been reported in groundwater in several parts of the country, making affordable and sustainable water treatment an important public health priority.

According to a World Health Organization (WHO) report, excessive fluoride in drinking water can negatively impact human health. It can cause dental and skeletal fluorosis, affecting both children and adults.

"The key idea behind this technology is to use an agricultural waste material as a resource for water purification. We prepared activated carbon from discarded jackfruit peel and modified it with zirconium to improve its ability to capture fluoride from water.

"The material showed promising results in laboratory tests, removing over 90 per cent of fluoride within approximately 10 minutes under the tested conditions," Mishra was quoted as saying in an institute statement.

While there are multiple conventional methods to remove fluoride from groundwater, they all have certain limitations for wider adoption. For example, the reverse osmosis method discards a large amount of water in the treatment process and removes beneficial minerals like calcium and magnesium from the treated water.

> **The key idea behind this technology** is to use an agricultural waste material as a resource for water purification. We prepared activated carbon from discarded jackfruit peel and modified it with zirconium to improve its ability to capture fluoride from water

On the other hand, processes such as ion exchange and activated alumina use harsh chemicals, making them non-eco-friendly.

To address these limitations, the NIT Rourkela research team converted discarded jackfruit peel into activated carbon.

Mishra explained that the potential of this technology lies in its use of an easily available agricultural by-product to develop a cost-effective material for fluoride removal.

"In the long term, the technology could contribute to water treatment solutions for communities in fluoride-affected regions, subject to further testing and validation."

Pratima Minz, Research Graduate, NIT Rourkela, who co-owns the patent, said that in lab-scale tests, the developed material achieved more than 90 per cent fluoride removal within approximately 10 minutes at fluoride concentrations of around 1–5 milligrams per litre.

"We recorded removal efficiencies exceeding 90–97 per cent within 10–20 minutes under the tested conditions. These findings indicate the material's potential for applications in drinking water treatment, including in regions where groundwater fluoride levels pose a concern.

"Particularly in rural and semi-urban areas where access to reliable treatment infrastructure is limited, the developed technology holds the potential to support decentralised water treatment solutions at a community level. Additionally, the use of an agricultural by-product supports a waste-to-resource pathway, thus promoting a more sustainable approach to water purification," Minz said.

By validating the developed material and water treatment concept at the laboratory level, the research has reached Technology Readiness Level 4 (TRL 4). Based on the lab-scale tests, the research team has estimated the synthesis cost at approximately Rs 37 per gram, based on the electricity and chemicals used.

As the next step, the research team now plans to develop a physical prototype and assess the practical deployment, long-term performance, and operational costs of the developed material.

اطلاع عام

ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کی جاتا ہے کہ مجھے اپنے بجلی ایگریمنٹ زیر کنزیومر نمبر 0206020011601 جو کہ میرے والد کے نام پر یعنی سلام وانی کے نام پر ہے۔ اب اسکو میرے نام یعنی غلام محمد وانی کے نام پر کروانا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر ایگزیکٹیو انجینیر پی ڈی ڈی بڈگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ میعاد گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

غلام محمد وانی ولد عبدالسلام وانی ساکن
باغات کنی پورہ بڈگام ۔MBC

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied online for issuance of Death certificate of Gh Ahmad Dar S/O Abdul Khaliq Dar R/o Peth Makhama who died on 25-2-2011. If anybody has any objectio in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Applicant name:
S/o
R/o bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that the electricity connection bearing Consumer No. 0201030010208 presently registered in the name of Shri Nazir Ahmad Dar and installed at Khawaja Bagh, Hazratbal, Srinagar, is proposed to be transferred to my name, Javid Ahmed, S/o Late Shri Mohd Sadiq, R/o A/P Khawaja Bagh, Telbal, Srinagar.
Any person having objections to the proposed transfer may submit the same in writing to the office of the Assistant Executive Engineer, Electricity Sub-Division, Shalimar, Kashmir, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, the matter shall be processed further as per rules.
Consumer No.: 0201030010208
Javid Ahmed
S/o Late Shri Mohd Sadiq mdl
R/o A/P Khawaja Bagh, Telbal, Srinagar
Mobile No.: 9469864024

NOTICE

I, Shabir Hussain Renu, S/o Ali Mohammad Renu, R/o Gulshan Bagh,Hawal, do hereby inform the general public that I had opened a Savings Account in Jammu & Kashmir bank Baghi Ali Mardan Khan,branch bearing account numbers SB 30320, under the name Shabir Hussain I now intend to change my name from Shabir Hussain" to "Shabir Hussain Renu" in the records of the said bank.
If any person has any objection to this change, he/she may approach the concerned bank branch or the relevant authority within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained, and the change shall be deemed final.

Shabir Hussain Renu
S/o Ali Mohammad Renu
R/o Gulshan Bagh,Hawal
media line advt

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as SUMIYA ZANEER While as my actual name is SOMAYA BANO C/O ZAMEER AHMAD GAKHED R/O AAFAN WARNOW KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193223. 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.
SOMAYA BANO
C/O :- ZAMEER AHMAD GAKHED
R/O :- AAFAN WARNOW, KUPWARA fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in JK Bank Passbook from Aqib Ahmad Waza S/o Mushtaq Ahmad Waza to Aqib Mushtaq Waza S/o Mushtaq Ahmad Waza. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the JK Bank Branch magam within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Aqib Mushtaq Waza
S/o Mushtaq Ahmad Waza.
R/o Palhallan Pattan fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gulshana Akther, W/o Farooq Ahmad Bhat, M/o Saffiyah Farooq, R/o Kuthipora, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, do hereby declare that my daughter's name has been recorded in her Aadhaar Card bearing No. 3906 8549 5545 as Bhat Laiba Farooq, whereas her correct and changed name is Saffiyah Farooq. Both names refer to one and the same person, i.e., my daughter. I request the concerned authority to update her name in the Aadhaar records as Saffiyah Farooq.
Deponent Gulshana Akther fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in JK Bank Passbook from Sahil Abbas Rather S/O Ali Mohammad Rather to as per adhaar card is Suhail Abbas Rather S/o Ali Mohammad Rather. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the JK Bank Branch magam within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Suhail Abbas Rather
S/o Ali Mohammad Rather bmg-r
R/o Tantripora Magam Baramulla

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that i GH HASSAN GANAI S/O GH RASOOL GANAI belt no 22/F in police department vide DPO Order No: 398 of 2016. In Service records the spelling of my fathers name is entered as GHULAM RASOOL GANAI while my actual fathers name spelling is GH RASOOL GANAI. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Sr. Superintendent Police District Budgam with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
GH HASSAN GANAI S/O GH RASOOL GANAI mcb
Belt No 22/F CELL 9906741489

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my wards name from Parray Ghulam Dob 01/05/1953 to Ghulam Mohammad Parray Dob 08/06/1950. In future, he will be known Ghulam Mohammad Parray
If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Electric Division- Ist, Srinagar.

Email: xen-ed1@jk.gov.in Tel No. 0194-2452079 Fax No.0194-2452079

e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE
e-NIT No. 045/EDI, dt:17.10.2026

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), the Tender Floating Authority, as specified in clause 1 of BDS, invites e-bids from reputed Contractors having Valid A-Class Electrical Contractor License or equivalent license issued by Chief Electrical Inspector of J&KPDD/Relevant issuing authority/ registered Firms/Bidders enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/GEM, for the works as specified in clause 2 of BDS (Bid Data Sheet).

S.No	Particulars	Tender Value (In Lacs)
1	**Replacement of worn-out conductor and rotten poles for various the jurisdiction of ED-I KPDCL**	**Rs. 7.20**

The complete tender document is available at website **http://jktenders.gov.in.** Interested bidder/tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document/Sale of Bid Document (Start)	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 17-10-2026; 16:00 PM
B	Clarification start date	17-10-2026; 16:00 Hours
C	Clarification End date	30-10-2026; 16:00 Hours
D	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (Submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	17-10-2026; 16:00 Hours
E	e-Bid submission (End) date and time Submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	01-11-2026; 04:00 Hours
F	Hard copy of tender document Submission end date (along-with Original Copy of e-tender fee, Instruments and other supporting documents)	Required for L1 bidders only & to be submitted on or one day after opening of financial e-bid.
G	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	02-11-2026; 12:00 Hours
H	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
I	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	Office of Executive Engineer ED-I, Sgr.
J	Cost of e-bid document. (Copy of treasury challan/receipt to be up-loaded with e-tender)	Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred only).
H	EMD	Rs.15500/= (Rupees Fifteen thousand Five Hundred Only)

DIPK-NB-1916/26
dated: 19-10-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer Electric
Division 1st, Srinagar

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

Fresh NIT 114 (2nd Call NIT 87) OF R&B/Anantnag/2026-27 /E-TENDERING/8900-09, DATED 17-10-2026

For and on behalf of the **Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K** e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Landscaping of Front area of Main Campus including the area between Central Library, Admin Block Departmental Blocks at GMC Anantnag.	**49.40 Lacs** Contract Price exclusive of GST: 41.87 + (18% GST Amount 7.53)	1100	98800/-	06 Months	Capex Budget 2026-27	AAY & BEE Class Only having MoU with Mech. Contractor

Project Authority : Principal Govt. Medical College Ananatnag.
Position of AAA : Accorded vide Order No. 21 –GMCA (Plg) of 2026, Dated 03.08.2026.

1. The NIT 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 the departmental websitewww.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated		
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice		17-10-2026	
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From	17-10-2026	(04:00 PM)
		To	23-10-2026	(04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From	17-10-2026	(04:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To	23-10-2026	(04:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)		24-10-2026	(10:30 AM)
		In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag.		

1. Bids must be accompanied with a Receipt of cost of Tender document/Tender Fee deposited in a **Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, Bidder Name NIT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned in the Remarks of the Receipt (**The Date of transaction should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) **and Receipt of EMD (2% of advertised Cost), also** deposited in a **Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, Bidder name, NIT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned in the Remarks of the Receipt. (The Date of receipt of EMD and Tender Fee should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date). The same EMD/Tender Fee receipt should not be used in more than one Tender/Bid.**
2. **All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost). Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.**
3. The Bid security amount of the successful Bidder shall, upon completion of the bidding process be transferred from single Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account to Performance Security Deposit Head on Authorization from HoD during the currency of contract agreement including defect liability period. In addition, the differential amount of performance security shall be deposited by the Successful Bidder in Performance Security Deposit Head. Failure to produce differential amount of Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site **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 Division Anantnag**

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid
6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

DIPK-6888/26
dated: 19-10-2026

Er. Mohammad Waseem)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag

CRDF Hosts Srinagar Roundtable to Shape Youth Leadership Fellowship

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Civic Research and Development Foundation (CRDF), in support with the Watson Institute and Western Union Foundation, hosted a landmark regional co-design roundtable in Srinagar. The gathering brought together a diverse cross-section of civil society members, academics, journalists, activists, artists, historians, and youth from across Kashmir—including Bandipora, Kupwara, and Srinagar—to shape a new youth leadership initiative rooted in localized solutions and sustainable economic models.

The roundtable served as the official consultation for the upcoming CIVIC Youth Leadership Fellowship, a 1-year initiative designed to equip young Kashmiris with participatory leadership skills, conflict mediation, and practical tools to address urgent community challenges. Rather than relying on temporary grants or default tourism models, the fellowship emphasizes building permanent, self-sustaining micro-enterprises and local economic capacity.

Speaking at the event, Sajad Rasool, Director of CRDF and a Fellow at the Watson Institute, highlighted the crucial role of youth in driving localized economic autonomy while safeguarding the region's natural and cultural heritage.

"Storytelling and documented grievances open long-overdue conversations, but storytelling alone cannot pay a young person's monthly bills," said Sajad Rasool. "Young Kashmiris need permanent, community-rooted institutions.

Through this fellowship, our goal is to empower youth to create dignified, self-sustaining livelihoods that protect our fragile environment, our waterbodies, forests, and biomass, while reviving our rich language, oral histories, and traditional crafts."

During the three-hour interactive session, participants engaged in asset-mapping exercises that linked personal heritage and cultural memory directly to economic opportunities. Key discussions highlighted both systemic challenges—such as environmental degradation, loss of traditional architecture, biomass burning, and language decline—and high-potential local assets.

SMC Reviews Winter Preparedness, Directs Robust Civic Services

Observer news Service

SRINAGAR: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Basharat Qayoom on Monday chaired a review meeting at the SMC Central Office, Karan Nagar, to assess the Corporation's preparedness for snow clearance and dewatering operations ahead of the winter season.

The meeting was attended by Joint Commissioner, R&E, Joint Commissioner, Works), Joint Commissioner, Superintending Engineer, City Drainage Circle, and other officers of the Corporation.

The Commissioner reviewed a comprehensive deployment plan for manpower and machinery across all municipal wards to ensure timely and efficient snow clearance. He directed the concerned officers to prioritise key public routes, particularly those connecting hospitals, ration depots, shrines, and government institutions, to ensure uninterrupted accessibility during snowfall.

Highlighting SMC's operational capabilities, the Commissioner reviewed the availability of snow clearance machinery, advanced dewatering systems, and mobility support to facilitate a swift and effective response to winter-related challenges.

Emphasising the importance of seamless inter-departmental coordination, the Commissioner directed the Snow Monitoring Committee and the 24×7 Control Room to remain fully operational and responsive.

Srinagar Achieves 70% Coverage Under Ayushman Vay Vandana Scheme: DC

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Srinagar district has achieved 70 per cent coverage under the Ayushman Vay Vandana Scheme, with Deputy Commissioner Akshay Labroo on Monday urging all remaining eligible senior citizens aged 70 years and above to register to avail themselves of the benefits.

Labroo visited the Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) at Lal Bazar and presided over an awareness-cum-registration camp organised by the District Administration as part of its efforts to ensure wider enrolment of elderly residents under the scheme.

The Ayushman Vay Vandana Scheme provides eligible senior citizens aged 70 years and above with health coverage of up to 5 lakh, helping reduce the financial burden of medical treatment and improving access to healthcare services.

The camp, organised by the Zonal Medical Officer, Zadibal, witnessed participation from senior citizens residing in Lal Bazar, Mandibal, Nowshahra, Botshah Mohalla, Baghwanpora and adjoining areas. Participants were sensitised about the scheme's benefits, eligibility and registration process.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the importance of the Ayushman Vay Vandana Card in strengthening healthcare security for the elderly. He urged all eligible residents who have not yet enrolled to complete their registration and take advantage of the health coverage available under the scheme.

He said the initiative seeks to ease the financial burden of medical expenses while ensuring that senior citizens have better access to healthcare and can lead healthier lives with dignity.

During the programme, Labroo distributed Ayushman Vay Vandana cards among eligible beneficiaries in the Medical Zone Zadibal. He reiterated the District Administration's commitment to reaching all eligible senior citizens and facilitating their registration through awareness programmes and dedicated camps.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, IAS probationer Aakash Garg, Chief Medical Officer Dr Tahir Sajad, Tehsildar Eidgah Mohammad Iqbal Zargar, Zonal Medical Officer Zadibal Dr Rubeena Aziz, Zonal Medical Officer S.R. Gunj Dr Shafqat, Medical Superintendent Government Gousia Hospital Dr Zahida Gul and other district officers.

Later, Labroo inspected various sections of UPHC Lal Bazar and reviewed the healthcare facilities and services available to patients.

He took stock of the functioning of the health centre and the arrangements in place for delivering healthcare services, assessing the facility's overall functioning and patient-care arrangements.

Newly Elected Members of Kashmir Golf Club Executive Committee Felicitated

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani felicitated the newly elected members of the Executive Committee of Kashmir Golf Club (KGC), following the conclusion of elections held during the club's 26th Annual General Meeting at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

Chief Minister, president of the Club, had nominated Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani to preside over the Annual General Meeting of the Kashmir Golf Club.

Former Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah, MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq Shah, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo who is the chairman of the Executive Committee and other club members were present on the occasion.

Congratulating the newly elected members, the Advisor described Kashmir Golf Club as a prestigious institution with a distinguished place in the history of golf in the country. He noted that the elections, held after a gap of 14 years, marked an important step towards strengthening the club's administration and restoring its facilities.

Nasir Aslam expressed hope that the newly elected executive body would work collectively to address the club's shortcomings and ensure its effective functioning. He said the government remained accessible and committed to supporting the upgradation of the historic institution.

Emphasising the need to promote golf among younger generations, the Advisor called for establishing a golf academy at the club to provide children with structured training and opportunities to develop their skills. He observed that golf offered considerable scope for competitive participation and professional growth.

The Advisor also announced that funds amounting to 2 crore have been earmarked for rebuilding the clubhouse. He expressed hope that the work would be started immediately, adding that other requirements of the club would also be addressed.

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR

08 Jumada al-Awwal
1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 18
ZUHR	12:16
ASR	4: 14
Magrib	5: 56
ISHA	7: 15

This Day In History

- 1786 - Harvard University organizes 1st astronomical expedition in US.
- 1899 - Battle at Talana Hill, Natal: British army vs Boers
- 1902 - The Chamber of Deputies appoints a committee to consider questions on the separation of Church and State in France
- 190 - 3 US wins disputed boundary between District of Alaska & Canada
- 1904 - Bolivia and Chile sign a treaty ending the War of the Pacific; ecognizing Chile's possession of the coast, providing for construction of a railway linking La Paz, Bolivia, to Arica on the coast
- 1905 - Great General Strike in Russia begins; lasts 11 days
- 1905 - Russian Tsar allows Polish people to speak Polish
- 1910 - The hull of the RMS Olympic, sister-ship to the ill-fated RMS Titanic, is launched from the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast, Ireland.
- 1921 - Germany and Allies comes to an agreements over reparation payments in a meeting at Wiensbaden
- 1921 - The French and Mustafa Kemal nationalists sign a treaty at Ankara fixing the Turko-Syrian border
- 1935 - Communist forces end their Long March at Yan'an, in Shaanxi, China, bringing Mao Zedong to prominence
- 1936 - Spanish government moves to Barcelona
- 1941 - Nazi occupiers murder 500 inhabitants of Kragujevac Serbia.
- 1944 - Revolution by workers & students in Guatemala
- 1944 - Soviet and Yugoslav troops free Belgrade
- 1944 - US 1st army wins battle of Aachen
- 1944 - US forces under General Douglas MacArthur return to the Philippines with the landing of the US 6th army on Leyte
- 1950 - Chemists Archer John Porter Martin and James Lovelock give the first demonstration of gas chromatography at a meeting of the Biochemical Society. The technique is rapidly adopted by the petrochemical industry.
- 1952 - Emergency crisis proclaimed in Kenya
- 1965 - Mass arrests of communists in Indonesia
- 1971 - Senator in the US Congress Edward Kennedy calls for a withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland and all-party negotiations to establish a United Ireland.
- 1973 - US president Nixon fires Watergate accuser Archibald Cox
- 1975 - Supreme Court rules teachers could spank their pupils after warning
- 1982 - Nobel Prize in Economics awarded to George Stigler
- 1982 - Sri Lanka President Jayewardene re-elected
- 1986 - Tupolev-134 crashes in Southern Africa

From KO Archives

Kashmiri Student Murdered In Delhi

SRINAGAR- A Kashmiri student was stabbed to death by unknown assailants in Delhi last week. According to reports Naseer Ahmad Sofi, son of Ghulam Rasool Sofi, hailing from Baramulla, was doing an X-ray tech¬nicians' course in Mahipalpora. He was stabbed to death on Friday last week. The killers have not been identified so far. The victim's kin left for Delhi today to bring back the body. The incident has left parents of students study¬ing outside the state deeply perturbed.

(Kashmir Observer, October 20, 2000)

SKIMS Bemina's MCH Services, Critical Care Infrastructure Reviewed

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), Jammu and Kashmir, Athar Aamir Ul Shafi, on Monday visited SKIMS Medical College and Hospital, Bemina, to review maternal and child healthcare services and assess the progress of ongoing infrastructure projects.

During the visit, the Mission Director chaired a review meeting with the hospital administration, focusing on strengthening Maternal and Child Health (MCH) services and expediting the construction of the upcoming Critical Care Block (CCB) under the Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM).

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer/J&K acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the works/services listed below. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make online payments against these tenders. Document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on **www.ireps.gov.in** in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender Type	Bidding System	Date of Uploading Tenders
Open	Single Packet System	17.10.2026
Bid Closing Date/Time	**Date and Time of Opening E-Tender**	
09.11.2026 at 15:00 Hrs	09.11.2026 at 15:15 Hrs	

S.No.	Tender Number	Details of Tender	Period of Completion
1.	03-2026-27-VB-CW-JAT	Supply and Fittment of Various types of Window Glasses in Vande Bharat Trains at SVDK & BDGM Depot for a period of 3 years	36 months
	Advertised Value	**Earnest Money**	**Validity of Offer**
	Rs 1,55,69,494.02/-	Rs. 3,11,400/-	60 Days

Funds are available in Allocation Number 06021032.
For more details, please log on to **www.ireps.gov.in**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3634/26

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E- TENDER NOTICE

The Deputy Chief Engineer /BR/Workshop, Northern Railway, Jalandhar Cantt, for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-

Tender Notice No.	Name of work	Approx Cost (Rs)	Earnest Money (Rs)	Date of opening	Bidding start date on IREPS	Cost of tender form Rs.	Completion Period of Work
OT-22-JRC-2026	Strengthening of X-girder web plate, X-girder Top Angle/plate, Stringer Girder Top Angle/plate, replacement of worn out rivets, Stringer Bracings replacement & metalising-painting work at Br. No. 20 UP&DN (2x39.33+4x30.33 m) on PGW-JUC section over FZR Division.	2,63,69,743.90/-	5,27,400.00	11.11.2026	28.10.2026 to 11.11.2026	0	10 Months.

Date & Time for submission of Tender and opening of tender	Up to 15:00 hrs on dates shown against each and opening of tender thereafter at 15:00 hrs on same date.
Website Particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen& downloaded.	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. **www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in** and tender document is available on **www.ireps.gov.in.**

No. 80-W/30/Bridges/Invitation **Date: 17.10.2026**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3637/2026

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, GANDERBAL

(Mini Secretariat Complex, Duderhama)

0194-2416142 | 0194-2416141

Subject:- Tentative Seniority list of Drivers (Revenue Department) of District Cadre Ganderbal as stood on 17-10-2026.

Notification No: 60/DCG/Estt/2026
Dated: 17-10-2026

Whereas the Final Seniority list of Drivers of Revenue Department District Cadre Ganderbal was previously finalized and notified vide this office Notification No. 54/DCG of 2025 Dated: 01.01.2025;
Whereas, the seniority list is required to be revised periodically/timely in accordance with the applicable rules.
Whereas in order to update/revise the seniority list, a fresh tentative/updated seniority list of said class/cadre of employees is issued as "Annexure A" to this notification and objections are invited from all interested persons with regard to the position viz a viz particulars of the said class of employees. The objection if any shall reach this office within a period of 15 days from the date of issuance of this notification and thereafter no claim/objection shall be considered.

Additional Deputy Commissioner
Ganderbal

No: - DCG/Estt/F-520/2026/2078-87
DIPK-6907/26 Dated: -19-10-2026

Annexure A to Notification No: 60 /DCG/Estt/2026 Dated: 17/10/2026.

S.No	Name of the Official	Date of Birth	Date of 1st appointment/ Promotion as Driver	Category	Present place of posting	Present Grade
01	Showkat Ahmad Teli	08.03.1971	08.06.1998	OM	Tehsil Tullamulla	Driver Grade-II
02	Hilal Ahmad Wani	27.03.1981	05.10.2016	OM	DC Office Ganderbal	Driver Grade-I
03	Syed Ishfaq Hussain	01.01.1986	05.10.2016	OM	Tehsil Wakura	Driver Grade-I
04	Manzoor Ahmad Ganie	21.03.1986	19.02.2021	OM	SDM Office Kangan	Driver Grade-II
05	Zahoor Ahmad Laherwal	03.10.1990	19.02.2021	OM	Tehsil Kangan	Driver Grade-II
06	Zahid Manzoor Hajam	05.05.1997	20.02.2024	OSC	DC Office Ganderbal	Driver Grade-II
07	Shafiq Ahmad Laherwal	30.06.1998	20.02.2024	RBA	Tehsil Lar	Driver Grade-II
08	Mohd Lateef	04.06.1989	20.02.2024	RBA	Tehsil Gund	Driver Grade-II
09	Akshay Kumar	15.02.1995	20.02.2024	SC	DC Office Ganderbal	Driver Grade-II

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE (GeM PORTAL)

Bid No.: GEM/2026/B/8179967 **Dated: 19.10.2026**

Online bids are invited on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal, **https://gem.gov.in,** from eligible bidders for the following service:

Name of service	Outsourcing of round-the-clock Enquiry Counter services, including face-to-face passenger enquiry, operation of PA system and "May I Help" Booth at SINA, JAT, SVDK, PTK, PTKC and MCTM stations over Jammu Division
Contract Period	3 years (1095 days)
Estimated Bid Value	₹ 2,98,53,796 (inclusive of all taxes)
EMD	₹ 2,99,270
ePBG	5% of agreement amount
Type of Bid	Two Packet Bid
Minimum Average Annual Turnover (last 3 financial years)	₹ 149.27 lakh
Past Experience	Similar services for 3 years, as per bid conditions
Bid End Date/Time	11.11.2026, 15:00 hrs
Bid Opening Date/Time	12.11.2026, 15:00 hrs

The detailed terms and conditions, scope of work, eligibility criteria and other documents are available on the GeM portal **(https://gem.gov.in)** under the above Bid No. Bidders must submit their bids online on GeM only. Any corrigendum or extension will be published on the GeM portal only.

Contact: Sr. DCM Office, Second Entry Building, Ground Floor, Jammu Tawi Railway Station, J&K - 180012, Email: **singhal.uchit@gov.in**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3647/26

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KO VIEW

Kashmiris Cannot Be Targets

The recent attack on a bus carrying Kashmiri passengers in Haryana exposes a failure that demands attention from governments in Srinagar and New Delhi.

With winter approaching and seasonal migration about to begin, the security of Kashmiris working outside the valley should be a matter of public accountability, rather than an issue addressed only after an attack.

Thousands of Kashmiris depend on seasonal employment in other parts of India to support their families. Their decision to leave home for work should never expose them to hostility because of their regional identity.

When Kashmiri passengers are attacked, the fear spreads far beyond those who are directly affected.

Families begin to fear for relatives travelling outside the valley, while workers face uncertainty about their security at a time when their earnings are especially important.

The recurrence of such incidents raises serious questions about the effectiveness of official interventions. Senior authorities, including the offices of chief ministers and officials in New Delhi, have intervened in the past. If attacks continue despite these interventions, statements condemning violence are plainly insufficient.

Governments must examine why their responses fail to prevent further incidents and whether those responsible face timely legal action.

The central test of governance lies in the protection citizens receive, especially when they face hostility because of where they come from.

Political assurances have limited value when Kashmiri workers remain exposed to intimidation or violence during their daily lives outside the valley. Authorities must establish clear procedures for investigating attacks, protecting victims and holding perpetrators accountable.

Police in states employing significant numbers of Kashmiris should also ensure that workers can report threats and seek assistance without fear.

The impact goes beyond personal safety, as seasonal migration connects Kashmir's economy and households to employment opportunities elsewhere in the country. Fear of violence can discourage workers from travelling, disrupt family incomes and deepen the sense of exclusion among Kashmiris living outside their home region.

Such consequences undermine the wider effort to build trust between Kashmir and the rest of India.

Political leaders also have a responsibility to reject language and conduct that encourage hostility towards people on the basis of their regional identity. The response to an attack must establish a clear principle: employment, travel and residence in another state do not diminish a citizen's entitlement to protection under the law.

The coming winter makes this responsibility especially pressing. Governments in states receiving Kashmiri workers should assess their arrangements for protecting them, while the Union government should seek clear answers whenever such attacks occur.

Accountability must extend beyond public condemnation to investigations, prosecutions where evidence supports them, and safeguards against further violence.

Kashmiris seeking seasonal employment should be able to travel without fearing that their identity will put them in danger.

The credibility of India's promise of equal citizenship depends on whether that protection exists beyond political speeches, including on the roads where Kashmiri workers earn their living.

The Battle for Tata Sons

A dispute over the control of Tata Sons exposes a weakness in Indian promoter capitalism, where ownership, boardroom authority and public accountability have long been treated as the same thing.

Sri Varshith Kumar Reddy E

> **India's major** business groups face similar questions as founders age, families expand and older corporate arrangements encounter modern regulation. The Tata group has become the most visible example because its ownership structure has long been associated with ethical business.

For generations, the Tata group managed to keep an unusual arrangement intact.

Charitable trusts owned its holding company, professional managers ran its businesses, and the group's reputation rested on the belief that these interests belonged together.

The arrangement appeared to answer a difficult question about Indian capitalism: how could private wealth serve a public purpose without sacrificing commercial discipline?

The dispute at Tata Sons has exposed the question the arrangement left unanswered. Who has the final say when the owners disagree with the people running the company?

On September 17, the Tata Sons board voted 4 to 1 to give N. Chandrasekaran a third term as chairman. Noel Tata, chairman of Tata Trusts, which holds roughly 66 per cent of Tata Sons, cast the sole dissenting vote.

The board also decided to begin steps towards complying with Reserve Bank of India rules that would mean listing Tata Sons on the stock market.

Tata Trusts opposed both decisions.

The episode is a lesson in corporate governance, but its implications reach well beyond one business house.

India has spent decades allowing ownership and management to overlap so comfortably that the distinction between them has often seemed academic. The Tata dispute shows why that distinction becomes essential when interests diverge.

The Companies Act, 2013, assigns the board responsibility for managing a company under Section 179. Shareholders exercise their rights through general meetings, director appointments and the powers granted by the company's articles.

A majority stake gives its holder considerable influence, but it does not automatically turn the board into an instrument of the shareholder's wishes.

Indian promoter capitalism has frequently depended on the assumption that these powers will remain aligned. Founders appoint directors, preside over board meetings and determine strategy. The same people often occupy several positions of authority, leaving little reason to examine the boundaries between them.

Tata Sons has reached the point where those boundaries must be defended.

The trusts have a legitimate concern. Their ownership supports a philanthropic mission built over generations, funding hospitals, educational institutions and scholarships. Noel Tata has argued that listing would dilute the group's philanthropic ethos. The trusts have said the Tata model has to be saved.

The board has a different obligation. Its directors must act in the company's interests while complying with applicable law and regulatory directions. Their responsibility cannot depend entirely on whether a decision satisfies the shareholder that nominated them.

This conflict becomes particularly difficult when a shareholder appoints a director to represent its interests.

Tata Trusts has argued that the reappointment of the chairman and a listing decision needed the affirmative votes of both its nominees on the board. It has also sought a protocol under which nominees would vote, abstain or raise issues in accordance with the trustees' advice.

Such an arrangement may appear reasonable to an owner accustomed to exercising close supervision. Company law, however, places an independent obligation on directors.

A nominee who follows instructions without exercising independent judgment risks failing the duty owed to the company.

Confidentiality adds another difficulty, as some trustees have pressed for disclosure of Tata Sons board minutes. Directors must be able to discuss difficult decisions candidly, without assuming that deliberations will routinely be relayed to the people who appointed them.

At the same time, a shareholder's right to nominate directors loses much of its purpose if those directors cannot communicate its legitimate concerns.

Indian promoter groups have often left this tension unresolved because everyone involved benefits from informal arrangements while relations remain cordial.

The Tata dispute shows the cost of postponing the difficult conversations.

The trusts themselves face questions about governance. Trustees Venu Srinivasan and Vijay Singh have approached the Maharashtra Charity Commissioner to challenge Noel Tata's perpetual trusteeship and his son Neville's appointment.

Noel and Neville Tata have filed caveats in the Bombay High Court. The dispute over control of the holding company has therefore exposed disagreements within the body that owns it.

The regulatory question creates another twist.

Tata Sons repaid its debt and applied in March 2024 to surrender its registration as a core investment company, a move intended to avoid listing. The RBI rejected that application in September 2026. Noel Tata maintains that the regulator never specifically directed Tata Sons to list. The board believes listing follows from its compliance obligations.

The difference matters, although the board cannot settle the regulatory question simply by voting on it. The RBI and the government remain central to determining whether another route is available.

Listing would also change the conditions governing the trusts' special powers.

Articles 104B and 121 provide rights relating to board nominations and affirmative voting. Under SEBI Regulation 31B, special rights in a listed company must receive shareholder approval at least once every five years, with public shareholders playing a key role in their continuation.

Tata Sons has begun reviewing its articles, although the review remains at an early stage and no amendments have been approved. The trusts would retain substantial influence through their majority shareholding. Their special powers, however, would face periodic scrutiny.

That is a significant distinction. Private owners can secure their control through agreements that last for decades. Once a company goes public, those special rights must be reviewed and approved again at regular intervals.

The Shapoorji Pallonji Group, which holds about 18 per cent of Tata Sons, has approached the dispute through a different principle. Its chairman has argued that there is no evidence-based case showing that listing would materially harm the trusts' ability to serve their beneficiaries. He views listing as a necessary development in the public interest.

The three sides are therefore advancing different claims.

The trusts invoke philanthropic purpose, the minority shareholder demands accountability, and the board points to its legal responsibilities and regulatory obligations.

All three have legitimate concerns, but an established regulatory requirement holds a different value from a preference for the existing structure.

The practical lesson for Indian businesses is to settle these questions before a crisis forces them into courtrooms.

Shareholders and boards need clear rules governing the appointment of chairmen, special voting thresholds and deadlocks. Nominee directors need protocols that protect both their independence and their relationship with the people who appointed them.

Holding companies must also be treated as regulated institutions rather than extensions of family offices. Trusts and foundations that control major businesses need transparent succession arrangements, clear tenure rules and sound internal governance.

The Tata dispute has placed the owner itself under scrutiny, an uncomfortable position for an institution accustomed to exercising authority through its shareholding.

Above all, philanthropic purpose must be separated from the corporate mechanism used to pursue it.

The trusts can continue funding public causes through dividends whether Tata Sons remains privately held or lists its shares. Protecting that mission and preserving a particular ownership structure are different objectives, and they need separate arguments.

The road ahead will involve shareholder decisions, proceedings before the Charity Commissioner and further engagement with regulators.

A settlement could preserve the trusts' economic ownership and clearly defined protective rights while establishing independent board procedures and more transparent governance within the trusts themselves.

India's major business groups face similar questions as founders age, families expand and older corporate arrangements encounter modern regulation.

The Tata group has become the most visible example because its ownership structure has long been associated with ethical business.

Its next task is to demonstrate that a philanthropic legacy can survive disagreement without depending on personal authority or unwritten understandings.

The real test of the Tata model is whether its institutions can settle who holds power, how that power is exercised and what limits it must respect.

A company built on trust should be able to answer those questions in writing.

The author is a pracademic working on government policy and public institutions. He can be reached at varshith7.reddy@gmail.com.

Trump's Oil Hypocrisy

Washington's decision to ease sanctions on Russian diesel exposes the double standards behind its pressure on India, the limits of economic sanctions and the political calculations driving American foreign policy.

KP Yadaw

The United States spent months pressuring India over its purchases of Russian oil, using punitive tariffs and diplomatic pressure to discourage New Delhi from doing business with Moscow.

Now Washington has struck its own deal to import Russian diesel, hoping to bring down fuel prices at home.

The reversal exposes a contradiction at the heart of American foreign policy.

Energy purchases that Washington condemned when India made them have become acceptable when American consumers and voters need cheaper fuel.

The shift has consequences well beyond the American pump.

It raises questions about the credibility of Western sanctions, the strategic calculations behind the war in Ukraine and the freedom of developing countries to pursue their economic interests without facing punishment from powerful nations.

The immediate pressure comes from diesel prices in the United States, where fuel powers agricultural machinery, heats homes and keeps trucks moving.

Prices have reportedly risen by 70 percent since the United States and Israel launched their war with Iran on February 28. The national average reached a record $6.52 a gallon in September before falling to $6.20, according to the American Automobile Association.

For farmers and truckers, such increases feed directly into the cost of producing and transporting food and other goods. Consumers eventually pay the bill.

The political stakes are equally plain.

A Pew Research Center poll found that the economy was the most important issue for 84 percent of registered voters. With midterm elections approaching, the Trump administration has strong reasons to seek relief at the fuel pump. Its decision to ease sanctions on Russian fuel imports appears less like a coherent foreign policy doctrine than a response to domestic economic pressure.

Washington says Russia has agreed to supply more than 300,000 metric tons of diesel to American and global markets, equivalent to about 2.25 million barrels. The United States, the world's largest diesel exporter, has seen its inventories fall sharply since the Iran war began, leaving supplies below normal levels despite increased refinery output.

The Russian deal addresses an immediate shortage, but its political cost may be substantial.

Sanctions on Russian energy were intended to deprive the Kremlin of revenue for its war against Ukraine. Their effects have been uneven.

Russia lost much of its energy trade with Europe, while India and China became important buyers of discounted Russian oil. European economies, particularly Germany, also suffered from the disruption of established commercial ties.

The policy imposed economic costs on Moscow, but it also forced changes in global energy markets that Washington is now confronting itself.

The latest reversal exposes the limits of a strategy built around economic coercion.

Sanctions can restrict trade and raise costs, but they cannot guarantee that a major energy producer will lose access to buyers. Nor can they insulate the countries imposing them from the consequences of a wider conflict.

The war involving Iran has pushed American fuel prices higher, prompting Washington to relax restrictions on the very country whose oil revenues it had sought to curb.

Ukraine faces a particularly difficult calculation. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has argued that easing sanctions without a clear and lasting agreement to reduce hostilities signals weakness.

Allowing Russia to sell petroleum products, he maintains, helps finance a war that should be brought to an end.

His concern is difficult to dismiss.

Moscow could use additional energy revenue to sustain its military campaign even as Washington seeks relief for American consumers.

Europe also has reason to question the direction of American strategy. Russia continues its bombardment of Ukraine and tests NATO through actions in the grey zone between peace and open conflict.

A prolonged war may exhaust Russian resources, but that calculation becomes less convincing when Washington itself loosens economic restrictions.

European governments must consider the possibility that American priorities will shift with domestic political needs, leaving allies to absorb the consequences.

India, meanwhile, has gained support for its decision to resist American pressure over Russian oil purchases.

New Delhi's position rested on its own energy needs and economic interests. The latest American move makes it harder for Washington to argue that India's purchases are inherently unacceptable while American imports become permissible when domestic prices rise.

But the relationship between India and the United States remains broader than this dispute.

Their business and military ties give both countries reasons to avoid a lasting rupture. India has also gained diplomatic room through BRICS, which brings together countries with competing interests, including Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

Such groupings strengthen the case for a more multipolar international order in which developing countries retain greater freedom to pursue their interests.

The durability of Washington's decision remains uncertain. The temporary easing of sanctions could be reversed after the midterm elections, leaving markets and trading partners to absorb another policy shift.

Jeremy Siegel, professor emeritus of finance at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, has described the move as a short-term measure. Its effect on prices may therefore prove limited, while its implications for American credibility endure.

The larger lesson concerns the rules governing international commerce.

The United States and Europe have the right to impose sanctions in pursuit of their foreign policy goals. They must also accept scrutiny when their own conduct contradicts the principles they invoke against others.

Developing countries cannot be expected to treat energy purchases as a moral failing when a superpower treats the same transactions as an economic necessity.

India should draw a practical lesson from this episode.

Strategic independence depends on the ability to make decisions according to national interests, while preserving partnerships and preparing for sudden changes in the policies of larger powers.

American pressure has limits, particularly when its own economic needs collide with its stated geopolitical objectives.

A government reveals its priorities most clearly when its principles become expensive. Washington's Russian diesel deal shows how quickly those priorities can change when fuel prices rise and elections approach.

The cost of that inconsistency will extend beyond the American consumer. It will also be borne by allies asked to sustain a common policy, by Ukraine as it fights for survival and by developing countries expected to accept rules that the most powerful nation can suspend when convenient.

The author served as Director General of Audit for the Government of India and retired as Principal Accountant General of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in October 2025.

The Prince Who Batted for the Empire

As India's premier domestic cricket tournament begins its 92nd season, the extraordinary batsman whose name it bears leaves behind a question about colonial power, princely privilege and whom independent India chooses to honour.

Faizaan Bhat

On October 11, 2026, the Ranji Trophy began another season. Thirty-eight teams entered India's premier domestic first-class competition, a tournament that has served as a proving ground for generations of cricketers since its inaugural match on November 4, 1934.

Its name belongs to a man whose achievements with the bat were extraordinary, but whose political loyalties raise an uncomfortable question: why does a country that fought to free itself from British rule continue to celebrate a prince who helped sustain the empire?

Maharaja Ranjitsinhji, known to cricket followers as Ranji, was the first Indian to play international cricket. His batting brought him extraordinary acclaim in England, where he became one of the sport's most celebrated figures.

His name remains attached to Indian cricket through a tournament that has become an institution in its own right.

The difficulty lies in the distance between the cricketer and the ruler.

Ranji's sporting genius is beyond serious dispute. His place in India's public memory, however, needs a harder examination.

Alan Ross, in his biography Ranji: Prince of Cricketers, records a career that reads like a catalogue of improbable feats.

Ranji scored centuries for three different teams early in his career. At 39, after four years away from batting, he returned to finish sixth in the English county averages and topped the Sussex averages with 50.36.

His first-class record included 72 centuries, 14 double centuries and 24,692 runs in 500 innings. His Test average stood at 44.96. He scored two centuries in a single day, became the first batsman to reach 3,000 runs in a season in 1889, repeated the achievement in 1890 and recorded five double centuries in one season.

An obituary in the Daily Mail called him the greatest genius ever to step onto a cricket field. Such praise helps explain why his name endured. It also shows how closely his reputation became bound to British sporting culture.

Cricket in Ranji's time existed within an imperial order that allowed an Indian prince to gain exceptional recognition in Britain while remaining a figure of political usefulness to the Crown. His success challenged racial assumptions about Indian ability, but his position also gave the empire a celebrated Indian face.

Ranji made his loyalties plain.

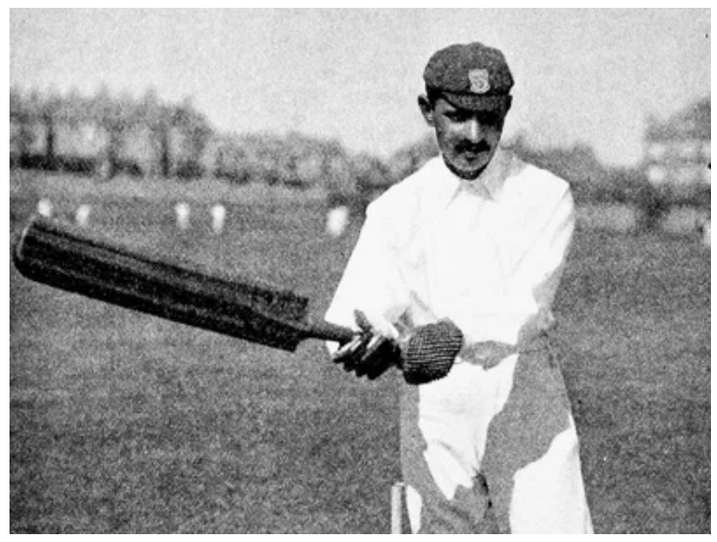
In 1897, he dedicated his Jubilee Book of Cricket to Queen Victoria, an act that placed his sporting identity within the symbolism of the monarchy.

When the Marylebone Cricket Club toured India in 1933-34, during the tournament's inaugural season, he was remembered as a pillar of the empire.

Lord Willingdon, then Viceroy of India, described him after his death as an ambassador of cooperation, goodwill and friendship between Britain and India.

Such language presented imperial allegiance as a bridge between two countries. It left out the unequal political relationship that made the bridge necessary.

Ranji's involvement with imperial politics extended beyond ceremonial gestures. Historian Ramachandra Guha writes that Ranji worked to suppress the freedom struggle and jailed Gandhian protesters.



Cricket in Ranji's time existed within an imperial order that allowed an Indian prince to gain exceptional recognition in Britain while remaining a figure of political usefulness to the Crown. His success challenged racial assumptions about Indian ability, but his position also gave the empire a celebrated Indian face.

As a member of the Chamber of Princes, he sought to strengthen the position of Indian rulers as a bulwark against challenges to British authority.

His public interventions during the First World War further established his loyalties.

In Britain, he joined Dr. W. G. Grace in recruiting campaigns for military service. At a war conference convened by Lord Willingdon, then Governor of Bombay, in June 1918, Ranji urged people to assist the empire at any cost and under any circumstances.

His wartime services earned praise from Viceroy Lord Reading during the foundation of the Victory Memorial in 1924.

A. G. Gardiner, in Pillars of Society, described Ranji as one of British India's greatest friends. Popatlal Chudgar, an activist and lawyer, called him a favourite of the British. Their descriptions capture a political identity that sporting tributes can easily obscure.

Ranji's own family also understood his ambitions in terms extending beyond cricket.

His nephew, Maharaja Digvijaysinhji, wrote in the foreword to Roland Wild's biography that Ranji wanted to be remembered for his work with the Chamber of Princes, the League of Nations and the empire. He also credited his uncle with giving ordinary Englishmen an insight into Indian aristocracy, describing him as India's first ambassador to England.

The word ambassador is revealing.

Ranji represented a class whose privileges depended partly on its relationship with colonial authority. His public stature gave Indian princes visibility in Britain, but the interests of princely rulers often diverged from those of the people they governed.

Evidence from Nawanagar makes that distinction difficult to ignore.

A booklet by Abhiyankar, an activist associated with the All India States Peoples Conference, criticised the administration of Ranji's state for restrictions on free speech and the press, weak representative institutions, monopolies in trade, compulsory labour, poor educational provision and public money spent on friends and entertainment.

Ross, despite his admiration for Ranji, acknowledged the substance of several of these criticisms.

When the Jamnagar Praja Parishad decided to establish an inquiry under Jamnadas Thakur, Ranji barred Mehta and other leaders from entering the state. Leaders of the organisation were jailed.

The prince celebrated in British cricket thus presided over an administration accused of suppressing political participation at home. His international fame and domestic authority belonged to the same man.

The question facing Indian cricket administrators is whether a tournament's inherited name should remain beyond scrutiny simply because the man behind it was a remarkable batsman. Ranji's record belongs to cricket history. His political conduct belongs there, too.

Renaming the trophy would not erase his centuries or diminish the skill that made him famous.

It would recognise that sporting achievement and political virtue are separate judgments, and that public honours express choices about the past.

The question facing Indian cricket administrators is whether a tournament's inherited name should remain beyond scrutiny simply because the man behind it was a remarkable batsman. Ranji's record belongs to cricket history. His political conduct belongs there, too.

India's cricket administrators have preserved a colonial-era name through nine decades of independence.

The 38 teams beginning the 2026-27 season play for a prize that has become part of their own sporting tradition. Their achievements belong to Indian cricket, regardless of the politics of the prince whose name appears on the trophy.

The harder question is whether that tradition still needs his name.

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A Kingdom Built in Wood

Kashmir's sultans commissioned elaborate wooden palaces that have largely disappeared. Their surviving religious buildings preserve traces of a distinctive architectural tradition now threatened by neglect and natural disasters.

Iqbal Ahmad

Almost thirty sultans ruled Kashmir between 1339 and 1589, leaving behind a kingdom remembered in chronicles, coins and carved inscriptions.

Everything seems to have survived except the buildings that mattered most.

The palaces where kings held court, received ambassadors and framed the valley's future have almost entirely disappeared.

The Shahmiri and Chak dynasties governed a kingdom rich enough to commission twelve-story wooden halls. None of them survives today.

That absence is beyond an accident of history. It is a verdict on the material sultans chose.

Historians such as Srivara, Mirza Haider, P.N.K. Bamzai, G.M.D. Sofi and Hassan Khoihami documented an extensive record of royal building: Zaina Lank, rising from an island in Wular Lake, and Zoon Dab, at Nowshehra in Srinagar, both credited chiefly to Zain-ul-Abidin.

These were multi-story structures, carved and screened with lattice work, described in enough detail that scholars can reconstruct their grandeur on paper.

And paper is exactly what remains of them.

Wood burns, and it rots in flood water. A kingdom that built its power in timber built its own disappearance into the blueprint.

Compare that decision with stone-built dynasties elsewhere, and the calculation looks almost reckless.

Sultans elsewhere raised citadels meant to outlast them by centuries. Kashmir's rulers, by contrast, built structures meant to be looked at, admired for craftsmanship, then lost to the first serious fire or flood season.

Multiple sources describe these palaces as wonders of woodcraft in their day. But none of that craftsmanship changes the physics of a wooden building standing in a valley that floods and burns on a cycle measured in decades rather than centuries.

The survivors tell their own story.

What actually remains from the sultanate era is religious: tombs, shrines, and mosques built for saints and Sufis rather than for kings.

These structures used a mixed construction of Devri stone plinths, brick-and-mortar or log chambers, and a signature feature that separates Kashmiri religious architecture from almost anything else in South Asia: a wooden lattice screen known locally as Panjrakari.

Panjrakari warrants renewed attention as well.

Craftsmen split deodar and walnut logs into narrow laths, then wove them into geometric screens strong enough to hold together through nothing but the friction of interlocking pieces.

Sun motifs, cobweb designs, and named forms such as posh kandur, chaharkhana, shashpahlu, dwazdah sar, sheikh sar, jujjari, shirin and tota shesh tez filled windows, doors, and screens throughout Kashmiri homes.

Scholars trace the technique's roots to the eleventh century, to a twelve-story wooden palace built under King Harsha and described by the chronicler Kalhana.

Some credit the Shahmiri sultans with elevating Panjrakari into a defining art, others credit the Mughals who cfollowed.

The French traveller François Bernier, visiting during Aurangzeb's reign, wrote of latticed windows and doors in the homes of kings and nobles, screens fine enough to hide the women of the harem from outside view while still letting light through.

The debate over who gets credit counts less than what both camps agree on: the craft held on in Kashmir for centuries, moving from Harsha's court to Muslim shrines to ordinary houses, becoming something closer to a regional signature than a royal indulgence.

The French traveller François Bernier, visiting during Aurangzeb's reign, wrote of latticed windows and doors in the homes of kings and nobles, screens fine enough to hide the women of the harem from outside view while still letting light through.

That single account captures what made Panjrakari valuable beyond decoration: it solved a real problem, privacy without darkness, using nothing but geometry and wood.

None of that ingenuity has protected the surviving examples.

Most of Kashmir's Panjrakari heritage has already disappeared, and what remains sits mainly on aging Sufi shrines, exposed to the same fire and flood risk that erased the palaces centuries ago.

INTACH's Srinagar chapter has done real work identifying and cataloging what is left, and a modern revival of lattice carving and khatumband work is underway.

But revival is not the same as preservation.

Here is the uncomfortable conclusion this history points toward: Kashmir did not fail to build monuments equal to its power. It built them, in a material chosen for beauty over permanence, and lost almost all of it within a few centuries.

The tombs and shrines that survived did so partly by chance and partly because religious sites tend to receive more care over generations than the leftover halls of a deposed dynasty.

What is left of Panjrakari now stands on structures with the same wooden vulnerability that erased the palaces in the first place.

Steps to protect these last screens and carved surfaces cannot wait for another flood season or another fire to make the decision permanent.

The sultanate left behind coins, inscriptions, and chronicles enough to reconstruct its politics in detail. It left behind almost nothing of the buildings where that politics happened.

Kashmir has one more chance to keep what survived that accounting.

The valley should not spend the next century explaining, to travellers asking the same question, why nothing of Panjrakari remains either.

— The author is a senior archaeologist, and can be reached at iqbal61@yahoo.co.in.

Railways Plans Two Warehouses in Kashmir to Boost Farm Produce Transport

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Northern Railway has invited tenders for setting up two warehouses near Anantnag and Pampore railway stations in Kashmir to boost trade, improve storage facilities and facilitate faster transportation of local produce to major markets, officials said. With these, Jammu and Kashmir will have three such warehouses, including one at Bari Brahmana on the outskirts of Jammu city, they said.

The Jammu railway division has invited private investors to develop and operate the facilities under the Railways' Cargo Related Facility (CRF) policy for a lease period of 25 years, officials said. The warehouses are expected to benefit apple growers and saffron traders by providing storage facilities near railway stations, reducing loading and unloading costs and minimising post-harvest losses.

Uchit Singhal, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu, said the initiative would strengthen freight transportation and improve storage facilities for perishable agricultural produce.

The tenders are available on the Indian Railways E-Procurement System (IREPS) portal, officials said. On October 13, the division had also invited tenders for developing a modern warehouse and storage facility at Bari Brahmana near Jammu, making it the first such project under the CRF policy in the division.

The three proposed facilities at Bari Brahmana, Anantnag and Pampore are expected to create employment opportunities and strengthen the region's logistics infrastructure.

IGP Kashmir Transfers 16 Inspectors Across Three Police Ranges

Agencies

Srinagar: Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir Zone, Sujit Kumar, has ordered the transfer of 16 inspectors across the Central Kashmir Range (CKR), North Kashmir Range (NKR) and South Kashmir Range (SKR), with immediate effect.

According to an administrative order issued by the Zonal Police Headquarters, Kashmir, on October 19, 2026, the officers have been directed to be relieved forthwith to join their new places of posting.

The order includes transfers from Central Kashmir to North and South Kashmir ranges, as well as postings from South Kashmir to North and Central Kashmir and from North Kashmir to the other two ranges.

Among those transferred from CKR Srinagar to NKR Baramulla are Mohammad Manzoor, Suhail Mushtaq Baba, Aijaz Ahmad Parray and Altaf Hussain Wani, who has been posted to Police District Handwara. Sabzar Ahmad Ganie, Towseef Habib and Tanveer Hussain have been shifted from CKR to SKR Anantnag.

From SKR Anantnag, Showkat Ahmad and Muhsin Ahmad Dar have been posted to NKR Baramulla for District Kupwara, while Mohd Liaqat Khan and Khalid Fayaz Math have been assigned to District Bandipora. Parvaze Ahmad Rather has also been transferred to NKR Baramulla, while Masoodul-Hassan Malik has been posted to CKR Srinagar for District Ganderbal.

Among the transfers from NKR Baramulla, Mohd Saleem Mir has been posted to CKR Srinagar for District Srinagar, Hilal Ahmad Darzi to District Ganderbal, and Jan Mohammad to SKR Anantnag.

The order also regularises the relieving of four inspectors whose transfers had been directed through earlier orders.

Ghulam Mohammad Rather, transferred from CKR Srinagar to SKR Anantnag in an order dated April 11, 2025, has been deemed relieved from his previous range. Reyaz Ahmad Lanqoo, transferred from SKR Anantnag to CKR Srinagar for District Srinagar on September 25, 2026, has also been deemed relieved.

Similarly, Imtiyaz Ahmad Wani, whose transfer from NKR Baramulla to CKR Srinagar was ordered on April 11, 2025, followed by a corrigendum on May 14, 2025, has been deemed relieved. The same direction applies to Imtiyaz Ahmad Lone, whose transfer from CKR Srinagar to NKR Baramulla was ordered on January 19, 2024.

The IGP has directed all range Deputy Inspectors General and district Senior Superintendents of Police and Superintendents of Police in Kashmir Zone to take necessary action in accordance with the order.(KINS)

Railways Offers 50% Discount on Return Trips for Advance Parcel Bookings

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Railway Board has introduced a concessional freight scheme offering a 50 per cent discount on return trips booked in advance on Joint Parcel Product-Rapid Cargo Service (JPP-RCS) trains to reduce transportation costs for traders and logistics operators, an official spokesperson said.

Under the scheme, traders booking parcel coaches for both directions will pay 1.5 times the normal one-way freight rate, with the facility available on all JPP-RCS routes across the country for one year on a pilot basis, the spokesperson said.

"In a historic decision to make parcel and cargo transportation more affordable, accessible and industry-friendly across the Jammu division and the entire region, the Railway Board has taken a landmark initiative," the spokesperson said, adding that the facility had been introduced through a freight marketing circular issued by the Board.

The initiative is expected to benefit Kashmir's fruit growers and traders during the ongoing apple season by reducing logistics costs and facilitating economical transportation to major markets, including Jammu, Delhi and Mumbai.

Uchit Singhal, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu, said the scheme would significantly reduce freight expenses, particularly for orchardists, fruit growers and cargo aggregators.

The Jammu division of Northern Railway has urged traders, industry associations and logistics operators to avail themselves of the facility.

ACB Chargesheets Postal Assistant In ₹6,500 Bribe Case

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau on Monday filed a chargesheet against public servant (MTS) working in postal department for demanding and accepting illegal gratification in lieu of release of subsidy component of a loan case availed by complainant under PMEGP scheme.

Buy Maps

Officials said that a complaint was received at P/S ACB Baramulla against Mudasir Ahmad, Postal Assistant, posted at sub post office Bandipora for demanding illegal gratification, for release of subsidy component in favour of complainant who had availed financial assistance with KVIC Pampore for the activities of his business unit situated at Bandipora and in this connection, pending amount of Rupees 1,75,000/- as subsidy was due to him, subject to physical verification with geo tagging to be conducted by the alleged suspect public servant, upon which a discreet verification was conducted, which resulted in the registration of a formal case at Police station ACB Baramulla vide FIR No.05/2025 U/s 7 P.C Act 1988.

They said that during the course of investigation, the accused was caught red handed while demanding and accepting the bribe money amounting to Rs 6500/- from complainant, following which the accused was arrested and taken into custody.

Finally the investigation of the case was closed as proved and the necessary sanction for launching prosecution against accused public servant was accorded by competent authority after due consideration of material placed on file against him. Accordingly, the chargesheet of the case has been presented before the Hon'ble court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption Baramulla on 19.10.2026 against the accused Mudasir Ahmad Najar, Postal Assistant, posted at sub post office Bandipora for trial and judicial determination, officials added.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

J&K Faces

(GFR), 2017, the documents state that interest at the rate of 10 per cent per annum is applicable to the released amount of ₹1.42 crore, taking the total amount sought to over ₹4.16 crore.

The records also indicate that repeated communications from the Centre regarding the stalled project went unanswered.

According to the documents, reminders were sent on September 11, 2023, from the APEDA Chairman's office and on January 31, 2024, by the Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce. Neither communication received a response, the records state.

The documents said the lack of response indicated that JKHPMC was unable to execute the project.

The failure to establish the proposed pack-house raises questions about the implementation of the project, which was intended to strengthen post-harvest infrastructure for Kashmir's apple industry.

The proposed facility was aimed at providing modern grading, packing and storage infrastructure, which is considered important for improving the handling and marketing of the region's apple produce.

Srinagar Airport

October 25. Airlines are in the process of filing slots for late-evening flights to and from Srinagar, a development expected to improve connectivity and offer greater flexibility to passengers during the winter season.

Passengers have been advised to check the latest flight status and timings with their respective airlines before proceeding to the airport.

CJP Leaders'

slogans against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar before being detained and placed under preventive arrest.

They were subsequently produced before a Special Executive Magistrate, who remanded them to judicial custody.

On Monday, the police sought an extension of the two leaders' judicial custody and the court sent them to jail for two more days, sources said.

They will now be produced on Wednesday, they said.

On Sunday, the Special Executive Magistrate, hearing their bail matter, had claimed that unknown persons were threatening him, following which the police registered a non-cognisable report.

In a post on X, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke had alleged, "The state is deliberately prolonging Ashu and Saurav's illegal arrest by using every dirty trick in the book to delay court proceedings and prevent their release.

"They have no legal grounds to keep them behind bars, so they are resorting to delaying tactics to keep them there."

The CJP also alleged that bail sureties for the release of its leaders had been rejected on "vague" grounds.

After Haryana

the incident, though the attack triggered panic among passengers.

A police team rushed to the spot after receiving information about the incident and escorted the bus safely out of Khanna.

Khanna Superintendent of Police (Investigation) R K Yadav said an FIR had been registered at Doraha police station. Police are examining CCTV footage from nearby dhabas, petrol pumps and toll points to identify those responsible.

He said the case was being treated seriously as the bus belonged to the same transport operator whose vehicle was attacked in Haryana's Karnal on Saturday.

"Both incidents involve the same operator. We are probing whether there is a link between the two attacks," Yadav said.

Police said the Doraha stretch of the GT Road had witnessed similar incidents in the past, with trucks and buses being targeted by stone-pelters, often at isolated spots during the night.

Investigators are examining whether the latest incident was an act of mischief, an extortion attempt, rivalry or a targeted attack. The bus resumed its journey to Srinagar after a brief halt under police escort.

The incident comes a day after a Jammu and Kashmir-bound bus was allegedly pelted with stones following a dispute in Haryana's Karnal district, leaving a passenger and a dhaba employee injured.

The Karnal incident drew a reaction from Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who said his office had taken up the matter with the Haryana government.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Students' Association (JKSA) expressed concern over the stone-pelting incident in Punjab and sought urgent intervention to ensure the safety of Kashmiri passengers travelling through the state.

JKSA national convener Nasir Khuehami said the association had taken up the matter with the Punjab Chief Minister's Office, seeking accountability and measures to prevent such incidents.

Khuehami condemned the repeated attacks on Kashmir-bound vehicles and urged Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and the state Director General of Police to ensure a thorough and impartial investigation, identify those responsible and initiate strict legal action.

The back-to-back incidents have raised concerns over the safety of passengers travelling on the Delhi-Jammu-Srinagar route, particularly during night journeys. (PTI)

'Called Us Terrorists'

Waqar Chaudhary said the incident occurred outside a hotel in Nilokheri, where he had stopped the bus carrying 35 passengers for dinner.

Chaudhary alleged that one of the men present in the parking area initially asked him to move the vehicle before approaching him and calling him a "terrorist".

"He approached and called me a 'terrorist' and again ordered me to move the bus," Chaudhary said, alleging that the man then tried to tamper with the vehicle's number plate before striking a window with a key and damaging the glass.

He claimed the man subsequently entered the bus and started fighting with him, saying that Jammu and Kashmir-registered vehicles would not be allowed to operate on the route.

Chaudhary said more than half of the passengers had already disembarked for dinner, while six or seven remained inside the bus when the confrontation began.

"He abused me in front of the passengers and tried to drag me out of the vehicle," he alleged, adding that hotel staff intervened and took him inside to protect him.

According to Chaudhary, the man later called several others, who arrived on motorcycles. Three or four people were allegedly involved in the incident and vandalised the bus, leaving two people injured.

Alleging that Kashmiri transporters faced harassment and intimidation while travelling outside Jammu and Kashmir, Chaudhary said such incidents left them vulnerable.

"Such incidents happen frequently. People call us terrorists simply because we are Kashmiris and force us to leave. Nobody listens to us, and we get no justice," he said.

Passengers also recounted the incident, saying they were having dinner when they noticed the driver being assaulted and the vehicle vandalised.

A passenger identified as Abdullah, a resident of Srinagar, alleged that the man involved appeared to be heavily intoxicated and repeatedly returned after escaping when people attempted to stop him.

He said the police were called and arrived at the scene. However, Abdullah alleged that he was also arrested and beaten inside the police lockup, eventually losing consciousness and requiring hospital treatment.

He further claimed that the men accused of attacking the bus were released after an individual associated with them intervened, reportedly claiming they were the sons of a local village head.

Abdullah also alleged that police subsequently accused him of assaulting officers and tearing their uniforms. He said he had not fully recovered from his injuries and intended to submit a written complaint at the concerned police station before pursuing a formal FIR.

Meanwhile, two men have been rounded up for allegedly throwing stones at the bus following a dispute in Haryana's Karnal district, according to police. The incident left a passenger and a dhaba employee injured.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said his office had taken up the matter with the Haryana government, which had assured prompt and stringent action in accordance with the law.

Chaudhary and the passengers appealed to the administrations in Srinagar and Haryana to ensure a fair investigation and prevent similar incidents involving Kashmiri transport operators and passengers.

"We appeal to the administrations in Srinagar and Haryana to resolve this matter. If we have committed any wrongdoing, tell us what it is and take action according to the law. But we should not be harassed, abused or branded terrorists simply because we are Kashmiris," the driver's helper said. (PTI inputs)

Attacks On J&K

Omar Abdullah had taken up the attack on buses in Haryana with the state's chief minister and sought immediate action to prevent a recurrence.

"Regarding the attack carried out on buses in Haryana, Omar sahib has told the Chief Minister of Haryana that immediate action should be taken so that this does not happen again. There are such miscreants who want to stir up a storm in the country," Abdullah said.

He said the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister had called for an immediate end to the attacks and demanded compensation for the losses suffered.

Abdullah also expressed hope that the matter had been brought to the attention of the central government, stressing the need for intervention to prevent the situation from deteriorating.

"We hope he has also conveyed to the central government that attention is paid to this. Otherwise, conditions could worsen," he said.

The remarks came amid concerns over attacks on passenger buses travelling to Jammu and Kashmir through neighbouring states.(ONS)

LG, CM Extend

the Chief Minister said the festivals embody the timeless values of truth, righteousness and the triumph of good over evil.

He expressed hope that the auspicious occasions would bring peace, prosperity and happiness to the people and further strengthen the bonds of communal harmony and brotherhood in Jammu and Kashmir.

Omar called upon people to draw inspiration from the spirit of the festivals and reaffirm their commitment to mutual respect, unity and peaceful coexistence.

When Foreign Job

rescued and repatriated from countries including Thailand and Myanmar. However, tackling such cases remained challenging, as some victims hesitated to come forward or cooperate with investigations, making prosecution difficult.

Qayoom said investigations had also revealed that trafficking networks sourced victims from different states outside Jammu and Kashmir, indicating that their operations extended beyond the region.

Local police networks, investigative units and district-level anti-human trafficking cells are coordinating efforts to address complaints, track suspects and dismantle the criminal syndicates, he said.

Emphasising the need for public awareness, Qayoom urged job seekers to verify overseas employment offers and recruitment agencies before making payments or travelling abroad.

He cautioned people against being swayed by attractive salary packages without checking the legitimacy of recruiters and the terms of employment.

Govt Asks Meta

and opposition parties in Delhi demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

In the advisory seen by PTI, Meta has also been asked to review its recommendation and content-ranking mechanisms to ensure that potentially misleading, manipulated or out-of-context content is not disproportionately amplified or repeatedly recommended to users.

"... ensure that recommendation systems do not result in disproportionate exposure of users to a single or limited set of narratives, and endeavour to provide appropriate diversity of relevant and credible information," it said, while seeking the strengthening of mechanisms for rapid identification, review and escalation of content, which is gaining significant reach through recommendation systems and has the potential to cause widespread public confusion, apprehension, violence or disturbance of public order.

When contacted, IT Ministry sources said the ministry had reports from agencies that Meta platforms were not promoting all narratives equally, with their algorithms appearing to favour one kind of content over others.

In its advisory, MeitY also told Meta to ensure timely cooperation with law enforcement and other authorised government agencies, including furnishing information or assistance in accordance with applicable law and within the timelines prescribed under the IT Rules, 2021.

It said the ministry has noticed that certain content relating to ongoing public events was being "prominently displayed and recommended to users" through platforms operated by Meta.

Such content includes videos, images, statements and static graphics on public-order and law-and-order situations.

The ministry said such material, when shown without adequate context or amplified disproportionately, "may contribute to public confusion, apprehension and disturbance of public order and social tranquillity".

Citing the Information Technology Act, 2000, the advisory said Meta, as an intermediary, must observe due diligence under the IT Rules, 2021. These rules require intermediaries to inform users about prohibited information, including content likely to cause public disorder or incite a cognisable offence relating to public order.

MeitY asked Meta to pay particular attention to content that presents old, unrelated or selectively edited visuals as current events, and content with unverified or misleading claims about emergency, restrictions, police action or other official measures.

It also flagged audio-visual material on law-and-order situations without adequate context, content likely to incite violence or other unlawful activity, and content being disproportionately amplified despite being potentially misleading.

The advisory outlined six specific asks for Meta. These include measures to identify and address content under the IT Rules, and a review of its recommendation and ranking systems so that misleading, manipulated or out-of-context content is not "disproportionately amplified or repeatedly recommended to users".

The ministry emphasised that its advisory is intended to facilitate responsible dissemination and recommendation of information while respecting lawful expression and legitimate public discourse.

"Meta is advised to ensure that any action taken pursuant to this advisory is consistent with the Information Technology Act, 2000, the IT Rules, 2021, and other applicable laws," it said.

The social media giant has been advised to take the necessary measures "with immediate effect" and apprise the ministry of the action taken.

Apar Gupta, Founder Director of Internet Freedom Foundation, a digital rights advocacy group, said that while the advisory is not legally binding, it amounts to a "continuing censorship directive".

MeitY must withdraw this advisory forthwith, and Meta must publicly disclose every takedown and every act of downranking carried out under it, he said.

"Even this advisory, which contains phrases like content 'without adequate context' and periods of 'heightened public-order sensitivity ', is not tied to any provision of the IT Act or the IT Rules," he said.

'It Makes No

those affected.

He said such incidents were aimed at disturbing peace and urged the Centre to take cognisance of the matter and ensure appropriate action.

Two Months On,

would be issued, the representative said.

"We were assured in writing that the stipend hike would be implemented within a month. Nearly two months have passed, but there has been no concrete progress. Every time we approach the authorities, we are given the same assurances, while the actual order remains elusive," the representative said.

The interns said the continued delay had left them frustrated and raised questions about the government's commitment to resolving the issue. They also alleged that warnings had been issued to those pursuing the demand and expressed displeasure over what they described as discourteous treatment by officials.

AIMSA president Dr Mohammad Momin Khan said interns could not be expected to wait indefinitely after receiving a written assurance from the authorities.

He said the demand was not for fresh assurances but for implementation of the commitment already made.

The interns also flagged what they described as contradictory statements regarding the status of the file, saying the absence of a formal government order continued to fuel uncertainty.

Meanwhile, deliberations are underway among interns on their future course of action. They said the candlelight marches were a peaceful effort to draw attention to the issue and seek a time-bound resolution.

The interns reiterated their demand for the government to honour its written assurance and issue the stipend enhancement order without further delay, warning that continued inaction could force them to intensify their peaceful agitation.

'Golden Hour' Critical To Survival, Doctors Call For Better Trauma Care

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Strengthening emergency medical services and upgrading trauma care facilities at district and sub-district hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir could significantly reduce preventable deaths and disabilities, medical experts have said, stressing that timely intervention during the first hour after an accident often determines whether an injured person survives or succumbs to injuries.

Doctors said that while advanced treatment facilities are available at major tertiary care hospitals, many critically injured patients from rural and remote areas lose valuable time travelling long distances before receiving definitive medical attention. They stressed that equipping peripheral hospitals with essential emergency facilities, trained personnel and life-saving equipment could improve survival rates and prevent complications.

Medical experts said the concept of the "golden hour" highlights the importance of providing prompt medical care to trauma victims, particularly those suffering from severe bleeding, head injuries, chest trauma and other life-threatening conditions.

"The first hour after a serious accident is extremely critical. In many cases, the difference between life and death depends on how quickly the patient receives appropriate medical attention. Immediate intervention can stabilise the patient and significantly improve the chances of survival," Dr Shabir, a senior surgeon posted in south Kashmir, told KNO.

He said patients injured in road accidents and other traumatic incidents often have to be transported to tertiary care institutions, including SKIMS and SMHS Hospital in Srinagar, even when some of their immediate medical needs could be addressed at nearby hospitals. The absence of adequately equipped emergency units at the peripheral level can result in delays in stabilising critically injured patients, increasing the risk of complications during transportation, he added.

"An injured person does not necessarily need to reach a major hospital before receiving life-saving treatment. The immediate priorities are to secure the airway, ensure adequate breathing, control severe bleeding and stabilise suspected fractures. If these interventions are available at the nearest district or sub-district hospital, the patient's condition can be stabilised before referral to a higher centre," he said.

Dr Shabir said peripheral hospitals should have essential emergency equipment, trained medical and paramedical staff, oxygen support, blood transfusion facilities where feasible, and arrangements for emergency surgical intervention according to their designated level of care.

Another health expert, Dr Rouf Ahmad Wani, said strengthening healthcare facilities at the district and sub-district levels was essential to ensure that patients received timely treatment closer to their homes. He said tertiary care hospitals should not be the first point of treatment for every accident victim when immediate stabilisation can be provided locally.

"If peripheral hospitals have trained emergency teams, essential equipment, diagnostic support and the capacity to perform immediate life-saving procedures, a significant number of complications can be prevented," he said, adding that upgrading peripheral hospitals would reduce unnecessary referrals and ease the burden on tertiary hospitals.

Medical experts also emphasised the need for regular training programmes for doctors, nurses, paramedics, ambulance personnel and other first responders to improve the management of trauma cases. They said healthcare workers posted at peripheral hospitals should receive periodic training in trauma assessment, basic and advanced life support, bleeding control, patient stabilisation and safe transportation.

Doctors also stressed the importance of sensitising police personnel, volunteers and members of the public to basic first aid and safe practices for assisting accident victims before an ambulance arrives, cautioning that injured persons should not be moved unnecessarily, particularly when spinal injuries are suspected.

Experts called for an integrated system linking peripheral hospitals with district-level facilities and tertiary care centres through a coordinated referral network, with ambulances equipped according to their designated functions and emergency personnel trained to provide appropriate care during transportation.

"An effective referral system requires coordination between the hospital receiving the patient, the referring facility and the ambulance team. The receiving hospital should be informed in advance about the patient's condition so that the required specialists and facilities are prepared before the patient arrives," the experts said. (KNO)

BIS Holds Nationwide Sessions To Strengthen Quality Standards In AYUSH

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has organised two national-level initiatives to strengthen standardisation in Ayurveda, Yoga and Sowa-Rigpa, bringing together more than 600 experts, practitioners, researchers, academics and industry representatives to deliberate on quality assurance, patient safety and the global acceptance of traditional systems of medicine.

The initiatives, organised through the AYUSH Department of BIS, aimed to bridge traditional knowledge with scientific quality-control practices and promote greater consistency in education, clinical practice, research and manufacturing.

One of the events, PRAGATI 2026, was held in Belagavi, Karnataka, in association with KLE Shri BMK Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya and the KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research. The national seminar focused on the role of Indian Standards in strengthening the Ayurveda and Yoga sectors.

Shrishti Dixit, Scientist-E and Head of the AYUSH Department at BIS, highlighted the organisation's efforts to formulate Indian Standards and enhance India's participation in international standardisation through the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

Participants emphasised that clearly defined standards are essential for ensuring quality, safeguarding patients, strengthening research and supporting effective regulation of traditional healthcare systems.

Discussions at the seminar covered the need for uniform terminology, educational benchmarks and clinical guidelines in Ayurveda and Yoga. Participants also examined how the adoption of BIS standards and certification could help businesses and start-ups improve product credibility, build consumer confidence and access wider markets.

Industry representatives, including Dr Bindu Indira of Himalaya Wellness Company and Dr Srinivas Patil of the Karnataka AYUSH Drugs Manufacturers Association, shared perspectives on the role of standardisation and certification in strengthening the sector.

In a parallel initiative, BIS convened a brainstorming session alongside the fifth meeting of its Sowa-Rigpa Sectional Committee at the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR) in Leh, Ladakh.

The meeting brought together specialists and representatives from national research institutions to discuss quality standards for Sowa-Rigpa, a traditional system of medicine practised in the Himalayan region.

Among the participants were Padma Shri Dr Padma Gurmet, chairperson of the BIS Sowa-Rigpa Sectional Committee and founding director of NISR; Dr Arjun Singh of the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS); Dr Usama Akram of the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM); and Dr Mahe Alam of BIS.

The deliberations focused on establishing robust quality and safety requirements for medicinal herbs, raw materials and finished formulations. Participants discussed testing parameters, drug quality, safety and efficacy, laboratory and analytical requirements, pharmacopoeial standards and quality-assurance mechanisms.

Rayees Wathori Wins National Award For Preserving Kashmir's Bhand Pather

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmiri theatre artist and cultural activist Ravice Rashid, popularly known by his stage name Rayees Wathori, has been conferred the prestigious Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2025 in the Folk Theatre category for his contribution to Bhand Pather, Jammu and Kashmir's traditional folk theatre form.

Wathori received the award in New Delhi from Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at a ceremony attended by senior officials, cultural representatives and eminent artists.

The ceremony was attended by Vivek Agarwal, Secretary in the Ministry of Culture; Dr Sandhya Purecha, Chairman of the Sangeet Natak Akademi; Anwar Khan Manganiyar, Vice-Chairman of the Akademi; and Raju Das, Secretary of the Akademi, among other distinguished guests and cultural activists.

Instituted by the Sangeet Natak Akademi under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar recognises the contributions of young artists to the preservation and promotion of India's diverse performing arts traditions.

Wathori's recognition highlights the cultural significance of Bhand Pather, one of Kashmir's distinctive traditional theatre forms, celebrated for its blend of satire, humour, music and social commentary. Rooted in the region's cultural life, the folk theatre tradition has historically served as a medium for entertaining audiences while reflecting on social practices and contemporary issues.

Through his sustained engagement with folk theatre, Wathori has contributed to keeping the traditional art form alive and relevant for newer generations. His recognition at the national level brings renewed attention to Kashmir's rich theatrical heritage and the artists working to preserve its distinctive cultural expressions.

The honour marks a significant moment for Jammu and Kashmir's performing arts community, underlining the importance of safeguarding indigenous art forms and supporting artists who continue to carry forward the region's cultural traditions.

38th Pulwama District Volleyball Championship From October 28

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The District Pulwama Volleyball Association will organise the 38th Pulwama District Volleyball Championship at Mehboob-ul-Alam Public School, Lassipora, Pulwama, on October 28 and 29, 2026.

The championship is being organised under the aegis of the Volleyball Association of Jammu and Kashmir and sponsored by the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council.

According to the organisers, the two-day championship aims to provide a competitive platform for volleyball players across Pulwama district, promote the sport at the grassroots level and encourage greater participation among local players.

The event is expected to offer players an opportunity to showcase their talent, demonstrate their skills and gain valuable competitive experience.

Volleyball clubs and educational institutions interested in participating have been invited to submit their entries in the prescribed format along with the requisite registration fee. The entries must reach the office of the District Pulwama Volleyball Association by October 26, 2026, before 2 pm.

The organisers have appealed to volleyball clubs and institutions across the district to participate actively and help make the championship a success.

For further information regarding participation and entry procedures, interested clubs and institutions may contact the organisers at 9906746602 or 9419541444. (Observer News Service)

Crime Branch J&K Holds UT-Level Anti-Human Trafficking Conference

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Crime Branch Jammu and Kashmir on Monday organised a Union Territory-level conference on anti-human trafficking at Tagore Hall, Srinagar, to strengthen inter-agency coordination and promote a victim-centric approach to investigation, rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, Crime Branch J&K said the conference was organised on the directions of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Police Headquarters, J&K.

The conference was inaugurated by IGP Crime J&K Sarah Rizvi, IPS, while CEO JK4C Sheikh Junaid Mehmood, IPS, attended as the guest of honour. It witnessed participation from the judiciary, Social Welfare Department, Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs), police, paramilitary forces, NGOs and students from Women's College, MA Road, Women's College, Nawakadal and Police Public School, Bemina.

In her keynote address, IGP Sarah Rizvi stressed the need for a coordinated and victim-centric response to human trafficking, stressing that interventions must go beyond rescuing victims and registering cases to ensure their safety, dignity, access to justice, rehabilitation and reintegration.

She also highlighted emerging challenges, including cyber-enabled exploitation and cyber slavery and called for stronger institutional capacity to tackle evolving forms of trafficking.

The technical sessions covered the legal framework and emerging trends in human trafficking, missing-person cases, judicial intervention, victim identification and rehabilitation, and technology-enabled exploitation.

Dr Aneeda Jan, Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Kashmir, spoke on the legal framework, emerging trends and challenges in human trafficking. Dr Savita Nayar, Professor at the University of Jammu, discussed standard operating procedures for missing persons and the role of criminal law and judicial intervention in trafficking cases.

Dr Farooq Ahmad Khan, Programme Manager, Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), Social Welfare Department, highlighted the importance of victim identification, coordinated rescue, psychosocial support, rehabilitation and safe reintegration.

SSP JK4C Kamal Pal Singh Malhotra, IPS, addressed the emerging challenge of cyber slavery, highlighting the role of digital platforms and technology-enabled exploitation in trafficking-related offences and the need for stronger cyber investigation and inter-agency cooperation.

The conference provided a platform for police officers, judicial representatives, government departments, civil society organisations and students to exchange experiences and discuss practical measures to strengthen the prevention, detection and investigation of human trafficking cases.

Crime Branch J&K reiterated its commitment to strengthening institutional capacity, improving coordination and adopting technology-enabled investigations while ensuring a humane, victim-centric approach to combating human trafficking and protecting victims' rights.

5 Drug Peddlers Arrested In Awantipora, Anantnag

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday arrested 05 drug peddlers in Awantipora & Anantnag and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

In a statement issued, a police spokesperson said that in Awantipora, a police party of Police Post Toll Plaza during naka checking at K. Koot Crossing intercepted a suspicious person. During his search, approximately 67 grams of a charas like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Jabber son of Sabir, resident of Mohalla Gayaspur Bisalpur Pilibhit Uttar Pradesh. He has been arrested and accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 242/2026 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Awantipora and investigation has been initiated.

Similarly, in Anantnag, a naka party of Police Station Aishmuqam, during naka checking at Brad Bridge, intercepted a suspected person travelling from Hapatnar towards Salia. Upon search, 274 grams of charas were recovered from his possession. The accused was identified as Manzoor Ahmad Mir, son of Wali Mohd Mir, resident of Awanpora. Accordingly, FIR No. 91/2026 under Sections 8/20 of the NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Aishmuqam, and further investigation is underway.

Man Killed As Landslide Hits Construction Site In Poonch

POONCH: A man was killed and four others injured after a landslide struck a road construction site in the Sawajian area of Jammu's Poonch district on Monday, officials said.

An official said that the incident occurred at Agan Pathri village in Sawajian when the man was engaged in a road construction project.

He said the man was struck by a stone and died on the spot, while four others sustained injuries.

The deceased was identified as Mohd Bashir (45), son of Ali Mohd, a resident of Danna Gagrian in Sawajian.

Meanwhile, cognisance of the incident has been taken and an investigation is underway—(KNO)

Man Dies After Being Hit by Vehicle in Kralgund

KUPWARA: A 55-year-old pedestrian died after being hit by a Tata Mobile vehicle in the Kralgund area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Monday morning, officials said.

An official said that the accident occurred when a Tata Mobile vehicle bearing registration number JK09-6657 hit the man in the Budbugh, Ashpora area of Kralgund, Kupwara.

He was shifted to Government Medical College (GMC), Handwara, where doctors declared him brought dead. The deceased was identified as Riyaz Ahmad, a resident of Budbugh, Ashpora, Kralgund.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident—(KNO)

Man Killed As Tractor Skids Off Road In Bijbehara

ANANTNAG: A paediatrician was killed after a tractor skidded off the road in the Bijbehara area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Monday, officials said.

An official said that the tractor skidded off the road near Sheetipora Herpora in Bijbehara and fell into a roadside area, leaving a man injured.

He was evacuated to SDH Bijbehara for treatment, where doctors declared him brought dead. The man was later identified as Nazir Ahmad (30), a resident of Vail Nagbal, Hapatnar.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident and an investigation is underway—(KNO)

Lolab Youth Dies As Motorcycle Collides With Car

SRINAGAR: A 25-year-old motorcyclist died after his motorcycle collided with a car in the Lolab area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Monday, officials said.

An official said that the accident occurred at Frastop, Potushai, Kupwara, when the motorcycle rider collided with a Swift car.

He said the rider was shifted to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Kupwara for treatment, where he later succumbed to his injuries. The deceased has been identified as Aijaz Ahmad Khan (25), son of Dilawar Khan, a resident of Potushai, Lolab.

Meanwhile, cognisance of the incident has been taken and an investigation is ongoing—(KNO)

Kishtwar Police Crack SPO Murder Case, Two Accused Arrested

KISHTWAR: Kishtwar Police have solved the murder case of a missing Special Police Officer (SPO), whose body was recovered from a pit in the Trigam forest area and arrested two accused, officials said on Monday.

According to a statement issued, a police spokesperson said the SPO, Bashir Ahmed, was reported missing along with his service weapon from the Trigam police picket on October 15, following which a search operation involving multiple teams was launched.

"On October 16, during the search operation, police recovered the SPO's weapon and subsequently his body from a pit in a nallah where it had been buried in the Seran Wani area of Trigam forest," the spokesperson said.

Following the recovery, a case under Section 103(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was registered at Police Station Kishtwar.

The spokesperson said two suspects, Bashir Ahmed Dar, son of Abdul Aziz Dar, and Nazir Ahmed Dar, son of Bashir Ahmed Dar, both residents of Seran Wani, Trigam, were identified during the investigation and arrested.

Their questioning revealed the conspiracy and motive behind the SPO's murder, while the weapon of offence and the deceased's concealed belongings were recovered on the disclosure of the accused, he said. Further investigation into the case is underway, the statement said. (Observer News Service)

KU Recruitment Delays Draw Aspirtans' Criticism

SRINAGAR: Aspirants for Public Relations Officer (PRO) and Junior Engineer posts advertised by the University of Kashmir have expressed concern over the alleged delay in conducting written examinations, saying the recruitment process remains pending despite the publication of syllabi on the university's website.

The university had advertised one post of Public Relations Officer for its Convocation Complex under Advertisement Notice No. 01 of 2026, dated January 1, 2026. Five posts of Junior Engineers in Civil, Electrical and Mechanical disciplines were subsequently advertised under Advertisement Notice No. 05 of 2026, dated March 30, 2026.

Candidates who applied for the posts said they had been preparing for the written examinations after the university published the respective syllabi, but the recruitment section had yet to conduct the tests.

A media professional who completed his postgraduate diploma from the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) and applied for the PRO post said the prolonged wait had left applicants uncertain about the recruitment schedule. He said candidates had invested time in preparing for the examination and expected the university to communicate a clear timeline.

An engineering graduate who completed his BTech from the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Srinagar, and applied for a Junior Engineer post in the Civil discipline also expressed concern over the delay. He said he had been preparing for the written test but was still awaiting the examination schedule.

Candidates have sought clarity from the university administration and recruitment section regarding the status of the advertised posts and the likely dates for the written examinations. They have urged the institution to issue a clear schedule so that applicants can plan their preparation and avoid prolonged uncertainty. [KNT]

Yemen Bloodbath: Houthi Strike Kills 53 Soldiers

AP

CAIRO: Iranian-aligned Ansarallah (Houthi) fighters struck a military camp of Saudi-backed forces in southern Yemen on Monday, killing at least 53 soldiers, authorities said Monday, making it one of the deadliest attacks in the recent surge in fighting.

The fighters fired three ballistic missiles on the al-Alam military camp in the southern province of Shabwa in an attack that also wounded 200 recruits, the Shabwa provincial government said.

Ansarallah has acknowledged targeting the camp in Shabwa.

Shabwa provincial government said in a statement that the death toll is preliminary, suggesting it may rise. It said the recruits were receiving training to be part of internal security forces.

"This bloody, treacherous attack targeted new recruits in the training and preparation phase and is considered an extremely critical military escalation and a blatant aggression on the security and stability of Shabwa province," the statement said.

It called on Yemen's president, the Saudi-led coalition and the government to expedite providing air defence and early warning systems to reinforce Shabwa's capabilities. It also added that it instructed two public hospitals and other private health facilities in the province to provide care for the wounded and transfer the seriously hurt to specialised units when necessary.

The camp, which was previously used by a militia backed by the UAE, is located in the Jardan district north of the provincial capital of Ataq. It sits on a route to the government-controlled province of Marib and crucial supply lines for government forces.

One of the military officials said that those targeted were part of a newly established force called Rapid Intervention, which is tasked with defending the area. The missiles struck while recruits were lining up in formation for a training session, the official said.

The attack was part of a recent surge in fighting, which began months ago as tensions spiked in the wider Iran-U.S. war. The escalation between the Houthis and forces of the Saudi-backed government shattered a 2022 ceasefire deal that largely stopped fighting in Yemen's civil war.

An airstrike on Sunday blamed on Saudi-led forces killed at least nine people, including five children and two women, in Yemen's rebel-held northern province of Saada, the Houthi-run Health Ministry said. It was one of several attacks that killed or wounded more than 30 people over the weekend, according to the rebels.

There was no immediate comment from Saudi Arabia.

The Houthis have resumed attacks on Saudi Arabia in recent weeks because the kingdom has supported Yemen's anti-Sanaa rebels in the civil war.

Houthis have been increasingly targeting Saudi airports and oil and military facilities, disrupting thousands of flights and killing 19 people. The headquarters of Saudi oil giant Aramco has been struck as well, in a blow to the world's top oil exporter.

India Urges Nationals in Italy to Avoid Crowds Amid Protests

Press Trust of India

LONDON: The Indian Embassy in Rome on Monday asked Indian nationals to exercise caution and avoid crowded areas due to protests and demonstrations across several cities in Italy.

The embassy, in a social media post, said there were protests and demonstrations last week in some Italian cities.

"We advise Indian nationals to exercise caution, avoid crowded areas and locations where protests are taking place and follow local news about such events," it said.

It further said that in case of an emergency, Indian nationals could contact the embassy office in Rome at +39 331 614 2085 and the Consulate General of India in Milan at +39 3881647527.

The protests against rising cost of living began peacefully across several cities on Sunday. In Milan, rioters clashed with police, looted stores and set property ablaze.

Condemning the violence, Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Sunday said, "Demonstrating is a right. Setting our cities ablaze is not."

"I have great respect for the thousands of people who today demonstrated peacefully... Whatever the ideas for which one demonstrates, participation is the foundation of any healthy democracy," Meloni said in a post on X.

The Italian premier said stones were thrown at the law enforcement forces in Milan, which led to injuries to officers and forced the interruption of the procession.

She said people carrying cobblestones and hammers were stopped in Turin and a railway station was closed as a precautionary measure in Bologna.

Meloni requested the opposition to unequivocally condemn these acts of violence and issue a clear appeal for every mobilisation to be peaceful.

India Rejects OIC's Resolution Featuring J&K

Press Trust of India

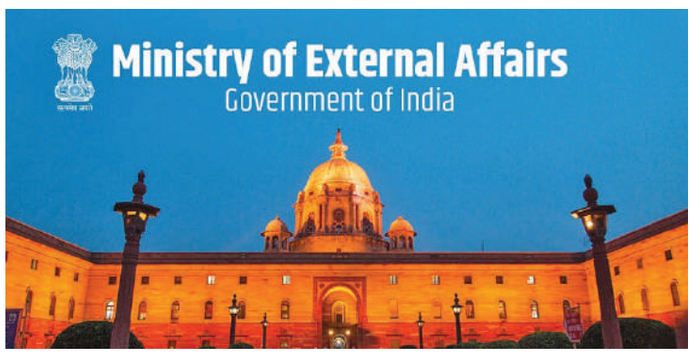
NEW DELHI: India on Monday strongly trashed an Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) resolution on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, and said the grouping has allowed itself to be "misused" by Pakistan for its "bigoted agenda".

New Delhi, in a strong reaction, said the references to India by the OIC are "malicious, biased and false, and have been orchestrated by Pakistan".

"We categorically reject the anti-India references in the resolutions of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Baghdad on October 17-18," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

"The references to India are malicious, biased and false, and have been orchestrated by Pakistan. We are disappointed that the OIC has once again allowed itself to be misused by Pakistan for its bigoted agenda," it said. The MEA said the OIC has "no locus standi whatsoever" to comment on matters that are strictly internal to India.

"The Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral and inalienable parts of India. Politically motivated propaganda can never alter this reality.



"Over the past years since the abrogation of Art 370, Jammu and Kashmir has seen significant economic growth and benefits accruing directly to its people through infrastructure development, tourism and connectivity," it said.

This, the MEA said, is in "stark contrast" to the situation in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir where Islamabad has "unleashed violence, repression and brutality on civilian protesters, killing scores of them, including women and children."

The MEA said that "no amount of media blackout has been able to hide these grave violations of human rights".

"The only issues related to Jammu and Kashmir that remain to be addressed are Pakistan vacating from areas under its illegal and forcible occupation and ceasing its continued support to cross-border terrorism," it said in a statement.

The MEA described other "fabricated and hostile references against India in the OIC resolutions including insinuations related to Islamophobia" as nothing but a "desperate attempt by Pakistan to divert international attention from its own appalling record of minority persecution and sectarian violence".

"The OIC's repeated endorsement of patently malicious propaganda and narratives peddled by Pakistan raises serious questions about its credibility and integrity. We hope its members would do better and reform this organisation," it added.

Man Held for Extortion Using Fake Female Profiles

Press Trust of India

HYDERABAD: A 23-year-old man who allegedly extorted money from people by creating fake profiles of women on social media to lure them and then obtaining their private photos and videos has been arrested, police said on Monday.

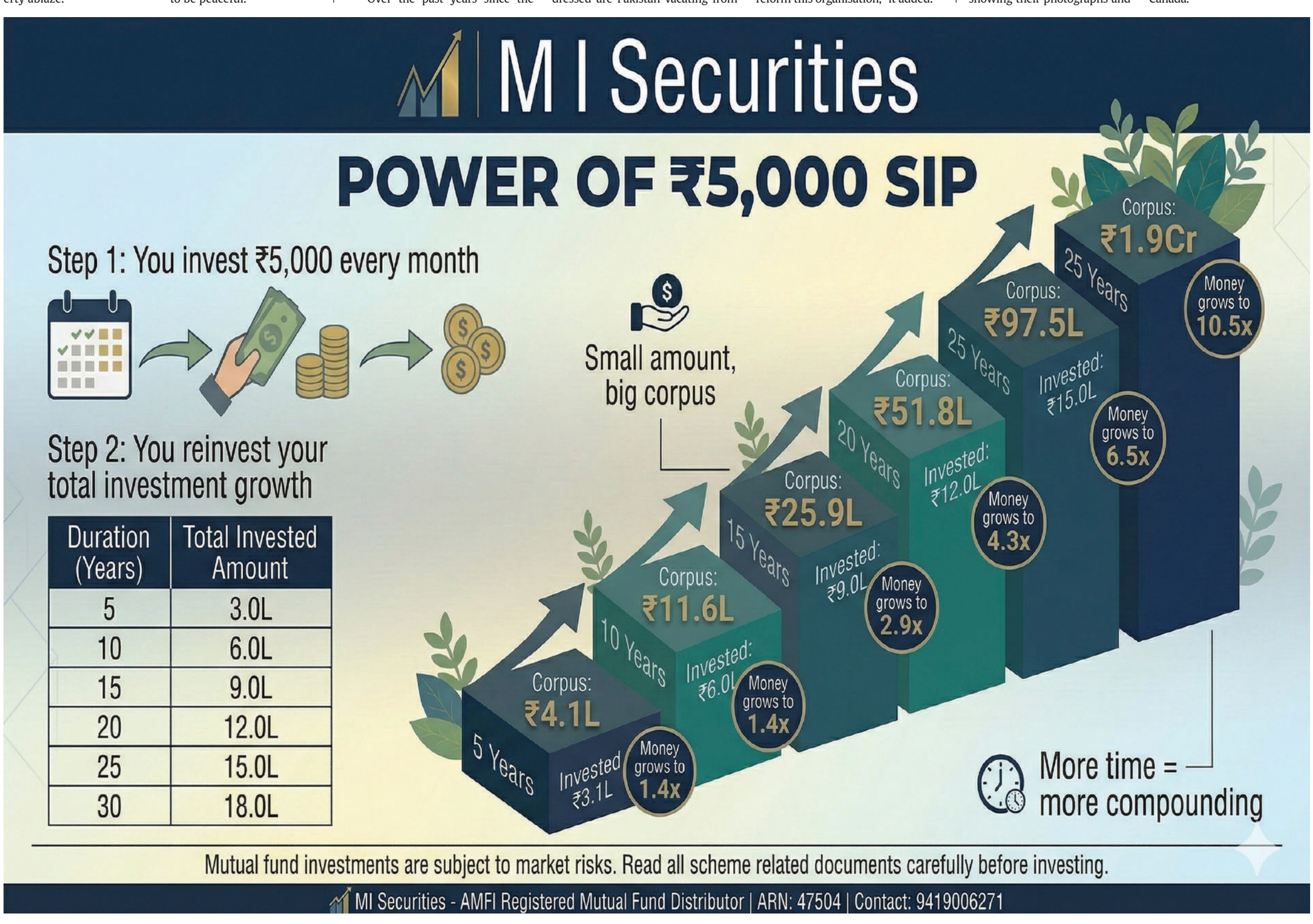
The accused, K Pavan Kumar, a native of Bhadradri Kothagudem district in Telangana, created fake profiles on social media using female identities and sent friend and follow requests to people, posing as a "girl" and gradually had sexual chats with them.

"He then sent them nude photographs and asked them to send their own. He stored the nude photographs he collected in his different mobile phones and in his other social media accounts. The 'girl' then introduced Pavan as her brother, and he entered the picture," a police release said. The accused contacted his alleged prey through calls, instant messaging apps, and social media, and also met some of them in person.

He then threatened them by showing their photographs and videos, and told them he would make his 'sister' file a complaint against them, and in this way he extorted money from them, police said.

In his fake accounts, he mostly used photographs of a girl from Kolkata, with the name "Chandana", police said.

Based on a complaint, a case was registered at Saidabad police station under relevant sections of the BNS and IT Act.

During the investigation, police found out that the accused, who created 29 fake social media accounts, extorted and cheated a total amount of Rs 25.16 lakh from people, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Charminar Zone) Khare Kiran Prabhakar said.

The accused, a homosexual, chatted with more than 1,000 people over the past three to four years and among them 82 sent their nude photos/videos to him, the DCP said, adding that the victims are from Andhra Pradesh, Keralam, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Punjab. He also tried to extort those in Dubai, Turkey, Pakistan and Canada.