



Ministry of Home Affairs
Government of India

CBC 19101/13/0017/2627

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J&K Gets Two Fast-Track Courts For Paper Leak Cases

Courts in Jammu and Srinagar to try examination-related offences, with trials to be completed within three months of chargesheet filing

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has designated two Special Fast-Track Courts in Jammu and Srinagar to exclusively try offences related to paper leaks, cheating and other examination malpractices under the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024.

According to a notification issued by the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has designated the courts of the 1st Additional District and Sessions Judge in Jammu and Srinagar as Special Fast-Track Courts for the trial of offences under the Act.

The designation has been made in consultation with the



Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The move is aimed at ensuring speedy trials in cases involving unfair means in public examinations, including question paper leaks and malpractices by examination-conducting agencies.

Under the Act, proceedings in such cases must be conducted on a day-to-day basis until all witnesses in attendance have been examined, subject

LG Interacts With 2011-Batch IFS Officers

Observer News Service

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday interacted with a group of 2011-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officers at Lok Bhavan in Srinagar, with discussions focusing on enhancing Jammu and Kashmir's global presence in trade, tourism and technology.

The officers are on a week-long official visit



Photo : Abid Bhat

3.5 Lakh Plants, 12 Million Blossoms: CM Opens Bagh-e-Gul-Dawood

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday inaugurated the Chrysanthemum Show 2026 at the Botanical Garden, Chashma Shahi, Srinagar, opening the Chrysanthemum Theme Garden, popularly

known as Bagh-e-Gul-Dawood, to the public as part of efforts to extend Kashmir's tourism season beyond spring.

Titled 'Enriching Autumn with New Colours', the show features 3.5 lakh locally produced chrysanthemum plants representing more than 70

varieties, with nearly 12 million blossoms spread across the 100-kanal garden. Developed and curated by the Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, Bagh-e-Gul-Dawood has been envisioned as a major autumn attraction, adding

vibrant shades of yellow, red, pink and purple to Srinagar's landscape.

The garden has been upgraded this year with expanded flower beds, colourful floral displays, water features, selfie points and improved visitor amenities,

9 Subsidiary Jails De-notified Across J&K

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir Government has de-notified nine buildings which had been declared as subsidiary jails at different points of time.

In a notification issued by the Home Department, the Government has withdrawn the designation of subsidiary jail from nine buildings along with their premises.

As per details, these buildings are in Budgam, Sopore, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Srinagar, Anantnag, Kulgam, and Kupwara -mostly within police establishments.

These buildings had been declared as subsidiary jails in 2005, 2008, 2019, and 2021. Although they were not currently housing prisoners, the jail status continued to remain with them due to their notification as subsidiary jails.

The de-notification has been carried out under clause (b) of Section 2 of

Winter Power Crisis May Hit J&K Before Relief Kicks In

Agencies

Srinagar: With the onset of winters, the Ministry of Power (MoP) has allocated 330 Megawatts (MWs) power for Jammu and Kashmir for a period of three months beginning from December 2026. But officials warn the power crisis may hit earlier in November.

Top officials informed that "329 MWs of power from Central share have been allocated to Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday for the month of December-2026, January and February 2027."

"We may face the power deficit challenge for the months of November-2026 and March-2027," the official added.

The official further informed that during the peak winters Jammu and Kashmir usually face a power shortage of 800-1000 MWs. "We



meet these shortage with the centrally allocated share and power exchanges"

"As of now we have a power demand of nearly 2100-2200 MWs and during the peak winters the power demand touches nearly 2900 MWs," he said

It also said that MoP has allocated over 870 Megawatts (MWs) of power for Jammu

and Kashmir and Ladakh from the unallocated quota of Central Generating Stations (CGSs) of the northern region. "However, out of the total allocated power, we get only nearly 600 MWs in accordance with the Plant Load Factor (PLF)."

In the meantime, the official document reads that J&K and Ladakh

CM Likely To Meet LG Today, Cabinet Expansion On Agenda

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is likely to meet Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday to discuss key matters concerning Jammu and Kashmir, including the much-awaited expansion of the Council of Ministers, sources said on Friday.

Highly placed sources indicated that the proposed meeting could prove crucial in determining the timeline for the cabinet expansion, which may take place within three to four days, subject to the completion of necessary consultations and formalities.

"The Chief Minister is likely to meet the Lieutenant Governor tomorrow. Several important matters concerning Jammu and Kashmir are expected to come up for discussion, with cabinet expansion also likely to figure on the agenda," sources said.

The anticipated meeting comes amid renewed political speculation over the expansion of the Omar Abdullah-led ministry, which has remained pending for several months.

The National Conference leadership has repeatedly indicated that the expansion would take place, although no formal announcement has been made regarding its schedule or the names of prospective ministers.

Earlier, Omar Abdullah had said the exercise would be undertaken following consultations with National Conference president Farooq Abdullah. Farooq Abdullah had also indicated that the expansion would take place after the Lieutenant Governor's return to the Valley.

The Jammu and Kashmir Council of Ministers currently has six members, including the

J&K Bank Opens New Currency Chest Facility In Jammu



Observer News Service

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Bank on Friday commissioned a new Currency Chest Building at its Regional Business Centre (RBC) in Jammu, aimed at strengthening currency management infrastructure and ensuring efficient cash distribution across the region.

The facility was commissioned by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Regional Director Prabhakar Jha and J&K Bank Managing Director and

HC Upholds Validity Of BSF Rule On GSFC Proceedings

Rules Accused Not Entitled To Certified Copies Before Confirmation Of Sentence

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has upheld the constitutional validity of Rule 129 of the Border Security Force (BSF) Rules, 1969, ruling that an accused tried by a General Security Force Court (GSFC) is not entitled to certified copies of trial proceedings before confirmation of the finding and sentence, provided the statutory right to inspect the proceedings and other safeguards are available.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Dr Pushpendra Singh Bhati and Justice M A

Chowdhary allowed an appeal filed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Union of India, and BSF authorities, setting aside a Single Judge's judgment dated April 28, 2022, which had declared Rule 129 unconstitutional for violating the right to a fair trial under Article 21 of the Constitution.

"Read harmoniously with the provisions governing inspection, defence, review and confirmation, Rule 129 regulates the stage at which copies of proceedings become obtainable, while preserving the safeguards available within the statutory

Why Won't This Bear Leave a Kashmiri Family's Boulevard Backyard?

Videos of residents whistling at a bear in Srinagar turned it into an urban spectacle. More than two weeks later, its return visits have left a family afraid to step outside.

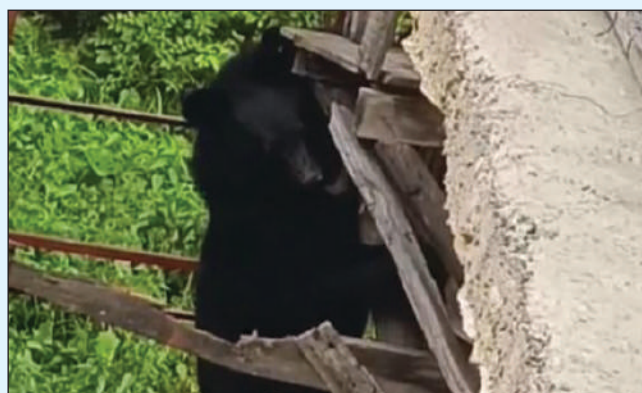
Haziqah Shaheen

Srinagar: Mehrajudin Dar has a bear in his backyard, and for more than two weeks, his family has been living in fear of what might happen when someone steps outside.

The bear, accompanied by its cubs, has been roaming near their home in Gagrival, along Srinagar's Boulevard.

Overgrown grass provides cover, leaving Dar and his family uncertain about where the animal might be hiding or when it might emerge.

A trip to the washroom, a child stepping into the yard or a family member returning



after dark has become a source of anxiety.

The family has effectively been held hostage in its own

home. Outside, the bear can move freely. Inside, the family waits for the Wildlife Department to act.

The episode took an unusual turn when videos of the animal began circulating online. Residents could be seen whistling at the bear as it moved through the neighbourhood. The footage turned the sighting into a curious urban spectacle, drawing attention to a wild animal prowling near homes in the heart of Srinagar.

Then came the unsettling twist. The bear kept returning.

What looked like an extraordinary wildlife sighting to people watching the videos became a prolonged ordeal for the family living beside the animal.

Dar and his relatives have to

contend with the possibility of an encounter whenever they leave the house, while residents say the authorities have yet to resolve the problem.

A wildlife official, explaining the difficulty of capturing the animal, said, "We can't capture the wild animal without cutting grass."

The overgrown vegetation has complicated efforts to locate the bear, the official said. Residents allege that the Wildlife Department has cited a lack of funds for clearing the grass. They also complain that officials sometimes reach the area after the animal has moved away.



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2

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Assistant Director
Fire & Emergency Services Command Budgam.

Email: adfire-budgam@jk.gov.in

FIRE SAFETY ADVISORY - WINTER 2026-27

With the onset of winter and considerable drop in temperature across District Budgam, the risk of fire incidents increases significantly due to extensive use of heating appliances, electrical gadgets and traditional heating sources. Considering the topography and housing pattern of the district, all residents, commercial establishments and institutions are advised to strictly adhere to the following fire safety precautions:

1. Ensure that chimneys, flues and Bukharis are thoroughly cleaned and serviced before use, as accumulation of soot and ash is a major cause of fire.
2. Do not dry clothes directly over Bukharis, heaters or any other heating appliances.
3. Do not use Kangris or coal-based Bukharis in poorly ventilated rooms to avoid Carbon Monoxide accumulation.
4. Handle Kangri with utmost care and keep it at a safe place during night hours to prevent toppling.
5. Regularly check LPG hose pipes and regulators for cracks, wear and leakages.
6. Never leave cooking unattended. Ensure LPG stove knob and cylinder regulator are properly switched off after use.
7. Keep kitchen area adequately ventilated even during cold weather to avoid accumulation of combustible gases.
8. Do not store LPG cylinders inside closed rooms.
9. Get all electrical wiring, sockets and switches inspected by a licensed electrician before the onset of winter.
10. Use only ISI-marked and certified electrical appliances and heating gadgets.
11. Avoid overloading of electrical circuits by simultaneous use of blowers, radiators and heating rods.
12. Unplug all heating and electrical appliances when not in use and before going to bed or leaving the premises.
13. Do not store dry grass, firewood or other highly combustible material inside residential houses. Such material should be stored at an isolated and safe distance.
14. Ensure that escape routes, corridors and staircases are not blocked by merchandise, furniture or snow.
15. Do not throw live cigarette butts carelessly and avoid smoking or use of open flames near fuel storage areas and garages.
16. Do not leave heating lamps or electrical devices switched on near parked vehicles or fuel storage.
17. Maintain proper fire lines and clearance around wooden huts, dhabas and tourist lodges.
18. All markets, religious places, government offices, educational institutions and commercial establishments using electric/gas heating must conduct a fire safety audit and ensure availability of functional fire extinguishers.
19. Keep all access routes clear of snow and obstructions for unhindered movement of fire tenders and emergency vehicles.
20. Residents of remote and snow-bound areas should identify local volunteers for initial fire response and maintain close liaison with the nearest Fire & Emergency Services Station.
21. In case of any fire incident, please contact the department through Toll Free No. 101, Fire Control Room Budgam (01951-255222)

DIPK-7014/26
dated: 23-10-2026

Assistant Director,
Fire & Emergency Services,
Command Budgam.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Public Works (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

Email: rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in

NO: T-1/EEE/9362-68

Dated: 23/10/2026

Subject: -

Extension Notice

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

Reference: -

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

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

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

1	Bid Submission End Date	27-10-2026 up to 12:00 P.M
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	27-10-2026 up to 03:00 P.M

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

Sd/-
Technical officer

DIPK-7010/26
dated: 23-10-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

Darul Huda Educational & Welfare Trust

PUBLIC NOTICE

Darul Huda educational Welfare Trust

Bagander, Humhama Budgam

The following is the list of members of the Managing committee of Darul Huda Educational Welfare Trust, Bagander, Humhama Budgam:

S. No.	Name of the Member	Parentage	Residence	Qualification	Occupation	Designation in MB	Cell No.
01	Ab. Majeed Malla	Ab Gani Malla	Bagander Humhama	B.A	Contractor	Chairman	9419005847
02	Mushtaq Ahmad Mir	Ab Samad Mir	Bagander Humhama	10th	Businessman	Vice Chairman	7006000565
03	Abdul Majid Bhat	Mohammad Yousuf Bhat	Bagander Humhama	10th	Businessman	Treasurer	7006290665
04	Irfan Ahmad Bhat	Ghulam Mohi-uddin Bhat	Bagander Humhama	12th	Businessman	Member	9906425210
05	Jehangir Ahmad Bhat	Ab Hamid Bhat	Bagander Humhama	B.Com	Businessman	Member	7006255924
06	Shahbaz Sultan	Mohammad Sultan Wani	Repora Namtehal	12th	Businessman	Member	8491967692
07	Mohammad Iqbal Kuchay	Ghulam Hassan Kuchay	Humhama	12th	Businessman	Member	6005489893

Objections Invited

Objections, if any, are hereby invited from the general public regarding the above mentioned Managing committee. Any person having an objection may submit the same in writing within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice to the principal/chairman of Darul Huda Educational Welfare Trust Bruder, Humhama, Budgam, at the contact number given below Contact No. 7006142041

bmrg

Chairman
Darul Huda Education & Welfare Trust
Bagander, humhama Zone, Budgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as MAHBOOBA BEGUM While as my actual name is MAHBOOBA BANO C/O GH QADIR LONE R/O ZURHAMA KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193224 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.

MAHBOOBA BANO
C/O :- GH QADIR LONE
R/O :- ZURHAMA , KUPWARA

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as SALIYA YAQOOB While as my actual name is SOLIHA YAQOOB C/O MOHAMMAD YAQOOB KHAN R/O CHALGUND HAYIHAMA KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222 Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority

SOLIHA YAQOOB
C/O :- MOHAMMAD YAQOOB KHAN
R/O :- CHALGUND HAYIHAMA , KUPWARA

FKO

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Security System and Refilling of all Types of
Cartridges, Toners Registered Government
order Suppliers.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that I intend to correct the name in my ADHAAR CARD bearing no:- 7490 1664 1052 from Pir Tahir Ahmad Shah (Wrong) to Tahir Ahmad (Correct). In this regard, if anybody is having any kind of objection, he/she may file the same with concerned authority within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

TAHIR AHMAD
S/O PEER MOHD SHAFI MAKHDOOMI
R/O MULPHAQ BURZAHAMA HAZRATBAL SRINAGAR

Always Admt.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

JOZIYA FAROOQ
C/O :- PIRZADA FAROOQ AHMAD
R/O :- KARIHAMA , KUPWARA

QNS

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as SUFIA FAROOQ While as my actual name is SUFAIYA FAROOQ C/O FAROOQ AHMAD NAIKOO R/O GUND GUSHI KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222 Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

SUFAIYA FAROOQ
C/O :- FAROOQ AHMAD NAIKOO
R/O :- GUND GUSHI , KUPWARA

QNS

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as SHAKEELA BANO While as my actual name is SHAKEELA AKHTER C/O SABA GOJAR CHOGATA R/O DARDPORA LOLAB 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.

SHAKEELA AKHTER
C/O :- SABA GOJAR CHOGATA
R/O :- DARDPORA LOLAB , KUPWARA

QNS

The Jammu And Kashmir
Board Of School Education

Sub Office Pulwama

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No.: 132004205 Session: Bi-Annual Year 2023 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the School Against my Mother's name as Sheikh Sagina Instead of Sakeena

Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education Sub Office Pulwama. , if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub Office Pulwama within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Mansha Sameer
Father's name: Raja Sameer Hussain
Mother's Name: Sheikh Sagina
DOB: 01-05-2008
Residence: Newa Puylwama
Mobile no: 9797470301



RKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as SHEERAZ AH KHAN While as my actual name is SHERAZ KHAN GOJAR KHATANA C/O MOHD IRFAN KHAN R/O KHUMRIYAL KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222 Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

SHERAZ KHAN GOJAR KHATANA
C/O :- MOHD IRFAN KHAN
R/O :- KHUMRIYAL , KUPWARA

qns

PUBLIC NOTICE

The electricity connection with consumer ID: 0204040007524 registered in the name of Ghulam Mohammad Dar is proposed to be transferred in favour of Bashir Ahmad Dar , S/o Ghulam Mohammad Dar.

If anybody has any objection, he/she may contact concerned department within 7 Days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Media Line Admt

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Lubna Bano, hereby notify the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Lubna Jan in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 3662 7200 7103, whereas my correct name, as per official records, is Lubna Bano. I have submitted the supporting documents, including my old Aadhaar Card, newspaper cutting, affidavit duly attested by the 1st Class Magistrate, and Date of Birth Certificate, for obtaining a Gazette Notification regarding the correction of my name from Lubna Jan to Lubna Bano. The required Gazette Notification is sought for correction of my Aadhaar Card and other relevant records.

Any person having any objection to the above-mentioned name correction may raise the same before the competent authority as per the applicable rules.

Sd/-
fko Lubna Bano

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father's name GH MOHD BHAT S/O MOHD SUBHAN BHAT R/O.. WAGOORA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040000627 wants to be registered on my name NAZIR AHMAD BHAT S/O GH MOHAMMAD BHAT If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...NAZIR AHMAD BHAT
S/O...GH MOHAMMAD BHAT
R/O . WAGOORA
BLOCK..WAGOORA

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I sobiya Tashooq D/ O Tashooq Ahmad Mir as my Father's name has been Wrongly mentioned in Registration Return as Tashooq Ahmad Mir instead of Tashooq Ahmad Mir.I am applying for its correction if any body having any objection in this regard.He / she may contact Principal Hanfia model hr sec school Kreeri within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Sobiya Tashooq
D/O. Tashooq Ahmad Mir

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as QURATUL AIN While as my actual name is QURAT BILAL C/O BILAL AHMAD LONE R/O LASHTIYAL KALAROOS KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222 Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

QURAT BILAL
C/O :- BILAL AHMAD LONE
R/O :- LASHTIYAL KALAROOS, KUPWARA

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as ZOONA BEGUM While as my actual name is ZOONA RASOOL C/O MANZOOR AHMAD WANI R/O KULIGAM LOLAB 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.

ZOONA RASOOL
C/O :- MANZOOR AHMAD WANI
R/O :- KULIGAM LOLAB , KUPWARA

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

RUBEENA AKHTER
C/O :- NAIK AALAM QURASHI
R/O :- KANIPORA KALAROCH , KUPWARA

qns

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as ARIFA BEGUM While as my actual name is AREFA AKHTER C/O SYED FAYAZ AHMAD SHAH R/O TEKIYA WARNOW KHURHAMA LOLAB 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.

AREFA AKHTER
C/O :- SYED FAYAZ AHMAD SHAH
R/O :- TEKIYA WARNOW KHURHAMA LOLAB , KUPWARA

qns

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as ADIAN FAYAZ While as my actual name is ADDAN FAYAZ C/O FAYAZ AHMAD HAJAM R/O KHUMRIYAL KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222 Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

ADDAN FAYAZ C/O :- FAYAZ AHMAD HAJAM
R/O :- KHUMRIYAL , KUPWARA

fko



CITY

Neglect Leaves Raj Bagh Joggers Park At The Mercy Of Stray Dogs

Agencies

Srinagar: Raj Bagh's Joggers Park, frequented daily by walkers, joggers, children and other people, is falling into neglect, with damaged infrastructure, deteriorating grounds and inadequate maintenance raising serious questions about the functioning and accountability of the Floriculture Department.

The park, meant to provide people with a clean, green and welcoming space for recreation and physical activity, is increasingly losing its appeal as basic upkeep appears to have taken a back seat. Stray dogs have been digging up the grassy areas, leaving patches of ground damaged and disfigured. The unchecked deterioration has added to concerns among people who visit the park to exercise, walk or spend time outdoors.

Questions are also being raised over the apparent absence of gardeners

and routine maintenance staff despite two quarters within the park reportedly remaining locked. "If accommodation and staff facilities are available but regular maintenance is not visible, the department needs to explain how the park is being managed and who is responsible for its upkeep," joggers told the news agency Kashmir News Trust adding that the continued deterioration has raised concerns about supervision, staff deployment and accountability.

The situation raises a broader question about the Floriculture Department's priorities: who is monitoring the condition of the park, how frequently are maintenance staff deployed, and what action is being taken to protect public infrastructure from damage? A park cannot be maintained merely by keeping its gates open; it requires regular gardening, sanitation, repairs and effective supervision.KNT

Faith Must Reflect In Character, Conduct, Justice: Mirwaiz

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Friday stressed that faith must be reflected in one's character, conduct and dealings with others, urging people to uphold justice, respect others' rights and use their time responsibly.

In a statement issued, a spokesperson said Mirwaiz, while addressing the Friday congregation, stressed that faith must not remain confined to religious observances and declarations but should be reflected in an individual's character, conduct and dealings with fellow human beings.

Continuing his discourse on Imaan (faith), Mirwaiz reflected on the message of Surah Al-Asr, which emphasises the value of time and reminds human-

ity that true success lies in faith, righteous deeds, upholding truth and patience.

Mirwaiz said that while people devote considerable energy to acquiring wealth, position and worldly success, they often neglect the more important question of how they spend their lives.

He observed that the Quranic concept of loss extends far beyond material or financial setbacks. A person may possess wealth, influence and position, yet suffer a far greater loss if honesty, compassion, justice and a sense of accountability are absent from their life.

He stressed that honesty in dealings, respect for others' rights, compassion towards the vulnerable and a commitment to justice are essential expressions of faith.



Div Com Reviews Arrangements For UT Foundation Day, Run For Unity

Directs departments to ensure coordinated arrangements for celebrations at SKICC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Friday chaired a meeting of officers to review arrangements for the celebration of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Foundation Day and the conduct of the Run for Unity on the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, scheduled to be held on October 31 at SKICC.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Director Information, SSP Traffic, Director School Education, Secretary JKAACL, and representatives of Police, Youth Services and Sports (YSS), colleges, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Roads and Buildings (R&B), and other concerned departments.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed the mobilisation plan for participants for the Run for Unity. Various departments and institutions, including Colleges, School Education, YSS, Sports Council, University of Kashmir, SKUAST-K, Skill Development Department, J&K Bank, NIT, R&B, Agriculture, Zila Sainik Welfare and ICDS, were assigned responsibilities for a smooth conduct of the event.

The Divisional Commissioner directed all stakeholder departments to assess and communicate their transportation requirements at the earliest. Deputy Director Planning was tasked with coordinating the transport plan, while SSCL and RTC were directed to ensure the availability of an adequate number of buses for ferrying participants to the venue.

Emphasising the need for effective interdepartmental coordination, the Divisional Commissioner directed all departments to nominate Nodal Officers for the event. ADC Srinagar and Joint Commissioner, SMC, were designated as Nodal Officers for overall coordination.

The Deputy Commissioner Srinagar was directed to oversee arrangements relating to invitation cards, VVIP seating as per warrant of precedence, nameplates, deployment of duty magistrates, and sound and audio-visual facilities.

The Director Information was directed to ensure the installation of public address systems at the back lawns and auditorium, besides making arrangements for hoardings, standees, video display screens, backdrop design and documentary screening. The department was also tasked

with nominating anchors for the respective programmes.

SMC was directed to install hoardings in the back lawns, from where the Run for Unity will be flagged off, and facilitate the advance distribution of theme-based T-shirts among participants. J&K Bank was assigned the responsibility of distributing caps among the participants.

JKAACL was entrusted with organising two cultural programmes aligned with the theme and spirit of the occasion.

The Hospitality and Protocol Department was asked to make adequate refreshment arrangements for participants attending the Run for Unity and the UT Foundation Day celebrations.

The Health Department, Fire and Emergency Services, KPDCCL and PHE were directed to ensure the availability of essential services and make all necessary arrangements at the venue.

SSP Traffic was directed for identification of parking spaces and traffic management.

The Divisional Commissioner stressed the importance of coordinated efforts by all stakeholder departments to ensure the smooth, orderly and successful conduct of the celebrations.

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 

RAILWAYS

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

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



**HIJRI
CALENDAR**
12 Jumada al-Awwal
1448

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5:19
ZUHR	12:15
ASR	4:09
Magrib	5:50
ISHA	7:11

This Day In History

- 1260 - Qutuz, Mamluk Sultans of Egypt (1259-60), is assassinated by Baibars, a fellow Mamluk leader, who seizes power for himself
- 1260 - The spectacular Cathedral of Chartres is dedicated in the presence of King Louis IX of France; now a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- 1360 - The Treaty of Brétigny is ratified at Calais, marking the end of the first phase of the Hundred Years' War.
- 1531 - Bavaria joins Schmalkaldic League
- 1596 - Battle at Kerestes: Ottoman beat Austria-Hungary & Germany
- 1601 - Johannes Kepler succeeds Tycho Brahe as imperial mathematician to Emperor Rudolph II
- 1648 - Treaty of Westphalia ends The Thirty Year's War in the Holy Roman Empire; Switzerland's independence recognized
- 1656 - Treaty of Vilnius: Russia & Poland sign anti-Swedish covenant
- 1681 - Earl of Shaftesbury accused of high treason in London
- 1795 - 3rd Partition of Poland, between Austria, Prussia & Russia
- 1812 - Napoleonic Wars: The Battle of Maloyaroslavets takes place near Moscow.
- 1861 - First US transcontinental telegram is sent (from San Francisco to Washington, D.C.)
- 1909 - Italy and Russia sign the Racconigi Pact in which both nations promise to support the status quo in the Balkans
- 1917 - Battle at Caporetto: German & Austria smash Italian army
- 1924 - Nobel prize for physiology or medicine awarded to Dutchman Willem Einthoven "for his discovery of the mechanism of the electrocardiogram"
- 1930 - A bloodless coup d'état in Brazil ousts Washington Luis Pereira de Sousa, the last President of the First Republic.Getúlio Vargas then installed as "provisional president."
- 1932 - British government signs trade treaty with USSR
- 1938 - US forbids child labor in factories
- 1942 - Second day of battle at El Alamein: British infantry
- 1944 - US aircraft carrier Princeton sinks at Philippines
- 1945 - Charter of United Nations comes into effect
- 1946 - Netherlands & Indonesia sign cease fire
- 1952 - Arab Liberation Movement becomes only political party in Syria
- 1957 - The USAF starts the X-20 Dyna-Soar program.
- 1958- USSR lends Egypt 400 million rubles to build Aswan Dam
- 1969 - Hanif, Mushtaq & Sadiq Mohammad start their only Test Cricket together
- 1975 - Turkish diplomat shot dead in Paris
- 1980 - Great Britain performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1980 - Iraqi troops occupies Khorramshar
- 1984 - Intelsat 5 re-enters Earth's atmosphere 5 months after it failed
- 1986 - Great Britain drops diplomatic relations with Syria
- 1994 - Bomb attack on opposition in Sri Lanka, 55+ killed
- 1998 - Launch of Deep Space 1 on comet and asteroid mission
- 2009 - First International Day of Climate Action, organized with 350.org, a global campaign to address a claimed global warming crisis.
- 2012 - Libyan militias capture Bani Walid resulting in 130 civilian deaths
- 2016 - Suicide bomb kills 61 and injures 117 at a police training academy in Quetta, Pakistan, ISIS claims responsibility
- 2020- Deadliest shipwreck of the year claims 140 lives on a ship that sank with 200 migrants on board off the coast of Senegal
- 2021- Michael Jordan's 1984 Nike Air Ships sell for \$1.472 million at Sotheby's, setting a new record for sneakers at auction
- 2022- A five-month-old bar-tailed godwit becomes a world record holder by flying 8,425 miles (13,559 km) non-stop from Yukon Kuskokwim Delta in Alaska, US, to Ansons Bay in Tasmania, Australia, in 11 days
- 2022- China continues its COVID-zero policy with 28 cities and 207 million people affected by some form of lockdown, including Wuhan

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

Fax No: - 01954-222626

NIT NO.STDS/ 31 of 2026-27

Dated: 23/10/2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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

1.	Name of the Work	Shifting of 33kV GMC Tap line near Receiving Station GMC Baramulla for construction of Autopsy/Mortuary Block
2.	Estimated Cost (in Lakhs)	3.20
3.	Cost of tender document in Rs. (Non- refundable)	₹ 200/-
4.	Cost of EMD@2% in Rs.	₹ 6,400/-

Critical Dates

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document/ Sale of Bid Document (Start) / Clarifications start date	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 23 rd October, 2026; 04:00 PM
B	Clarifications end date / e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	26 th October, 2026; 04:00 PM
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)/ e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)/ Submission of Hard Copy (end) Date	16 th November, 2026; 04:00 PM
D	Online Technical and Commercial e-Bid opening date & Time	18 th November, 2026; 03:00 PM
E	Financial Bid opening	After completion of process of evaluation of Technical & commercial Bids
F	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER STD SOPORE

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

Sd/
Executive Engineer, KPDCCL
Sub Transmission Division Sopore

No: STDS/TS/1254-57
Dated: 23/10/2026

DIPK-NB-1941/26
dated: 23-10-2026

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Dy. Chief Elect. Engineer/Const., Northern Railway, Jammu for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:

Tender Notice No.	17-E-C-GPS-SB-26 dated 23.10.2026
Name of work	Electrical works in connection with provision of crossing station alongwith goods facilities at Sopore station and one additional loop line at Baramulla station on BAHL-BRML section.
Approximate Cost of the Work	Rs. 1,01,16,494.65 (Including GST and all other taxes)
Completion period	06 (Six Months)
Bid Security to be deposited	Rs. 2,02,300.00
Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 23.10.2026.
Last date/Time of upload of tenders	13.11.2026 upto 15.00 hours.
Date/Time of Opening of Tender.	13.11.2026 soon after 15.00 hrs. (Immediately after close of uploading of tender).
Detailed Tender Notice & Tender document	Above tender Notice will be available on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in from 23.10.2026 and for submission from 30.10.2026 to 13.11.2026 upto 15.00 hrs. The bidders who desire to participate against e-tenders are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to obtain class-III digital certificate (if already no obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tender are given in tender document. Only e-tenders will be accepted and tenders submitted in any other form will be summarily rejected. The detailed notice also can be seen on Notice Board of the above office.

No. 17-Elect-C-GPS-SB-26 Dated: 23.10.2026
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3699/26

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum notice

Sub: Correction in Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) against Tender No. 02CRFPMPME2026-I.

With reference to the tender no. 02CRFPMPME2026-I published on IREPS portal for development and operation of Cargo Related Facilities (Warehouse) at Pampore, it is hereby notified that EMD amount mentioned in the earlier NIT as Rs. 67,300/- (Rupees Sixty-Seven Thousand Three Hundred only) is hereby corrected and shall be read as Rs. 56,700/- (Rupees Fifty-Six Thousand Seven Hundred only). Same has been corrected on IREPS.

All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain same. Eligible and interested bidders are advised to take note of the above correction while submitting their bids through the Indian Railways E-Procurement System (IREPS) at www.ireps.gov.in.

For further information or clarification, please contact 9779233938.

No.: CRF/JAT/2026 Dated: 23.10.2026 3691/2026

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Development and operation of Warehouses / Storage Units through private investment near / at Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Udhampur Railway station over JAT Division for a period of 25 years.

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Jammu Division, for and on behalf of the President of India invites tenders from interested eligible parties for "Development and operation of Warehouses / Storage Units through private investment near / at Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Udhampur Railway station over JAT Division for a period of 25 years." Eligible and interested parties may submit their tenders on www.ireps.gov.in.

For more details & Other information kindly visit Indian Railways website: www.ireps.gov.in or contract at 9779233938.

No.: CRF/JAT/2026 Dated: 22.10.2026 3687/2026
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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

A verified digital inventory, public property records and clearly marked revenue entries could help Jammu and Kashmir protect evacuee property, curb unauthorised occupation and hold officials accountable.



Mohammad Amin Mir

A parcel of land can exist in government records for decades and still remain difficult to identify on the ground.

Its survey number may lie buried in a revenue register, its boundaries may be disputed, and its present occupant may have no readily verifiable document establishing the right to use it.

Such uncertainty creates room for administrative confusion, competing claims and unauthorised occupation.

Jammu and Kashmir's Custodian property needs a system that brings these details into public view.

The Custodian Department should prepare a verified, village-wise digital inventory, geotag every parcel and make essential property information accessible through tehsil offices and official digital platforms.

The objective is plain and precise: officials and citizens should be able to establish which land belongs to the Custodian estate, how it is recorded and on what legal basis someone occupies it.

The need for such a system begins with an important distinction.

The Jammu and Kashmir State Evacuees' (Administration of Property) Act, 2006, which renumbered the earlier 1949 law, defines evacuee property through the rights and interests of evacuees, subject to the statutory provisions and exclusions. Section 5 addresses the vesting of such property in the Custodian.

The law provides the framework for administration. Establishing the precise status of a particular parcel, however, depends on the relevant orders, notifications, title documents, revenue entries and competent departmental or judicial determinations.

Land associated with a migrant is not automatically Custodian property. An empty plot does not acquire that status simply because nobody occupies it. Nor does possession establish ownership or lawful authorisation.

These differences are essential in a place where land records can become the basis of competing claims. A digital entry should record verified facts, rather than turn an unresolved dispute into an administrative conclusion.

The first task belongs to the Custodian Department, working with revenue officials wherever field inspections, demarcation or corrections become necessary. Its inventory should identify the district, tehsil, revenue village, survey or Khasra number, recorded area, geographical coordinates and legal status of the property. It should also record the occupant's name or category, the applicable allotment or lease, its validity, prescribed rent or fees, and any pending litigation.

Photographs, boundary details and the date of field verification would strengthen the record. Officials should compare the mapped parcel with the corresponding Custodian register and revenue documents before certifying its accuracy. Conflicting entries should be flagged for examination, with the discrepancy and subsequent action documented.

The work would continue after the initial survey. An allotment, an expired lease, a lawful change in possession, a court decision or an authorised correction could alter a parcel's recorded status. The inventory must capture such changes through documented approvals, with responsibility assigned to the official who verifies and updates the entry.

The information must also leave the files.

A resident trying to establish the status of a plot should not have to depend on informal assurances or repeated visits to government offices. The department should direct the relevant Tehsildars, working with Custodian officers, to display village-wise lists of verified properties at tehsil offices.

These lists should identify survey numbers, recorded areas, property categories and occupation status. Where an allotment or lease exists, they should state the applicable authorisation category and prescribed rent or fee, including the relevant payment period.

Public access must respect privacy and legal rights.

ing inspections, monitor authorised leases and allotments, and detect suspected unauthorised occupation. They could also improve the collection of prescribed charges and provide a stronger documentary basis for notices or recovery proceedings authorised by law.

The publication of rent and fees needs special attention. The department should display the applicable charges by property category, identify the approving authority and cite the relevant order or rule. Where different forms of authorisation attract different amounts, the schedules should explain those distinctions and identify pending revisions.

Occupants should receive official receipts and have access to a verifiable payment system. Digital records of dues and payments would help reconcile departmental accounts and allow occupants to check their liabilities. Paying rent, however, cannot by itself establish a right to occupy land where the law provides no such entitlement.

Technology has limits, as a map cannot settle disputed ownership, and a signboard cannot replace a lawful eviction order.

Any action against an occupant must follow due process and preserve the remedies available under law. The credibility of the system will depend on the quality of verification as much as the visibility of its records.

♦♦ **Custodian property calls for administration that can explain its decisions through evidence. A survey number should lead to an identifiable parcel, an authorised occupation to a verifiable document, and a demand for payment to a published legal basis.**

The purpose is to make property records verifiable, rather than to expose personal information unnecessarily or announce that disputed claims have been settled. Where a board cannot accommodate the full inventory, a detailed schedule should remain available at the office and on the department's official website.

A QR code linking to an updated digital register would make the information easier to consult. Citizens could check parcel details, applicable charges and departmental contact information without relying entirely on office visits.

The same principle should govern revenue records. The department, in consultation with the competent Revenue Department authorities, should establish a uniform, legally approved method for identifying verified Custodian survey numbers in the Khasra Girdawari. Red-ink entries, accompanied by a notation in the remarks column and a reference to the Custodian register, could make the property's special status immediately visible during inspections and demarcation proceedings.

Such markings must follow prescribed procedures and preserve the integrity of existing records. They should never be used to overwrite an entry or settle a title dispute. Digitised records should display the same identification through a standard electronic flag.

These measures could help officials identify differences between recorded areas and the land found dur-

A pilot project in selected tehsils could test the process before its extension throughout Jammu and Kashmir. The department should publish progress reports stating how many villages have been surveyed, how many parcels have been geotagged, how many records have been reconciled and how many discrepancies have been resolved.

An annual verification exercise and a public mechanism for reporting errors would help maintain accuracy, provided officials independently examine complaints before changing records.

Custodian property calls for administration that can explain its decisions through evidence. A survey number should lead to an identifiable parcel, an authorised occupation to a verifiable document, and a demand for payment to a published legal basis.

When a piece of land cannot be reliably identified in the records or on the ground, accountability becomes harder to establish.

Jammu and Kashmir can begin correcting that weakness by making its Custodian property register something citizens can examine and officials must maintain.

The author is a revenue official based out of South Kashmir. He can be reached at miramin354@gmail.com.

Cracks in Progress

The controversy surrounding Sopore's bridge points to a larger weakness in governance: the emphasis on completed projects over their long-term performance.



Iffat Aurooj

Videos circulating on social media of material falling from the recently repaired Sopore Bypass Bridge have raised a question that goes beyond the condition of a single structure.

When a bridge draws public concern soon after repairs, questions arise about how the government judges its own performance.

Kashmir has plenty of reasons to celebrate new infrastructure. The harder test is whether that infrastructure can withstand the conditions for which it was built.

The videos alone cannot establish whether the bridge has suffered structural damage. That judgment belongs to an independent engineering assessment. But the concerns they have raised call for more than official assurances.

People who use public infrastructure should be able to establish whether it is safe, who is responsible for its upkeep and what happens when repairs fail to deliver the expected results.

Sopore's bypass is an important transport link in north Kashmir, particularly for the movement of goods and the horticultural

economy. Commuters, traders and transporters depend on roads and bridges functioning as intended. Uncertainty about a recently repaired bridge therefore extends beyond the structure itself.

It reaches the people whose work depends on reliable transport, including those moving agricultural produce to markets.

Winter adds another dimension to the problem. Freezing temperatures and precipitation place considerable demands on Kashmir roads and bridges. These conditions are part of the region's known environment. Engineers, contractors and public agencies must account for them when designing infrastructure, selecting materials and planning maintenance.

Weather cannot become an excuse for failures that proper planning and supervision might have prevented.

The larger concern lies in how development is measured.

Governments often present completed bridges, widened highways and redeveloped urban spaces as visible evidence of progress. Such projects are easy to photograph, inaugurate and include in official accounts of achievement. Their performance over the following months and years receives less public attention.

A completed project, however, marks the beginning of its working life. Its value depends on how well it performs after the construction crews leave and the ceremonies end.

When a recently repaired structure raises questions about its condition, the public has reason to ask whether the original work was adequate, inspections were thorough, or contractual obligations were enforced.

The difference between completing a proj-

ect and delivering a reliable public service is particularly important in Kashmir, where infrastructure must withstand demanding seasonal conditions.

Public money pays for safe journeys, dependable connections and roads that allow businesses to function without unnecessary disruption. Those benefits depend on the quality of the finished work, rather than the announcement of its completion.

Srinagar Smart City project presents a related question.

Despite substantial efforts to modernise urban spaces and improve their appearance, recurring waterlogging and drainage problems have prompted concerns about whether the city's basic infrastructure has received adequate attention. Modern streets may improve the experience of moving through a city, but their usefulness depends partly on what happens when rainwater has nowhere to go.

Waterlogging alone does not establish that the Smart City project caused the problem, just as falling material from a bridge does not establish structural failure.

Both situations call for evidence before conclusions are drawn.

The broader concern is whether urban development is planned as a connected system or delivered through separate projects whose performance depends on infrastructure that may remain inadequate.

Roads, drainage, sewerage and urban planning are closely linked in their practical effects. An improved road cannot function properly if drainage fails to remove water. A redesigned public space may lose much of its usefulness if the surrounding infrastructure cannot cope

with rainfall.

Public investment achieves its purpose when these systems work together, rather than when individual projects look impressive in isolation.

This brings the question of accountability into sharper focus.

When recently completed or repaired infrastructure performs poorly, the public should be able to find out who inspected the work, whether quality standards were met and whether contractors fulfilled their obligations. Authorities should also establish whether defect-liability provisions apply and whether independent inspections have taken place.

These questions should form part of routine public administration, rather than emerge only after videos circulate online. Transparent procurement, proper supervision and publicly accessible inspection findings can help citizens understand how decisions were made and whether public agencies acted responsibly.

Social media and local journalism have created new avenues for public scrutiny. A video recorded by a commuter can draw attention to a problem that might otherwise receive little notice. Its value, however, depends on what follows.

Viral footage can establish the need for investigation, but it cannot substitute for engineering expertise or determine responsibility by itself.

The immediate task in Sopore is therefore clear. Authorities should commission an independent safety assessment, publish its findings and set a firm timetable for corrective work.

The assessment must establish whether the reported damage is confined to the surface or points to a more serious defect. Where neg-

ligence is established, the responsible parties should face appropriate consequences.

The same principle should guide public infrastructure policy more broadly.

Governments must devote as much attention to maintenance and inspection as they give to new construction. Public expenditure should be judged by durability, safety and performance, alongside the cost and speed of delivery.

These standards become particularly important before winter, when failures in roads, bridges and drainage systems can disrupt daily life.

People in Sopore should not have to depend on another viral video to learn whether a bridge they use is safe. Nor should Srinagar residents have to judge urban modernisation by appearances while recurring drainage problems remain unresolved.

A bridge connects places because people trust it to do its job. A city functions because its roads, drains and public spaces work together under ordinary conditions and during difficult weather.

The government's job does not end with building a bridge. It must also answer for how well it holds up, after the inauguration is over.

Development earns public trust in the years after a project opens, when the concrete is tested by weather, the roads by traffic and the promises by the lives of the people who depend on them.

The author is a final year undergraduate at the department of Political Science, Janki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi and can be reached at aurooj.iffat@gmail.com.

Kashmir's Lost Years

An obsession with competitive exams is costing young Kashmiris time, mental well-being and work experience, while other career paths remain overlooked.



Mohammad Anamul Haque Ahanger

Four in the afternoon, and the roads outside the valley's coaching hubs fill with exhaustion.

Overhead, billboards display the faces of teenage "toppers," their exam scores converted into advertising for competing coaching empires. Below, students spill out of glass-fronted buildings in matching hoodies, backpacks heavy, and eyes hollowed by fatigue.

Their communication move fast: fractional marks, mock rankings, and the narrow margins that separate success from family disappointment.

This is the ground floor of a merit race that has come to define Kashmiri youth.

Decades of instability left the private sector underdeveloped, so the state became the only employer that felt dependable.

A government post, or a medical registration, signals shelter from a history that has rarely been kind to plans.

Parents sell orchards and family gold to buy their children a place in coaching alleys, believing they are purchasing security. Many are instead funding what has become a permanent culture of dropping out and trying again, three, four, five years at a stretch, until repetition itself feels like a rite of passage.

That political reality has hardened into a social hierarchy inside the classroom.

Medicine and the non-medical sciences sit at the top, everything

else sits below. Children absorb, early, the idea that a mind has worth only if it can memorize physics or dissect biology.

Choosing Arts or Commerce invites a familiar taunt at family gatherings: "Bio ya Maths kyun nae liya," why didn't you take Biology or Maths.

Students with real talent for writing or social analysis learn to suppress it, choosing subjects they dislike to spare their families embarrassment.

The psychological toll is measurable.

Studies put chronic anxiety, depression, and burnout among these students near 44 to 45 percent. Because mental illness still carries deep stigma, few seek clinical help.

Distress instead finds a body: the Kashmiri phrase "Mea Chu Dilas Zan Gobear," my heart feels heavy, describes what a diagnosis might otherwise name.

Young people spend their prime years suspended, dreading a single question at family gatherings: what happened to the result.

Families rarely count the cost in economic terms, but it is steep.

Five years without income, work experience, and assets built, is five years erased from a career.

Meanwhile, recruitment bodies in Jammu and Kashmir collect tens of crores of rupees annually in application fees from an already strained population, even as unemployment in the region sits well above the national figure.

The skills these exams reward, pattern recognition, formula recall, memorized retention, are precisely what artificial intelligence now performs without effort.

A generation trained to think like an algorithm is chasing security in a market that no longer needs algorithms with heartbeats.

The obsession widens beyond medicine into national examinations, where one acronym, UPSC, dominates college hallways throughout the valley.

Ask a student in Srinagar or



Permanent vacancies sit unfilled while hospitals, schools, and municipal offices increasingly hire on short-term contracts, leaving qualified young professionals in underpaid roles without protections.

Anantnag about SSC CGL, RBI Grade B, NABARD, or IBPS PO, and the answer is usually a blank look.

Thousands gamble everything on one exam while dozens of other central pathways, offering similar stability, go unmentioned.

The coaching model that produces this narrowness also undercuts it: UPSC rewards a formed, curious personality rather than a memorizer, and years of isolated study strip candidates of the real-world exposure the exam actually tests.

Institutional friction simply compounds the damage.

JKPSC and JKSSB, the regional recruiting bodies, have become known for delay: legal disputes, postponed exams, and bottlenecks that stretch selection processes over years.

Arif Ahmad, a postgraduate from Bandipora, has spent nearly five years caught inside one such process, watching his late twenties disappear while a single exam tier waits out a court case.

Saima Jan, from Ganderbal, describes how shifting timelines turn study into a fight against anxiety rather than an intellectual pursuit.

Aspirants routinely spend ages twenty-two to thirty-two in libraries and coaching hostels chasing a finish line that keeps moving.

Even success can lead nowhere secure.

Permanent vacancies sit unfilled while hospitals, schools, and municipal offices increasingly hire on short-term contracts, leaving qualified young professionals in underpaid roles without protections.

A harder betrayal lies beneath all of it: paper leaks and cancellations that have reached the Supreme Court.

Faizan Shafi, an eighteen-year-old NEET aspirant from Srinagar who studied fourteen hours a day through repeated drop years, describes the particular sting of learning that question papers circulated like black-market commodities.

Mehak Yusuf, an aspirant from Pulwama, says recurring irregularities make honest preparation feel pointless.

A generation is being asked to compete on a track compromised long before the starting gun.

What gets lost is exposure itself.

The grasslands of Baniyari, in Bandipora, produced one such moment: a group of children, asked

what they wanted to grow up to be, answered in unison that they wanted to be teachers.

Asked why none dreamed of medicine, one child answered simply that women are not doctors.

The only professional woman she had ever seen was her schoolteacher.

Urban students, for all their access, live inside a similarly narrow mirror, one that reflects only a white coat or a bureaucratic chair.

But some are stepping outside that frame.

Humanities students are learning Python, while former droppers are studying financial markets, forming debate circles, volunteering in policy and conservation work that builds the real-world grounding these exams actually reward.

Commerce builds financial literacy, while Humanities sharpens the communication and cultural judgment that law, media, and public service depend on. Science degrees feed the data and research economy now hiring faster than government cadres ever could.

None of this argues against ambition. It rather bats for widening it.

Kashmiri youth are not asking to step outside the national system, they are yearning for a fair shot inside it, one where hard work still converts into opportunity, and where a profession's status stops outweighing its purpose.

The neon glow of the coaching billboards will keep drawing crowds until families believe that a designer, a farmer, or a historian has succeeded just as fully as a doctor.

Until then, the valley's brightest minds will keep waiting outside glass doors, watching the clock, hoping the next result finally proves their years were not wasted.

— The author is a Political Science graduate from Amar Singh College, Srinagar, and is currently pursuing a Master's degree at Jamia Millia Islamia. He can be reached at inamahangar29@gmail.com.

The Forest Remembers

Returning to Hirpora, an environmentalist confronts the changes wrought by human pressure and a warming climate.



Dr. Mubashir Jeelani

The road to Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary challenged many assumptions I had long held about Kashmir's forests and forced me to confront a difficult question: why do our landscapes seem healthiest only when human pressure eases?

That question accompanied me throughout a recent visit to Hirpora in Shopian with my college students.

I had gone expecting fresh mountain air, healthy streams and forests rich with life. Memory also played its part because I knew the sanctuary through earlier visits and years of studying environmental science.

Comparison came naturally, and the contrast felt impossible to ignore.

Hirpora still possesses immense beauty, although signs of ecological strain have become increasingly visible.

The COVID-19 lockdowns remain one of the clearest environmental lessons of recent history. Rivers cleared, air pollution fell, wildlife reclaimed spaces usually dominated by people and ecosystems responded with surprising speed. Many people described that period as nature healing itself.

My visit to Hirpora persuaded me that something deeper had happened.

Reduced human pressure gave natural systems room to recover. That lesson still stands today, years after the lockdowns ended.

Hirpora shows that recovery does not depend on crises. Forests, streams and wildlife respond when human choices become more thoughtful.

Environmental protection grows through restraint, awareness and long-term commitment rather than temporary breaks forced by extraordinary events.

Walking through the sanctuary, I found myself comparing its present condition with both its past and the crowded urban environment where most of us now spend our lives. That comparison produced an uncomfortable conclusion.

Parts of this landscape have shifted from rich natural ecosystems toward increasingly degraded conditions, and the transition continues unless

people change course.

My imagination filled many gaps that the landscape itself could no longer fill.

Hirpora once supported thriving populations of markhor, deer, ibex, vultures, monkeys and countless bird species. Those animals remain associated with this landscape, although the richness I expected seemed far less visible during my visit.

Stepping off the bus, I sensed a place still alive but carrying visible signs of prolonged human pressure.

Streams especially caught my attention.

Mountain brooks that should sparkle with remarkable clarity appeared murky in several places. Exhaust fumes drifted through valleys where clean mountain air should dominate. Trees stood along the roadside almost like silent witnesses to gradual ecological decline.

None of these observations existed in isolation. Together they formed a picture of an ecosystem absorbing years of cumulative disturbance.

Small details often reveal the biggest environmental truths. Fallen logs once fascinated me during my university years because my teachers explained how they supported insects, fungi and countless microscopic forms of life that sustain entire forest food chains.

During this visit I searched beneath similar logs and found very little activity. Missing insects may seem insignificant to casual visitors. Ecologists understand that such changes often signal deeper ecological stress.

The mountains themselves also appeared different.

Soil that once felt moist underfoot seemed considerably drier. Snow remained largely absent from the foothills, appearing only around Pir Ki Gali and even there without the permanence earlier generations associated with these elevations.

Rising temperatures continue to alter Himalayan landscapes, and Hirpora appears to be experiencing those shifts alongside the rest of Kashmir.

Human activity remained visible throughout the journey.

Small trucks transported livestock while nomadic communities moved their herds toward Shopian. Mountain slopes displayed fresh scars from landslides. Dense green corridors that I expected beside the highway appeared thinner than memory suggested.

These sights reveal an ecosystem under growing pressure from climate change, expanding infrastructure and tourism.

Hirpora made one truth impossible to ignore: lasting prosperity depends on living within ecological limits.

Responsible tourism provides one practical starting point.

Sensitive landscapes benefit when visitor

numbers remain manageable, waste receives proper treatment and wildlife habitats remain free from unnecessary disturbance.

Controlled use of natural resources, stronger environmental education and conservation-centred public policy also strengthen ecological health while supporting local livelihoods.

Evidence from elsewhere supports the same conclusion.

The Aral Sea once ranked among the world's largest inland lakes, supporting biodiversity, moderating climate and sustaining thriving fishing communities. Large-scale diversion of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers for irrigation transformed that ecosystem into one associated with disease, economic hardship and environmental instability. Human decisions altered nature, and nature returned those consequences to human society.

Kashmir offers similar examples much closer to home.

Dal Lake once stood as a flourishing freshwater ecosystem before years of pollution and uncontrolled development undermined its ecological balance. Restoration efforts continue today because communities and governments recognise that environmental decline eventually affects public health, local economies and daily life.

Dachigam National Park tells another chapter of the same story.

Dense forests, clean streams and healthy populations of Hangul once sustained ecological balance around Srinagar. Human pressure gradually weakened that balance, contributing to growing concerns about water availability and climatic shifts that now influence the wider region.

Fortunately, environmental history also contains encouraging stories.

Community-led plantation drives around Hirpora, catchment treatment programmes in the Dachigam landscape, restoration work within Dal Lake and government social forestry initiatives demonstrate that damaged ecosystems respond positively when people invest sustained effort and scientific planning.

Hirpora finally taught me something simple. Human choices produced much of the environmental decline visible today. Human choices can also restore these landscapes.

Nature asks for thoughtful companionship rather than complete human absence.

That lesson feels far more powerful than any temporary environmental reset created by a global pandemic because it places responsibility exactly where it belongs, with all of us.

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The Road Less Travelled

The valley's real richness lies beyond its famous tourist pictures, in remote meadows, village traditions and landscapes that need protection.



Mehak Manzoor

The first thing Kashmir teaches a visitor is this: the famous picture rarely tells the full story.

Travel brochures present the same frame every season. A shikara glides through Dal Lake. Snow gathers on Gulmarg's slopes. Tourists crowd the cafés of Pahalgam with phones raised toward the mountains.

These places deserve their fame, and each one still holds enormous beauty. Still, Kashmir reveals its true character far away from packed parking lots and crowded markets.

A different Kashmir waits beyond the postcard.

Roads winding through Budgam lead toward Yusmarg, where pine forests open into vast green meadows touched by mountain light. Horses graze near streams that move with startling clarity. Families sit beneath tall fir trees while children wander through open fields without noise or rush. Air feels cooler there, cleaner too, and conversation slows naturally.

Doodhpathri gives another version of the valley's soul. Water rushes through polished stones while rolling grasslands spread toward distant peaks. Shepherds guide flocks through the hills as wooden homes stand beside narrow paths lined with wildflowers. Visitors find space to walk without interruption and time to notice details often missed in crowded destinations.

Bangus Valley leaves the deepest impression of all.

Northern Kashmir still shelters this vast stretch of untouched land, where forests meet open pastures under enormous skies. Mobile signals weaken, commercial activity remains

limited, and silence gains meaning there because nature still commands the landscape.

Travellers arriving in Bangus discover something rare in modern tourism: a place that exists for itself rather than for spectacle.

That experience changes the way people understand Kashmir.

Tourism in the valley has long revolved around a few heavily promoted locations. Huge seasonal crowds place enormous pressure on roads, lakes, forests and waste systems. Popular destinations struggle through traffic congestion, plastic pollution and unchecked construction every year.

Hidden destinations provide a different path forward, one that benefits both travellers and local communities.

These spots create opportunities for eco-tourism rooted in care rather than extraction. Trekking routes encourage low-impact travel. Camping introduces visitors to remote landscapes without heavy construction. Village homestays generate income for families while preserving local architecture and food traditions. Small handicraft sellers gain customers directly instead of relying on distant middlemen.

Economic benefits reach places that tourism once ignored.

Villages tucked into forests or mountain valleys now welcome travellers eager for authentic experiences rather than curated entertainment. Guests eat home-cooked Kashmiri meals prepared with local ingredients. Elders share stories about seasonal migrations, farming traditions and old customs tied closely to the land. Women sell woven crafts and embroidered garments produced within their communities. Young people discover employment opportunities close to home instead of seeking work far away.

Culture gains strength through this exchange.

Commercial tourism often reduces places into visual consumption. Hidden Kashmir gives something richer and more human.

Travellers participate in daily life rather than merely observing scenery through a car window. Morning prayers echo through villages. Smoke rises from kitchen hearths during cold evenings. Shepherd dogs bark through alpine

pastures while streams move beside narrow footpaths carved over generations.

These experiences stay with people far longer than photographs.

A stronger tourism model also emerges through this approach. Sustainable travel depends on balance between access and preservation. Kashmir's lesser-known destinations still possess that balance, though careful planning matters enormously now.

Visitor numbers continue to rise each season as social media exposes new landscapes to wider audiences. That attention brings opportunity along with serious responsibility.

Local authorities, travel operators and visitors all hold a role here.

Cleanliness requires constant attention in ecologically sensitive areas. Plastic waste damages forests and streams rapidly in mountain environments. Construction policies need clear limits that protect natural scenery instead of replacing it with concrete expansion. Cultural respect matters equally. Villages welcoming tourists deserve consideration for local customs, traditions and religious practices.

Responsible travel begins with humility.

Visitors entering hidden Kashmir step into living communities rather than untouched backdrops created for entertainment. Respect for local life preserves the very experiences travellers seek in the first place.

Tourism succeeds when communities gain economic security while landscapes retain their natural character.

Kashmir stands at an important moment in its tourism story.

Famous destinations will always attract visitors, and rightly so. Still, the valley's future depends on broader thinking that values sustainability, cultural connection and environmental care alongside economic growth. Hidden Kashmir already provides that possibility through its forests, meadows and villages where life still follows the land instead of commercial demand.

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Army Must Have 20-30-Year Strategic Vision: DM

Releases land warfare doctrine, stresses joint operations and advanced technology.

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday called on the Indian Army to adopt a long-term strategic vision while remaining prepared to respond to immediate and emerging security challenges, stressing that an integrated approach was crucial to success in modern warfare.

Addressing the Army Commanders' Conference in New Delhi, Singh urged senior military leadership to closely monitor geopolitical and regional developments and maintain readiness to deal with potential threats.

He emphasised the need for a strategic vision spanning the next 20 to 30 years, while ensuring that the Army remained equipped to address evolving operational requirements.

During the conference, senior Army commanders carried out

a comprehensive review of the force's combat readiness along the borders with China and Pakistan.

Singh also released a land warfare doctrine aimed at preparing the Army to meet the challenges posed by the changing nature of warfare and future conflicts.

He stressed that military strategies must remain dynamic and flexible to enable timely adjustments in response to changing circumstances.

Lauding the armed forces for adapting to evolving operational requirements, the Defence Minister said innovative thinking, enhanced synergy, better coordination and advanced weaponry had contributed to the success of Operation Sindoor.

The operation, he said, had sent a clear message that India would not hesitate to take necessary measures to safeguard

its national interests.

Singh also appreciated the armed forces' restructuring efforts, particularly the growing use of drones and modern technologies to strengthen operational capabilities.

He called for continuous assessment of military preparedness and improvements in line with emerging security requirements.

Highlighting the growing importance of technological capabilities, the Defence Minister stressed the need to accelerate work in artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, data analytics, cybersecurity and secure communication networks.

He observed that while security challenges were expanding across air, maritime, space and cyber domains, land warfare and ground forces would continue to remain indispensable.

Singh emphasised that future

military success would depend on an integrated approach, multi-domain capabilities and seamless coordination during joint operations.

He also highlighted India's efforts towards self-reliance in defence manufacturing, attributing the growth of the sector to coordinated efforts by various stakeholders.

"Amidst the changing global landscape, Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Government is prioritising Aatmanirbharta in defence. In the financial year 2025-26, defence production surged to a record Rs 1.78 lakh crore, with defence exports reaching an all-time high of approximately Rs 38,000 crore," he said.

Referring to the 'Year of Reforms - 2025', Singh said reforms were a continuous process and their success depended on effective implementation.

KIIT-KISS Felicitates Asian Games Medal Winners

Partha Chatterjee

Kolkatta: KIIT and KISS felicitated their athletes who won medals at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya and the 23rd Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, recognising their achievements and announcing cash rewards for the medal winners.

According to the institutions, 57 athletes won 21 medals at the Asian Games, while 14 athletes secured five medals at the Commonwealth Games.

Prof. Achyuta Samanta, founder of KIIT and KISS, felicitated the achievers and announced a total of Rs 2.5 crore in cash awards in recognition of their performances. He also announced a reward of Rs 1 crore for every athlete from the institutions who wins an Olympic gold medal at the Los Angeles 2028 Games.



The institutions attributed the athletes' success to sustained investment in sports training, access to world-class facilities and opportunities for young talent to compete at the highest level. Their support includes free training and open trials, aimed at identifying and nurturing promising athletes, particularly from tribal communities.

Emphasising the importance of balancing education with

sports, Samanta has consistently advocated an approach that enables young people to pursue academic and sporting excellence simultaneously.

The felicitation ceremony celebrated the athletes' achievements while reaffirming KIIT and KISS's commitment to developing sporting talent and providing opportunities for young athletes to represent India at international competitions.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Gets Two

to exceptions permitted by law.

The law further stipulates that trials must be completed within three months from the date of filing of the chargesheet.

The Act provides a legal framework to address unfair practices in public examinations, including question paper leaks, unauthorised assistance to candidates and other forms of malpractice affecting the integrity of examinations.

The designation of the two courts establishes dedicated judicial forums in the Jammu and Srinagar divisions for handling cases registered under the legislation.

LG Interacts With

to Jammu and Kashmir as part of their Mid-Career Training Programme, according to an official spokesperson.

During the interaction, the visiting officers shared their professional insights and discussed opportunities to strengthen the Union Territory's engagement with the international community.

The discussions also covered Jammu and Kashmir's developmental initiatives, youth empowerment, promotion of sports and opportunities to facilitate international events in the region.

The interaction highlighted areas where international engagement could help showcase the Union Territory's tourism potential, development initiatives and opportunities in emerging sectors.

The delegation comprised Sarvejit Soodan, Vimarsh Aryan and Ovessa Iqbal.

3.5 Lakh Plants,

offering visitors an opportunity to experience the autumn landscape against the backdrop of the surrounding mountains.

Speaking at the inauguration, Omar said the garden was introduced last year to create distinctive floral attractions marking the changing seasons in Kashmir.

"This is the second year of bloom at Bagh-e-Gul-Dawood in Srinagar. This garden was started last year, and the purpose was to mark the beginning of our tourism season and to mark the end of the year in Srinagar. Both these gardens are special and unique to Srinagar," he said.

The Chief Minister said that while the Tulip Garden draws large numbers of visitors at the beginning of the year, the government was working to develop a comparable attraction for the autumn months.

"We have been trying to increase our tourism season. You must have seen that many people visit the Tulip Garden at the beginning of the year. But during autumn season, we have tried to add something special to show to people. That is why this Chrysanthemum Garden has been developed by the Department of Floriculture," he said.

Omar said he had observed improvements in the garden compared to last year and expressed confidence that it would continue to develop as a distinctive attraction for visitors.

"I have seen the difference between last year and this year. We will continue to develop it in the same way," he said.

Highlighting the role of local floriculture, the Chief Minister said much of the plant material used in the chrysanthemum garden was produced locally and could be propagated within Jammu and Kashmir.

"One big advantage of this garden is that the bulk of the plant material is indigenous and some quantity of bulbs is procured from outside the country to keep it running. Much of the plant material of this garden is our own. We propagate it and multiply it. We will try to do something new in this garden every year," he said.

He said the government intended to introduce new features and attractions in the coming years to sustain public

interest and strengthen the garden's appeal.

Inviting residents and tourists to visit the garden, Omar encouraged people to enjoy the floral displays and take photographs as souvenirs of their visit.

"On this occasion, I would like to invite the visitors and local people to come and take advantage of the beauty of this garden. Take some pictures and take them back as a souvenir," he said.

The initiative seeks to diversify Kashmir's tourism offerings beyond the spring tulip season by creating an additional attraction during autumn. The garden's extensive floral displays and visitor facilities are expected to add to Srinagar's seasonal tourism options while highlighting the potential of locally produced flowers.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Minister for Agriculture Production Javid Ahmed Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Habba Kadal Shamim Firdous, MLA Hazratbal Salman Sagar, MLA Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Floriculture, Parks and Gardens Zubair Ahmad and Director Floriculture Kashmir Mathooraa Masoom, among other officials.

Snowfall In

recorded a maximum temperature of 14.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 2.8 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 19.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 2 degrees Celsius.

Winter Power

may receive 655 MWs un-allocated power from the pool of northern region utilities from 01-11-2026 to 30-11-2026 or modified otherwise.

It also said that from 01-12-2026 to 31-12-2026, J&K and Ladakh may receive 845 MWs un-allocated power from the pool of northern region utilities followed by 845 MWs from 01-01-2027 to 31-01-2027 or modified otherwise and 655 MWs from 01-02-2027 to 28-02-2027 respectively.

As already reported by this news agency, Jammu and Kashmir is staring at a repeat of last winter's 'power crisis', with demand expected to match or exceed last year's peak while hydro generation stays lean. Officials warn that unless action is taken now, the same conditions will return.

The official documents in this regard said "Last winter, demand in the J&K control area rose to around 3,200 MW as heating load picked up in the early morning and night hours."

"Demand is expected to be similar or higher this winter, and hydro generation is likely to be lean again, so the same conditions are likely to return unless action is taken in advance," it reads.(KNO)

CM Likely To Meet

Chief Minister, against the maximum permissible strength of nine under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, leaving three ministerial positions vacant.

The proposed expansion has generated considerable political interest, particularly over the induction of new faces, regional representation and the allocation of portfolios.

The Congress, which supports the National Conference-led government from outside, has maintained that it will not join the ministry until statehood is restored to Jammu and Kashmir.

The Omar Abdullah government has been functioning with its existing ministerial strength since assuming office in October 2024, with several ministers handling multiple portfolios.

Sources said the proposed meeting would also cover broader administrative and governance-related matters, although the cabinet expansion is expected to be among the key issues under discussion.

There has been no official confirmation of the proposed meeting or the final schedule for the cabinet expansion. (KNS)

J&K Bank Opens

CEO Amitava Chatterjee in the presence of senior officials from both institutions.

Those present included RBI Deputy General Managers Ram Sarup and Vinod Kumar, J&K Bank General Manager and Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta, Deputy General Manager Anup Bhat and Zonal Head (Jammu) Chandrika Parihar.

Speaking on the occasion, Chatterjee said strengthening currency management infrastructure would improve convenience for customers and support the cash requirements of banks operating in the region.

"Strengthening our currency management infrastructure is an investment in the convenience of the people we serve," he said, adding that the facility would help J&K Bank branches and other banks aligned with the currency chest meet customers' cash requirements.

He said the infrastructure would strengthen the bank's capacity to serve households, traders and businesses across the region.

Highlighting the continued importance of physical banking services alongside digital transactions, Chatterjee said dependable access to cash remained essential for many customers and local economic activities.

"Even as we expand digital banking, dependable access to cash remains essential for many customers and local economic activities," he said.

He added that the bank was focused on strengthening both its digital services and physical infrastructure to meet the diverse needs of customers, while acknowledging the RBI's continued guidance in improving currency management systems and practices.

RBI Regional Director Prabhakar Jha said efficient currency management was an essential component of public service and played an important role in ensuring the smooth functioning of the banking system.

He noted that currency chests help maintain the availability of banknotes and coins and facilitate the withdrawal of soiled notes from circulation.

Jha said strengthening such infrastructure supported the banking system's ability to meet the currency requirements of the public.

He also emphasised the importance of sound operational controls, adherence to prescribed procedures and coordination among banks to ensure secure and efficient currency distribution.

The commissioning of the facility marks another step in J&K Bank's efforts to strengthen the infrastructure supporting its service network and contribute to the region's banking and economic activities.

9 Subsidiary Jails

the Prisoners Act, 1900, read with Section 21 of the General Clauses Act, 1897.

Subsidiary jails are usually created in police complexes, administrative buildings, or other government premises to meet temporary requirements for housing prisoners, particularly during law-and-order situations and overcrowding.

Once notified, these buildings acquire the status of a jail, allowing prisoners to be kept there.

When the Government withdraws such notifications, the buildings cease to function as jails. (KNO)

Why Won't This

she senses a threat to her young.

Any intervention needs trained personnel who can locate the animals and decide how to capture or move them safely.

Residents say they have repeatedly

sought help. They still want to know when the grass will be cleared and what the department intends to do while the bear remains near their homes.

Gagribal's location makes the episode particularly striking.

The neighbourhood lies along Boulevard, beside Dal Lake and within the wider landscape of wooded slopes and settlements around Srinagar. The bear has appeared in a part of the city associated with homes, traffic and visitors, turning an encounter with wildlife into an intensely personal crisis.

The episode also comes amid a series of bear sightings in Srinagar and its outskirts, including Harwan, Hazratbal, Dalgate and the city's civil lines.

On October 5, a 32-year-old man, Liyaqat Ahmad Kuli, suffered injuries when a bear attacked him while he worked in a paddy field in Dara Daird Khore, Harwan. He was taken to hospital and reported to be in stable condition. The incident prompted local residents to demand measures to prevent further attacks.

Two nomads also suffered bear attacks in the upper reaches of Dachigam during the summer. Mohammad Ashraf was attacked on July 26, while Mohammad Akram, a nomad from Rajouri, sustained severe injuries on August 22. Army personnel helped both men reach hospital.

Those attacks took place closer to forest habitat. In Gagribal, the animal has remained near a residential property for over a fortnight, leaving a family to contend with the risk during daily activities.

Other incidents show how bears have entered parts of Srinagar where residents might rarely expect to encounter them.

In September, a mother bear and her two cubs were rescued from Buchwara in Dalgate after residents repeatedly contacted the Wildlife Department. An eight-member team found the animals in a den and worked to capture them before releasing them at Dachigam National Park.

"We received a lot of calls. There was a strong apprehension of man-animal conflict as it often came down to the habitation," Wildlife Warden Altaf Hussain was quoted as saying.

In September itself, a bear and its cub were spotted in Jawahar Nagar, part of Srinagar's civil lines. Wildlife personnel conducted an operation lasting 21 hours before declaring the area safe. Reports also recorded an injury in Lal Mandi and sightings of two cubs near BB Cantt.

The previous winter brought further sightings around the New City cluster.

In late November and early December 2025, a bear was seen at the University of Kashmir in Hazratbal, near Nigeen and around the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences in Soura. The animal appeared on CCTV footage as wildlife teams searched for it, with reports placing it in several neighbourhoods over successive days.

The sightings have exposed the difficulty of tracking animals that move through forest edges and residential areas.

A bear may disappear into dense vegetation before officials reach a reported location, then emerge somewhere else. Residents may see it repeatedly without knowing where it goes during the day or when it will return.

The official figures show the wider scale of human-wildlife conflict in Kashmir. Information obtained under the Right to Information Act shows that the Wetlands Division Kashmir recorded 352 incidents between April 2025 and August 2026.

The division recorded 214 incidents during the 2025-26 financial year, resulting in four injuries. Its teams installed 123 cages, drove 168 animals back towards their natural habitat and rescued 40 animals alive.

During the current financial year, officials recorded another 138 incidents through August, resulting in two deaths and two injuries. Teams captured or tranquilised 44 animals and installed 86 traps during that period.

The same figures reveal the pressures on the division.

Of 89 sanctioned positions, 43 were vacant, leaving 46 employees in place. Twenty-one of the 40 sanctioned wildlife guard posts were vacant, alongside four forester positions. The division also lacked a specialised veterinary facility for treating sick or injured wildlife.

Those figures concern the Wetlands Division and do not establish the staffing position of the team responding to Dar's complaint. They nevertheless show the operational demands facing wildlife personnel as encounters become a recurring concern.

The causes extend beyond the presence of individual animals. Harwan and other settlements near Dachigam combine forest margins, orchards, agricultural fields and expanding construction. Wildlife experts have identified habitat disturbance, accessible food waste and fallen fruit as factors that can draw bears towards inhabited areas.

A 2024 report documented how bears enter farms, orchards and villages in search of food, exposing residents and agricultural workers to danger.

"The challenge is to protect residents while limiting harm to wildlife," the wildlife official quoted above said. "People should avoid approaching bears or cubs, and forest guards need a reliable system to receive sightings and reach affected neighbourhoods promptly. Clearing vegetation where necessary, assessing the animal movements and coordinating trained rescue personnel can help reduce the risk."

In Gagribal, however, the immediate question remains painfully simple.

The bear has been seen, residents have raised the alarm and an official has identified the grass as an obstacle to capture. Dar's family still has to live beside the animal.

The viral videos made the bear a subject of public curiosity. They could not show what happened after the cameras stopped recording, when residents returned indoors and the animal remained nearby.

The problem is immediate and intimidating. Dense grass can conceal a bear, making it harder for personnel to assess its movements. The cubs add another complication because a mother bear may react defensively if Mehraj Ud Din Dar and his family are still waiting to step outside without fear.

Division Bench relied on the Supreme Court's ruling in Union of India v. Ex. Flt. Lt. G.S. Bajwa (2003), which held that the right to inspect court-martial proceedings at reasonable times could satisfy the requirements of natural justice and that an accused could not insist upon daily copies of the proceedings.

The Bench observed that Section 87 of the BSF Act makes the Indian Evidence Act applicable to Security Force Court proceedings subject to the provisions of the special legislation. It held that Rule 129 operates within this statutory framework and does not extinguish the accused's right to inspect the record.

The court also emphasised that Article 21 guarantees a fair opportunity to defend oneself but does not invariably require that the opportunity take the form of possession of certified copies at every stage of a trial.

Referring to Article 33 of the Constitution, the Bench said Parliament has the power to restrict or modify the application of fundamental rights to members of the armed forces and forces charged with maintaining public order to ensure the proper discharge of their duties and maintenance of discipline.

It noted that the BSF Act provides for inspection of proceedings, representation and assistance during trial, review, confirmation of findings and sentences, and further statutory remedies against adverse decisions.

The court held that Rule 129 could not be considered in isolation from these safeguards and that the distinction between proceedings awaiting confirmation and those already confirmed had a rational basis within the special statutory framework governing Security Force Courts.

It further observed that no material had been placed before it to demonstrate that Singh had actually been prevented from inspecting the proceedings, cross-examining a material witness or raising a specific defence because of the denial of copies.

"The existence of a possibility that a copy may assist a defence is not sufficient to invalidate a rule which forms part of a special statutory procedure," the Bench observed.

Allowing the appeal, the court declared Rule 129 constitutionally valid and held that non-supply of certified copies before confirmation of the finding and sentence does not, by itself, violate the right to a fair trial under Article 21.

The Bench clarified that its judgment would have no bearing on the final adjudication of Singh's guilt or punishment and directed the competent authorities to proceed in accordance with the BSF Act and Rules.

"The allegation that the respondent (Singh) wilfully abandoned his designated picket while on active duty and fatally shot his colleague within the campus bears directly upon the discipline and mutual trust essential to the functioning of the Force," the Bench said.

A member entrusted with arms for the discharge of official duties assumes a solemn responsibility towards both the institution and those serving alongside him, the court said.

"If established, the use of those arms to perpetrate a lethal assault upon a colleague would constitute a profound betrayal of that responsibility and a serious threat to unit cohesion and institutional order," the court said.

Such conduct, the court said, calls for firm application of the law through the prescribed adjudicatory process. Its gravity, however, cannot substitute for proof, extinguish procedural safeguards, or foreclose consideration of any legally relevant defence or mitigating circumstance.

"Our determination of the constitutional validity of Rule 129 rests upon the statutory framework and its safeguards, independently of the merits of the accusation."

CM Omar Launches ₹25 Crore Development Projects in Beerwah

Observer New Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday inaugurated and laid foundation stones for infrastructure projects worth ₹25 crore in Beerwah, Budgam, aimed at improving connectivity, strengthening electricity supply and upgrading civic amenities.

The Chief Minister inaugurated a two-span truss girder bridge over Nallah Sukhnag, constructed at a cost of ₹8 crore, with each span measuring 35 metres. Describing the bridge as a long-pending demand of the local population, he said its opening would improve connectivity and ease movement for residents.

He also laid the foundation stones for the beautification of Nallah Sukhnag, including walkways, lighting and river-front facilities, and the beau-



tification of Beerwah town, estimated to cost around ₹6.33 crore. The projects are expected to improve public spaces and enhance the area's tourism potential.

Among the major power sector initiatives is a Transformer Repairing Workshop, approved at a cost of ₹4.85 crore under the UT Capex Budget 2026-27. The facility is expected to repair and rebuild around 1,000 damaged distribution transformers annually, reducing repair delays and helping minimise power disruptions, particularly during winter.

The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for a 10 MVA receiving station at Sail, Beerwah, costing ₹4.50 crore. The facility is expected to ease the load on neighbouring stations, improve voltage levels in Sail and adjoining villages, and reduce unscheduled power

cuts and technical losses. Omar Abdullah said the receiving station was expected to become operational within four to five months.

Additionally, he laid the foundation stone for a Sub-Divisional Office building at Sonpah, approved at a cost of ₹82.29 lakh. The building is expected to improve administrative functioning and facilitate access to public services.

The projects are aimed at strengthening essential infrastructure and improving the quality of life for residents of Beerwah and adjoining areas.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Beerwah MLA Dr Shafi Ahmed Wani, senior officials and other officers.

RBI Jammu Launches Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Jammu on Friday inaugurated the Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign at Gurha Singh, Shamachak, Jammu, to facilitate re-KYC, promote access to social security schemes and strengthen awareness about digital frauds.

The nationwide campaign, being undertaken in accordance with the directions of the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and the RBI, will continue from October 21 to December 31, 2026. It aims to strengthen financial inclusion by facilitating re-KYC, Central KYC (C-KYC), nomination facilities and access to various social security schemes.

The campaign was inaugurated by Prabhakar Jha, Regional Director, RBI, Jammu, in the presence of senior officials from RBI, J&K Bank, Jammu and Kashmir Grameen Bank and State Bank of India. Those present included Vibha Gupta, Deputy General Manager,



RBI; Ram Saroop, Deputy General Manager, RBI; Ashok Gupta, General Manager, J&K Bank; Chandrika Parihar, Deputy General Manager, J&K Bank; Nidhi Jamwal, Cluster Head, J&K Bank; Lalit Prakash, Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir Grameen Bank; and Chandan Mohan Bhat, Assistant General Manager, SBI and Lead Bank Officer for Jammu district.

Addressing the gathering, Regional Director RBI, Jammu, emphasised the importance of completing re-KYC formalities to ensure uninterrupted banking services and the smooth operation of bank accounts. He also highlighted the role of social security schemes in providing financial protection and improving the lives of

beneficiaries.

Gurha Singh, Shamachak, a prominent landmark in Jammu that attracts lakhs of visitors and devotees during the Baba Jitto Jhiri Mela, offers an effective platform to disseminate financial awareness messages among a large audience.

The camp was organised by J&K Bank, Gurha Singh, in coordination with UTLBC J&K, the J&K Bank Financial Inclusion (FI) Team and the Lead District Manager's Office, Jammu.

Members of the public have been advised to complete the re-KYC of their bank accounts with updated address and identity proof by visiting their nearest bank branch or Business Correspondent during the campaign period.

BIS Strengthens Consumer Outreach Through Awareness Programme

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Jammu & Kashmir Branch Office (JKBO), organized an awareness programme at Town Hall, Municipal Council Anantnag, on 23 October 2026, as part of its ongoing outreach initiatives to promote quality consciousness, consumer awareness and the wider adoption of Indian Standards. The programme witnessed the participation of more than 140 stakeholders, including Municipal Council officials, traders, representatives of trade and federation associations, and consumers.

The programme aimed to strengthen awareness among local stakeholders about the role of BIS in ensuring product quality, safety and reliability, while encouraging responsible consumer practices and greater engagement with BIS initiatives at the grassroots level.



The programme was held in the presence of Mirza Asif Ali, Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Anantnag, who appreciated the outreach efforts of BIS and emphasized the importance of creating awareness about quality standards among traders and consumers. He encouraged participants and the general public to use the 'BIS Care App' to verify the authenticity of BIS-certified products and lodge complaints regarding quality-related concerns. He also emphasized the need for organizing more such awareness programmes to strengthen consumer awareness in the region.

Shri Ashish Dwivedi, Standard Promotion Officer, BIS JKBO, welcomed the participants and delivered

a presentation on BIS activities and its role in promoting standardization, quality assurance and consumer protection. He highlighted the importance of Indian Standards in everyday life and sensitized participants about the significance of purchasing products that conform to applicable Indian Standards and carry the appropriate BIS certification mark.

Saaqib Raahi, Scientist-C/Deputy Director, BIS JKBO, provided detailed information about BIS initiatives, including the Product Certification Scheme, the significance of the ISI Mark, hallmarking of gold and silver jewellery, and mechanisms available to consumers for verifying the authenticity of certified products.

Over 30 Kashmiri Umrah Pilgrims Stranded In KSA Amid Flight Suspensions

Agencies

SRINAGAR: At least 34 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir who travelled to Saudi Arabia for Umrah have been stranded following the suspension of flights, prompting appeals for urgent government intervention to facilitate their safe and early return home.

According to the affected pilgrims, they were scheduled to return to Kashmir on October 13 but were unable to travel after airlines suspended services amid security concerns in the region.

The stranded pilgrims, according to KNO, have urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to intervene and coordinate with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and airlines to arrange their return.

Some passengers have managed to re-

turn through alternative routes and connecting flights, but the high cost of such travel has made it unaffordable for many, they said.

With their stay in Saudi Arabia extending beyond schedule, several pilgrims said their financial resources were running low, making it increasingly difficult to meet expenses related to accommodation, food and medicines.

The Indian Embassy in Riyadh said IndiGo has extended the suspension of its Saudi Arabia operations. Flights to and from Riyadh will remain suspended until October 31, while services connecting Jeddah, Dammam and Madinah have been cancelled until October 27.

Other Indian carriers have also temporarily suspended operations. Air India and Air India Express have cancelled flights on all Saudi routes

until October 24, while Akasa Air has extended its suspension until October 27.

The flight disruptions have affected Indian nationals travelling to and from Saudi Arabia, including Umrah pilgrims, prompting Indian diplomatic missions to coordinate with airlines and tour operators for their return.

The MEA said the Indian Embassy in Riyadh and the Consulate General in Jeddah are working with airlines and tour operators to assist affected passengers. The missions are also providing welfare support through community volunteers and have set up round-the-clock control rooms for assistance.

The Indian mission has advised those requiring urgent travel to explore transit options through Bahrain, Kuwait or Qatar, subject to applicable visa requirements—(KNO)

DC Pulwama Assures Support For Early Construction Of Mata Mahakali Asthan



PULWAMA: The Sewaks of Mata Mahakali Asthan, Tral, met newly appointed Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, K.K. Sidha, and extended their congratulations and best wishes to him on assuming charge.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner assured the delegation of the district administration's full support and cooperation in facilitating the early construction of Mata Mahakali Asthan in Tral.

The Sewaks welcomed the assurance and expressed gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner for his positive response. They expressed hope that the continued support of the district administration would help expedite the long-awaited construction work and ensure its completion at the earliest.

The meeting focused on the need for administrative cooperation to facilitate progress on the project, with the Sewaks expressing optimism that the Deputy Commissioner's assurance would help move the construction process forward. (Observer News Service)

J&K Revises Medical Reimbursement Rules, Caps Private Hospital Costs

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government has amended the J&K Civil Services (Medical Attendance and Allowance) Rules, 1990, revising eligibility criteria for dependent family members and updating medical reimbursement limits.

Under the amended rules, family members will be considered wholly dependent if their monthly income does not exceed Rs 9,000 plus dearness allowance. The revised definition also includes dependent divorced or separated daughters and stepmothers. The amendment expands the list of reimbursable cardiac devices and introduces fixed reimbursement ceilings for artificial appliances.

It also caps reimbursement for treatment at select premium private hospitals, including the Apollo group, Escort Heart Institute, ILBS Delhi and Jaslok Hospital, Mumbai, at the rates applicable at AIIMS, New Delhi.

The changes have been notified through a government order amending the existing rules. (Observer News Service)

Nurses' Federation Flags Delay In Recruitment Rules For Five New GMCs

SRINAGAR: The All India Registered Nurses Federation (AIRNF), Jammu and Kashmir UT Committee, has raised serious concerns over the prolonged delay in finalising Service Recruitment Rules (SRRs) for non-gazetted employees of five new Government Medical Colleges (GMCs), alleging that nearly seven years of uncertainty have left employees facing career stagnation and aspiring candidates waiting for permanent recruitment opportunities.

Speaking to KNO, Vishav Sharma, State President of AIRNF, said the rules for non-gazetted employees of five new GMCs Rajouri, Doda, Kathua, Baramulla and Anantnag have remained pending since 2019 despite repeated assurances from the government and successive administrative heads of the Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department.

He said the failure to finalise the rules had raised serious questions about administrative accountability, employee welfare and the functioning of the department.

Sharma said September 30, 2026, was publicly communicated as the deadline for finalising the rules. He said the deadline was reportedly conveyed through the government's Information and Public Relations Department, the then Commissioner Secretary of H&ME, the Health Minister and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who had indicated that the process was at its final stage.

"Despite these assurances, the employees are still waiting for the rules. A publicly announced deadline has little meaning if it is not followed by a concrete decision," he said, seeking an explanation for the failure to meet the deadline and clarification about the administrative hurdles delaying the process.

Sharma said six IAS officers had reportedly held charge as Secretary or the corresponding senior administrative head of the H&ME Department since 2019, yet the issue remained unresolved.

He said successive changes in leadership could not be allowed to become an excuse for prolonged administrative inaction, adding that the government should review the official record to identify the stages at which the process was delayed and fix responsibility wherever warranted.

The federation also highlighted the disparity in career progression between gazetted and non-gazetted employees, claiming that the former had received three rounds of promotions or promotional advancements since 2019, while the latter continued to face uncertainty in the absence of a clearly defined service structure.

Sharma said the delay had affected employees' career progression, promotional prospects and potential financial benefits, urging the government to initiate pending Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) proceedings and examine claims for consequential benefits under the applicable service rules. (KNO)

CS Sensitizes Departments On SDG-Aligned Budgeting

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired an inter-departmental coordination meeting to sensitise administrative departments about integrating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their budgetary proposals for the forthcoming financial year, while addressing issues and concerns relating to the implementation of the proposed SDG-aligned budgeting framework.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring; and other concerned administrative heads; SIO, NIC; and officers from various departments.

The Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to expedite the requisite formalities for operationalising the SDG-aligned budgeting framework ahead of the forthcoming budget exercise.

Emphasising the importance of technology-enabled financial monitoring, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for seamless integration of the proposed SDG Monitoring Dashboard with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) and the Budget Estimation, Allocation and Monitoring System (BEAMS). He observed that such integration would facilitate automated, real-time tracking of budgetary allocations and expenditure, thereby strengthening transparency and accountability in public spending. (Observer News Service)

LG Vinai Kumar Saxena Inaugurates Ladakh Pashmina Conclave

Observer News Service

LEH: Lieutenant Governor Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena on Friday inaugurated the two-day Ladakh Pashmina Conclave: Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet in Leh, bringing together stakeholders from across the Pashmina value chain – from nomadic Pashmina herders and artisans to entrepreneurs, industry representatives, designers, and buyers. The conclave aims to take the 'Golden Fibre of Ladakh' to the global stage. Delegates from Mongolia, Japan, and Thailand also participated in the event, opening avenues for international cooperation, knowledge exchange, and stronger market linkages for Ladakh's distinctive natural fibre.

On the occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, and the Department of Industries and Commerce, UT Ladakh, to strengthen cooperation for the promotion and development of the Pashmina sector. The Lieutenant Gov-



ernor also released a postal stamp on GI-tagged Ladakh Pashmina, recognising the unique identity, traditional craftsmanship, and cultural heritage associated with this precious fibre.

A key component of the conclave, the Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet, aims to bring Pashmina producers and enterprises closer to buyers, textile manufacturers, designers, and other market stakeholders. The platform will facilitate direct interactions, help producers understand market requirements, showcase local products, and explore business opportunities and potential commercial partnerships. Direct engagement with buyers can help reduce dependence on multiple

intermediaries and provide a greater understanding of quality, grading, processing, and traceability standards required in domestic and international markets.

Lieutenant Governor Shri Saxena said that the recognition of Ladakh Pashmina must translate into tangible economic benefits for those who produce it. "Our vision is clear: Pashmina must be produced in Ladakh, processed in Ladakh, branded as Ladakh Pashmina, and taken to the world from Ladakh," he said, underscoring the need to strengthen local value addition and ensure that the benefits reach Changpa herders, artisans, women-led self-help groups, and young entrepreneurs.

Bystander Foils Elderly Man's Attempt to Jump into Jhelum

Agencies

SRINAGAR: An elderly man was prevented from jumping into the River Jhelum from a footbridge in Srinagar after a man present at the spot intervened and

caught hold of him, averting a possible tragedy.

Eyewitnesses said that an elderly man was about to jump into the river when the bystander acted swiftly and stopped him before he could fall into the water. Police rushed

to the spot following the incident and took the elderly man along for further proceedings. He was reported to be stable.

The circumstances that prompted the man to attempt the act are being ascertained. [KNT]

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Kidney stones can recur even after treatment, making regular medical follow-up and preventive care essential, senior urologist Dr Saleem Wani said here on Friday, urging people not to panic but to seek timely medical advice and avoid ignoring the condition.

Speaking about kidney stones, Dr Wani said that the condition has been known for centuries, with evidence of kidney stones also found in

ancient 'Egyptian mummies'.

He said several factors contribute to stone formation, including dietary habits, while calcium-based stones, particularly calcium oxalate and calcium phosphate stones, are among the most common types. "Uric acid stones may also develop in association with dietary and metabolic factors, including high animal-protein intake," he said.

The senior urologist said some stones are associated with urinary tract infections and are known as struvite

or infection stones. He also referred to staghorn calculi, large stones that can occupy a substantial part of the kidney and require careful medical evaluation.

Explaining the symptoms, Dr Wani said kidney stones may cause pain in the back, side or waist region, while some patients may experience urinary symptoms. However, stones can sometimes remain unnoticed and are detected during investigations, including ultrasound examinations.



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