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Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister



CBC 19101/13/0018/2627

Kashmir's Mental Health Crisis In Focus As Experts Warn Of Hidden Childhood Trauma

The two-day SAWAB conference in Srinagar brings leading psychiatrists, psychologists and neuroscientists together to examine childhood adversity, suicide, trauma and disability inclusion

Dabirah Hassan

Srinagar: A child who suddenly withdraws from friends, a student whose grades begin to fall, or a young person struggling to cope with unexplained emotional distress may be signalling something far deeper than a passing phase.

Recognising these warning signs before they develop into serious psychological problems

was among the key messages emerging from the two-day SAWAB Annual Advanced Psychiatry Conference 2026, which concluded in Srinagar on Saturday.

Bringing together leading psychiatrists, psychologists, neurologists, educationists and community health professionals, the conference placed childhood development, psychological trauma, suicide,

resilience and disability inclusion at the

Organised by SAWAB (Supporting Always Wholeheartedly All Brokenhearted) under the leadership of its founder and director, Prof. (Dr.) Mushtaq Ahmad Margoob, the conference sought to bridge the gap between advances in psychiatric science and the everyday realities of individuals and



families experiencing psychological distress.

Held on October 23 and 24 at Nigeen Club and the Voluntary Medicare Society (VMS), Bemina, with a special evening programme at Golden Tulip, Srinagar, the event highlighted a crucial message: mental healthcare must begin before a crisis unfolds, with early identification, timely intervention and compassionate support.

THE INVISIBLE WOUNDS OF CHILDHOOD

The opening day, themed "Advancing Developmental Science Across Childhood," examined how early experiences can shape brain development, emotional regulation and psychological well-being long into adulthood.

Scientific sessions explored neuroplasticity, | [More on P6](#)

J&K Cabinet Expansion Likely Next Week

Omar Asks Ministerial Aspirants To Stop Lobbying, Says Decision Taken



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah calls on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Lok Bhawan, Srinagar.

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said the much-awaited expansion and reshuffle of his Council of Ministers would take place in the first two to three days of next week, asserting that the list of ministers had already been finalised after consultations with National Conference president Farooq Abdullah.

Speaking to reporters after meeting Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Lok Bhawan in Srinagar, Omar said he had sought time from the Lieutenant Governor to carry out the exercise, with the final schedule to be decided by him.

"Yes, it certainly was discussed. I requested time from

him for the expansion and asked him that in the first two to three days of next week, I will carry out the expansion and certain changes in my Council of Ministers," Omar said.

He said the decision on who would join the ministry had already been made and appealed to party colleagues and MLAs seeking ministerial berths to exercise patience rather than approach him or Farooq Abdullah to lobby for positions.

"After consultations with Dr Farooq Abdullah Sahib, the list has been finalised. There is no need to knock on Farooq Sahib's door, my door, or anyone else's door. The decision of who will become a minister is not pending; it has already been made. So, I request | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir Marathon: 2,000 Runners To Race Through Srinagar's Scenic Routes

73 foreign athletes from 12 countries join the run as Kashmir seeks to strengthen its global sporting profile.

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar is gearing up to host the Kashmir International Marathon on Sunday, with around 2,000 runners, including 73 foreign athletes from 12 countries, set to race through some of the city's most scenic stretches.

With banners, hoardings and posters lining the streets and preparations completed along the route, the event is expected to bring together local, domestic and international runners in a bid to strengthen Kashmir's profile as a sporting destination.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will flag off the full marathon at 6:30 am, followed by the half marathon at 7:45 am, Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajjad said on Saturday.

"The preparations are



complete. Tomorrow morning at 6:30 am, the flag-off of the full marathon will be done by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. After that, at 7:45 am, the half marathon will be flagged off," Sajjad said.

He said efforts had been made to repair potholes along

the route, complete barricading and improve the starting and flag-off points to ensure the smooth conduct of the event.

According to the Tourism Department, 1,807 runners have registered online for the marathon. These include 1,221

local participants, 513 runners from other parts of the country and 73 foreign athletes representing 12 countries.

The department expects participation to cross 2,000, with on-the-spot registration also available for those who missed the online deadline.

Of the registered participants, 1,416 have opted for the 21-kilometre half marathon, while 391 will compete in the full marathon covering 42.195 kilometres. The registrations include 1,614 male and 193 female runners.

The routes have been designed to showcase Kashmir's natural beauty and cultural heritage, with participants passing through scenic stretches around Dal Lake, Boulevard Road, Nishat Garden and other prominent locations in Srinagar.

The Tourism | [More on P6](#)

MeT Forecasts Dry Spell Till Oct 31

Sinthan Top, Peer Ki Gali See Fresh Snow

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Higher reaches of Kashmir received fresh light snowfall on Saturday, with Sinthan Top and Peer Ki Gali among the areas witnessing fresh snow, even as the Meteorological Centre Srinagar forecast generally dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir till October 31.

A brief spell of light rain is possible in a few districts on the afternoon of October 25, according to the weather department.

The forecast also indicates generally cloudy conditions, with the possibility of light rain in the plains and light snowfall in isolated higher reaches from November 1 to 5.

According to the latest weather data, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 6.6 degrees Celsius, 2.8 degrees above the seasonal normal. The maximum temperature on Friday stood at 21.3 degrees Celsius, slightly above the normal of 21 degrees.

Pahalgam | [More on P6](#)

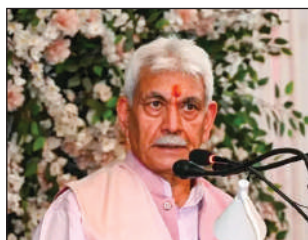
Youth Must Turn Every Opportunity Into A Possibility: LG

Pays Tribute To Dr Rahi Masoom Raza On His Centenary Celebration Event

Observer News Service

Srinagar Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday called upon the youth to turn every opportunity into a new possibility and ensure that development and heritage move forward together.

Paying tribute to eminent litterateur Dr Rahi Masoom Raza on his birth centenary, Sinha said the writer's works reflected India's cultural diversity, humanity and social harmony.



In a message delivered at a commemorative programme organised in Ghazipur, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted Raza's immense contribution to Indian literature

and cinema, saying his writings reflected the spirit of Ghazipur, Purvanchal and India while carrying a universal vision rooted in humanity and cultural harmony.

Sinha said Raza, through his works, including Aadha Gaon, Topi Shukla and Katra Bi Arzoo, as well as his contribution to the screenplay of the television series Mahabharat, conveyed the message that India's culture, heritage and future belonged to every citizen.

Highlighting | [More on P6](#)

Sajjan Singh Yadav To Replace Dulloo As J&K CS

1995-batch IAS officer to take charge from November 1

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Senior IAS officer Sajjan Singh Yadav has been appointed as the next Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, replacing Atal Dulloo, who is scheduled to superannuate on October 31.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), in an order issued on Saturday, said Yadav, a 1995-batch AGMUT cadre officer,



had been transferred from Delhi to Jammu and Kashmir to take over as Chief Secretary with effect from November 1, 2026, or from the date of joining, whichever is later.

"With the approval of the competent | [More on P6](#)

RS 28-LAKH LAND COMPENSATION FRAUD Man Booked For Impersonating ADC

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Pulwama Police have registered a case against a man accused of impersonating an Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) and allegedly duping a father-son duo of Rs 28 lakh in connection with a land compensation dispute.

Officials said the case was registered under Sections 319 and 336(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) following directions from the Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), Pulwama.

CJM Muzamil Ahmad Wani passed the order on Friday on a complaint filed by Mohammad Yousof Thoker | [More on P6](#)

States Told To Enforce Ban On Reuse Of Single-Use Medical Devices

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Centre has directed states and Union Territories to strictly enforce a ban on the reuse of single-use medical devices and disposable surgical items in public and private healthcare facilities, citing concerns over patient safety, infection risks and alleged overcharging.

In a letter dated October 16, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) said it had received reports that certain private and corporate hospitals were sterilising and reusing devices meant for one-time use, particularly in critical specialties



such as cardiology, nephrology, oncology, cardiothoracic and vascular surgery, and neurosurgery.

"It has been observed that such devices and disposable surgical items, after being used for one procedure, are

being subjected to sterilisation and subsequently reused, despite being designated for single use only," the letter said.

The directorate said the practice raised concerns about patient safety, infection prevention | [More on P6](#)

Money Laundering Case

Court Orders Trial of Yasin Malik, Er Rashid, 5 Others

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A court here has ordered the trial of jailed separatist leader Yasin Malik, Baramulla MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid, alias Engineer Rashid, and five others in a money laundering case linked to alleged funding from Pakistan through hawala channels for secessionist activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

Special Judge Prashant Sharma ordered framing of charges against the seven accused under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act

(PMLA) after finding sufficient material on record to raise a strong suspicion of their involvement in the offence.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has alleged that proceeds of crime amounting to Rs 8.94 crore were generated and received, routed, transferred, concealed, possessed, acquired and used by the accused through various channels.

The accused include Malik, chief of the banned Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah, | [More on P6](#)

RS 46.50-LAKH CHEQUE BOUNCE

Srinagar Man Gets 1-Year Jail

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A court here has sentenced a man to one year's simple imprisonment and imposed a fine equivalent to double the cheque amount after holding him guilty of dishonouring a cheque worth Rs 46.50 lakh.

The court of Sub-Judge Srinagar Junaid Imtiaz Mir convicted Bashir Ahmad Bujal, a resident of Nehru Park Srinagar, under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.

The case arose from a complaint filed by Naseer Ahmad Ratta of Nishat, who claimed that the accused owed him Rs 46.50 lakh | [More on P6](#)



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2

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

Scholarship Name 1: Sakal India Foundation Career Development Scholarship 2026

Description: The Sakal India Foundation Career Development Scholarship 2026 is being offered by the Sakal India Foundation to support ambitious Indian students in their academic and career advancement. This scholarship provides financial aid and mentorship to candidates exhibiting academic excellence and commitment to professional growth.

Eligibility: Applications are open to residents of India who have completed at least Class 10 level of education. Applicants must have a valid admission letter and have secured a minimum of 85% aggregate marks in the previous class.

Prizes & Rewards: An award of up to 10,000.

Last Date to Apply: 31-10-2026

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SICS5

QR Code: <https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/sakal-india-foundation-career-development-scholarship-20261792464627.png>

2026-27, an initiative by Mahindra & Mahindra Limited, supports the educational aspirations of daughters of truck drivers across India. The scholarship provides financial assistance to eligible girls studying in Class 11, Class 12, Graduation, and Post-Graduation, helping them continue their education despite financial challenges.

Eligibility: Open to girls studying in Class 11, Class 12, Graduation, or Post-Graduation. Applicants must be daughters/wards of truck drivers.

Students from across India are eligible to apply. Children of Buddy4Study or Mahindra & Mahindra employees are not eligible.

Note: If the latest semester results are unavailable, the previous odd-semester results may be considered for selection.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 10,000 as a fixed scholarship award for each selected scholar.

Last Date to Apply: 30-11-2026

Application mode: Online Application Only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/MHSA4

QR Code: <https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/mahindra-saarthi-abhiyaan-2026-271792464607.png>

Scholarship Name 3: SDEF India Scholarship Program 2026-27

Description: The SDEF India Scholarship

Program 2026-27, an initiative of the Swami Dayanand Education Foundation (SDEF), supports academically meritorious students from financially constrained families who are beginning professional undergraduate courses in India. Selected students can receive up to INR 50,000 per academic year, renewable for up to four years, subject to annual review and continued eligibility.

Eligibility: Open to students admitted to the first year of a full-time eligible professional undergraduate programme in 2026-27.

The applicant's annual family income must not exceed INR 12 lakh from all sources.

Applicants should not have taken a drop or gap year after Class 12.

Students must meet the applicable academic, entrance examination and category-wise eligibility criteria for their course.

Eligible programmes include B.Tech./B.E., MBBS, BDS, and B.Arch.

Applicants must be willing to participate in further assessment and selection stages, if shortlisted.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 50,000 per academic year, renewable for up to four years, subject to annual review and continued eligibility.

The scholarship amount is disbursed directly to the student's college or university towards approved educational expenses.

Last Date to Apply: 30-11-2026

Application mode: Online Application Only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SDEF1

QR Code: <https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/sdef-2026-271792574235.png>

Scholarship Name 4: Vahani Scholarship 2026

Description: The Vahani Scholarship 2026 is being offered by the Vahani Scholarship Trust to students in Class 12. This scholarship aims to financially support the undergraduate education of meritorious students from economically weaker sections.

Eligibility: Applications are open to students currently pursuing studies in Class 12, have secured 85% or above in Class 10th, and have an annual family income of less than 3 lakh.

Prizes & Rewards: Selected candidates receive full tuition fees, a stipend for a laptop, travel allowance, and numerous other benefits.

Last Date to Apply: 01-11-2026

Application mode: Online application only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/VAHA1

QR Code: <https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/vahani-scholarship-20261792464540.png>

Scholarship Name 5: WINGS – Women Inspiring Growth in STEM Scholarship Program

Description: IIT Bombay's Alumnus Bharat Desai and his wife, Neerja Sethi, have launched an initiative at IIT Bombay to encourage women in STEM, named WINGS – Women Inspiring Growth in STEM Scholarship Program. This initiative aims to break financial barriers and champion women's education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Eligibility: For female students planning to pursue an undergraduate STEM course at IIT Bombay (2027-28 Session).

Students not availing any other government tuition grant or scholarship. The scholarship will continue for students maintaining a 6.0 CPI or higher.

Prizes & Rewards: The scholarship covers tuition fees (Rs 2 lakhs per annum) for women students meeting the above eligibility criteria.

Last Date to Apply: 31-10-2026

Application mode: Online Application Only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/WINGS2

QR Code: <https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/wings-women-inspiring-growth-in-stem-scholarship-program1791265653.png>

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

X

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that I, Rehila Noor, W/o Reyaz Ahmad Jeelani, resident of Kanitar, Saderbal, Srinagar, intend to apply to the Department of Tourism, Kashmir, Jammu & Kashmir, for the grant of registration of my proposed Homestay unit.

The homestay unit is intended to operate under the name and style of "R&R Retreat" and is situated at Doctor's Colony, Prang, District Ganderbal.

Before my application is formally processed by the Competent Authority, this matter is hereby notified for the information of the general public, financial institutions, banks, or any other organizations.

Any person, bank, or department having any objection(s) to the registration of the said Homestay unit should submit their objection in writing, supported by valid documentary evidence, to the office of the Deputy Director Tourism within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections received after the expiry of the stipulated 7-day period will be entertained.

Date: 24 October 2026

Place: Srinagar

INF

Sd/-
Rehila Noor

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION, SUB OFFICE PULWAMA PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed / appeared in SSE / HSE-I/(Class 10th under Roll No: 160953 Session: Oct/Nov Year 1986: through THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION. The error has been committed by the against my as Paven Kumar Tikoo S/o Makhan Lal Tikoo in Govt higher secondary school Achan instead of Pawan Kumar Tickoo S/o Makhan Lal Tickoo.

Now i have applied for correction in the The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education, New Campus Bemina Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard Na may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub office Pulwama within seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.

This is published for the information of the general public. The correct particulars be recorded as under:

Name: Pawan Kumar Tickoo
Fathers Name: Makhan Lal Tickoo
Mothers Name: Asha Tickoo
Date of Birth: 29-09-71
Residence: Achan Pulwama

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that the father's name of HAYA AIJAZ, daughter of AEJAZ AHMAD BHAGAT and MADEENA AKHTER, studying in Class 6th, Session 2026, at Govt. Girls High School, Ichigam, Budgam, under Admission No. 710, has been wrongly recorded in the school records as AEJAZ AHMAD BHAGAT, whereas the correct father's name is AIJAZ AHMAD BAGHAT.

Objections, if any, in this regard should be filed within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my son Anas Bashir who was born on 18-03-2026. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Municipal Committee Magam Budgam within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Bashir Ahmad Malla
F/o Anas Bashir
R/o Raj Pora Heeling Tehsil Kawrahama Baramulla

bmg

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR LAND ACQUISITION/SDM KHANSAHIB

No:- SDM/KHS/2026-27/ 397-406

Dated:-21/10/2026

Subject: Acquisition of land measuring 01 Kanal 10 Marlas situated at Khudpura and Shalnar, Tehsil Khansahib, District Budgam for construction of School Buildings for Primary School Khudpura and Government High School Shalnar - Issuance of Notice under Section 21 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 thereof.

NOTICE

Whereas, land measuring 01 Kanal 10 Marlas, comprising 10 Marlas at Village Khudpura under Survey No. 60 Min and 01 Kanal at Village Shalnar under Survey No. 84 Min, Tehsil Khansahib, District Budgam, is required for a public purpose, namely construction of School Building for Primary School Khudpura and Government High School Shalnar;

Whereas, the Preliminary Notification under Section 11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, read with Rule 25(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Social Impact Assessment and Consent) Rules, 2023, was issued by this office vide Notification No. 02 of 2026 dated 17-07-2026, whereby the aforesaid land was notified for acquisition;

Whereas, no objection was received from any interested person within the stipulated period in response to the said Preliminary Notification;

Whereas, the Appropriate Government, i.e. Deputy Commissioner/District Collector, Budgam, after consideration of the report submitted by the Collector Land Acquisition/SDM Khansahib, has issued Declaration No. 08 of 2026 dated 22-09-2026 under Section 19(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, declaring that the land particulars whereof are given below is required for the aforesaid public purpose.

The Description of the land is as under:-

S.No	Name Of School	Village	Survey No.	Area Under Acquisition	Type of Title	Type of land	Trees
01	PS Khudpura	Khudpura	60	10 Marlas	Private	Rural	Nil
02	Govt High School Shalnar	Shalnar	84	01 Kanal	Private	Rural	Nil

Total Area: 01 Kanal 10 Marlas

Whereas, the said acquisition has been declared to be for a public purpose, namely acquisition of land for construction of school buildings for Primary School Khudpura at Khudpura and Government High School Shalnar at Shalnar, Tehsil Khansahib, District Budgam.

Now therefore, in terms of section 21 of the Act and rule 31 of the said Rules, notice is hereby given to all the persons interested in the land that Government intends to take the possession of the land and therefore claims to compensations and rehabilitation and resettlement for all interests in such land be made before the undersigned. It is further informed that all the interested persons shall appear before me personally or by an agent in my office at 11 a.m. from 21-10-2026 to 20-11-2026 and state the nature of their respective interests in the land and the amount and particulars of their claims to compensation for such interests along with their objections, if any, to the measurements of the land.

DIPK-7057/26
dated: 24-10-2026

Sub Divisional Magistrate
Khan Sahib Budgam
Collector Land Acquisition / SDM
Khansahib

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Chief Horticulture Officer Pulwama

Telefax No.01933-470510

PUBLIC NOTICE

: The Office of the Chief Horticulture Officer, Pulwama, is organising a Machinery Mela/Awareness programme on 27 October 2026 (Tuesday) at its office premises in Pulwama to facilitate identified and authorized beneficiary growers in procuring farm machinery of their choice from registered dealers under the Farm Mechanization Scheme.

All registered farm machinery dealers have been invited to participate in the event along with the requisite dealership/brand authorization certificates, registration particulars and other relevant documents, ensuring the availability of machinery for the authorized beneficiaries.

During the event, physical verification and embossing/markings of the purchased machinery shall be carried out on the spot under the supervision of the District Level Monitoring and Supervising Committee (DLMSC).

The initiative aims to facilitate a transparent and streamlined procurement process, ensuring convenience to eligible growers and timely completion of the requisite departmental formalities.

DIPK-7056/26
dated: 24-10-2026

Sd/-
Chief Horticulture Officer
Pulwama

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Riyaz Ahmad Tantary, F/o Zamir Riyaz Tantary, R/o Tantary Pora, Palhallan, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, hereby notify the general public that my son's name has been incorrectly recorded as Zameer Riyaz in his Aadhaar Card bearing No. 9892-2086-0559, whereas his correct and actual name is Zamir Riyaz Tantary. I am a permanent resident of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and seek publication of a Gazette Notification regarding the said name correction in Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person having any objection to the above-mentioned correction may raise the same before the concerned authority.

Riyaz Ahmad Tantary

F/o Zamir Riyaz Tantary

R/o Tantary Pora, Palhallan, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla

Cell No.: 7006446686

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as GULSHANA BEGUM While as my actual name is GULSHAN AARA C/O MOHAMMAD IQBAL MIR R/O DARDPORA KRALPORA 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.

GULSHAN AARA

C/O :-MOHAMMAD IQBAL MIR

R/O :- DARDPORA KRALPORA, KUPWARA

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as ASIF AHMAD GOJREE While as my actual name is ASIF HUSAIN SHEER GOJRI C/O AB SUBHAN SHEER GOJRI R/O BATAPORA HANDWARA KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193221 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.

ASIF HUSAIN SHEER GOJRI

C/O :-AB SUBHAN SHEER GOJRI

R/O :- BATAPORA HANDWARA, KUPWARA

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as ABU RAHANA BABA While as my actual name is ABU RAHAN BABA C/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD BABA R/O THAYAN KALAROOCH 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.

ABU RAHAN BABA

C/O :-MUSHTAQ AHMAD BABA

R/O :-THAYAN KALAROOCH, KUPWARA

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as ZAKIA JAAN While as my actual name is ZAIKA JAAN C/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD BABA R/O THAYAN KALAROOCH 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.

ZAIKA JAAN

C/O :-MUSHTAQ AHMAD BABA

R/O :-THAYAN KALAROOCH, KUPWARA

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Have lost my passport bearing no: P1712733 from Sopore To Baramulla. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohd Shafiq Bhat

IRD

Judicial Majistrate 1st Class Magam PUBLIC NOTICE

The applicant Younus Ahmad Khan has applied for the DOB certificate in favour of his mother Shahzada Bano who was born on 11-10-1988. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the BDO soubhugh within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

bmg



CITY

CM Attends Prize Distribution Ceremony Of Labaika Invitational Golf Cup 2026

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah attended the prize distribution ceremony of the Labaika Invitational Golf Cup 2026 at the Royal Springs Golf Course (RSGC), Srinagar.

The day-long tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 100 golfers, including professionals, women and junior golfers from Jammu and Kashmir. Besides professional golfers from other parts of the country also participated, bringing together golf enthusiasts

interest among golf enthusiasts from j&K and other parts of North India in visiting Srinagar for weekend golfing, noting that such sporting events contribute to the local tourism economy.

He also underscored the importance of encouraging local golfers and nurturing young talent, observing that initiatives of this kind can help popularise the sport and provide emerging players with opportunities to showcase their abilities.

The championship was organised by Labaika Haj



in a celebration of sportsmanship and camaraderie amid Kashmir's scenic surroundings.

The main aim of the day-long tournament focused on local golfers and emerging talent and provide emerging players with opportunities to showcase their abilities.

The Chief Minister highlighted the growing

& Umrah Services.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Gurwinder Singh Oberoi, MLA Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq, Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course Haris Ahmed Handoo, Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajad,, and golfers, among others, were present on the occasion.

Choose Books, Stay Away From Drugs: SSP Srinagar To Youth

Agencies

Srinagar: Urging youth to channel their energy towards positive activities, SSP Srinagar Dr G. V. Sundeep Chakravathy on Saturday said the aim of organising sports events under the Civic Action Programme is to engage young people constructively and keep them away from drugs and other social evils.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the concluding ceremony of a T20 cricket tournament in downtown Srinagar, the SSP Srinagar, as reported by KNO, said the tournament was organised by Srinagar Police as part of its Civic Action Programme.

“Keep books, bats and balls in your hands and stay away from drugs. The purpose of organising such tournaments is to channelise the energy of youth in a positive direc-

tion,” he said.

Congratulating all participating teams, Chakravathy said, “Whoever has participated in this tournament, whether winners or runners-up, I congratulate everyone from the bottom of my heart.”

The tournament, which began on October 17 at MPML Higher Secondary School Playground, Shamsuari, witnessed participation from eight teams representing different areas of Srinagar district.

In the final, Gojwari Cricket Club defeated Krashbal Cricket Club to clinch the title.

The SSP also distributed trophies, medals, mementoes and cash prizes among the winners, runners-up and outstanding performers. He also appreciated the players and local community for their support, saying such initiatives help promote sports and strengthen police-public relations—(KNO)

Publicly Funded Safa Kadal Hall Lies In Ruins

Agencies

Srinagar: A community hall at Dana Mazar in the Safa Kadal area of Srinagar, reportedly constructed on wetland in 2013 under the Special Area Development Programme (SADP) on the recommendation of the then local MLA, has fallen into disrepair, with questions being raised over its ownership, control and alleged collection of rent by local political figures.

Locals allege that despite being built with public funds for community use, the marriage hall was never formally handed over to the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) after completion of the work by the executing agency. They claim the absence of a clear transfer of control has allowed the facility to remain outside effective municipal supervision.

According to locals, some

local political leaders have been exercising control over the premises and collecting rent from private parties who book the hall for marriage ceremonies and other functions. The allegations have raised questions about who is authorized to manage the public facility, fix rental charges and receive the money collected from its use.

The hall, which was intended to serve the local community, is now reportedly in a dilapidated condition, with broken windows and damage to its roof and walls. Residents say the deterioration reflects years of neglect and the absence of an accountable authority responsible for its upkeep.

Locals have questioned how a facility built under a government development programme could remain in such a condition while its management and revenue arrangements remain unclear. KNT



Admin Expands Neonatal Healthcare Facilities In City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Government Lal Ded Hospital has added 15 beds to its neonatal intensive care facilities with the establishment of an additional NICU block at a cost of 75 lakh, aimed at strengthening specialised healthcare services for newborns across Kashmir.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, accompanied by Principal Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, Dr Iffat, on Saturday inspected the newly constructed facility established by the District Administration through the convergence of funds available at the district level.

During the visit, the officers reviewed the functioning and operational status of the additional 15-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), which has been established to augment the hospital's existing capacity and address the growing demand for specialised neonatal healthcare.

Lal Ded Hospital is a major healthcare institution catering to expectant mothers and newborns from Srinagar as well as other districts across the Kashmir Valley.

The additional beds are expected to strengthen the hospital's capacity to provide intensive monitoring, treatment and medical support to newborns requiring specialised care.

“The additional beds are expected to strengthen the hospital's capacity to provide intensive monitoring, treatment and medical support to newborns requiring specialised care.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said the establishment of the NICU block marked an important step towards strengthening neonatal healthcare infrastructure in Srinagar.

He said the facility would augment the hospital's existing capacity and improve the availability of critical care services for newborns requiring specialised medical attention.

Labroo further announced that the District Administration would soon establish another 15-bed NICU block at JLN Hospital, Rainawari, to further expand access to specialised neonatal

healthcare facilities in the district.

The proposed facility is expected to supplement the existing healthcare infrastructure and enhance the capacity of government hospitals to cater to newborns requiring intensive medical care.

Earlier, Principal GMC Srinagar Dr Iffat highlighted the importance of the additional NICU beds at Lal Ded Hospital and appreciated the District Administration's support in strengthening healthcare infrastructure.

She also acknowledged the administration's assistance in completing various infrastructure upgradation projects and supporting developmental initiatives at GMC Srinagar.

She said these efforts were helping strengthen institutional infrastructure and improve facilities for healthcare professionals, students and patients at tertiary care hospitals.

The inspection was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioners Mir Imtiyaz-ul-Aziz and Aadil Fareed; GMC Srinagar Administrator Masarat Hashim; Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Superintending Engineer R&B Tatheer Manzoor; SDM West Seerat Baji; SDM East Zubair Ahmad; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Umar Gulzar; Medical Superintendent Lal Ded Hospital Dr Muzafar; and other senior officers of the District Administration and Health Department.

LCMA Reviews Dal Lake Cleanliness Ahead Of Kashmir Marathon

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Vice Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Lake Conservation and Management Authority (JKLCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, on Saturday inspected several stretches of Dal Lake shoreline to review cleanliness and maintenance arrangements ahead of the third edition of the Kashmir Marathon scheduled for October 25.

Accompanied by officers and field staff, Shah inspected the shoreline from Dal Gate to Hazratbal, covering Lalit Ghat, SKICC backwaters, Nishat Basin and Habak.

During the visit, he reviewed sanitation measures along the lakefront and adjoining areas and expressed satisfaction over the progress of cleaning operations.

Shah directed officials to ensure regular monitoring and prevent the accumulation of waste and litter along the shoreline, particularly during the marathon, which is expected to attract participants and visitors from different parts of the country and abroad.



He said maintaining the cleanliness of Dal Lake was essential to preserving its ecological importance and ensuring a pleasant environment for athletes, tourists and visitors.

The Vice Chairman also visited POKhribal, where he reviewed ongoing

cleanliness works and directed field teams to maintain the area through regular upkeep and coordinated efforts.

He stressed that cleanliness measures should continue beyond the sporting event to protect the lake's environment and maintain its surroundings.

- 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
13 Jumada al-Awwal
1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 20
ZUHR	12:15
ASR	4: 08
Magrib	5: 49
ISHA	7: 10

This Day In History

- 1930 - 1st scheduled transcontinental air service began
- 1932 - Benito Mussolini promises to remain dictator for 30 years
- 1935 - Hurricane-produced floods kill 2,000 in Jeremie & Jacmel Haiti
- 1938 - Japanese troops occupies Hankou & Wuhan
- 1944 - Battle at Cape Engano: 4 Japanese ships sink
- 1944 - Battle at Samar-island
- 1944 - Battle in Straits of Surigao: Japanese fleet destroyed
- 1951 - Peace talks aimed at ending Korean War resumed in Panmunjom
- 1952 - Nazar Mohammad scores Pakistan's 1st Test century 124* v India
- 1955 - Austria resumed its sovereignty after departure of last Allied occupation forces, for 1st time since German occupation of 1938
- 1955 - Tappan sells 1st microwave oven

From KO Archives

'Kashmiri' Held With \$71,000 In New Delhi

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI- Busting the second major currency racket in the capital in a week, the enforcement directorate (ED) has arrested a person and recovered huge quantities of foreign and Indian currencies from his possession.

Acting on a tip-off, ED officials searched a person, hailing from Kashmir, and recovered 71,083 dollars (over Rs 32 lakh), Rs 90,000 worth Indian currency and some documents from his car, ED special director KR.Bhargava said here today. He said the car was also seized and the Delhi

Police had been asked to check the person's, antecedents whether he had any links with militants in Kashmir.

ED sleuths had recovered nearly Rs one crore in Indian as well as foreign currency during raids last week at 11 premises belonging to ten global hawala operators and foreign exchange racketeers.

(Kashmir Observer, October 25, 2000)

مندہ خاندان کو صدمہ

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

نہایت رنج و غم کے ساتھ اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ
محمد یوسف مندہ ولد حاجی غلام احمد مندہ،
ساکن سید میر کشادہ کالونی، خٹک حضرت بل،
22 اکتوبر 2026ء، بروز جمعرات، اس دار فانی سے رخصت ہو گئے۔

مرحوم نہایت نیک، شریف النفس اور صوم و صلوة کے پابند انسان
اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کی مغفرت فرمائے، انہیں کروٹ کروٹ جنت
جنت نصیب فرمائے اور ارحم اور تمام لواحقین کو یہ عظیم صدمہ مئی
صبر و حوصلے کے ساتھ برداشت کرنے کی توفیق عطا فرمائے۔ آمین۔

حجۃ خلیسہ

اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی، تاریخ: 26 اکتوبر 2026ء، بروز پیر،
وقت: صبح 8 بجے، مقام: آبائی مقبرہ، سید میر کشادہ کالونی

فاتحہ خوانی کے بعد مرحوم کے گھر پر دن بھر مجالس
تعزیت و پڑوسہ کاسلسلہ جاری رہے گا۔

منجانب: مندہ خاندان، سید میر کشادہ کالونی، خٹک حضرت بل

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR**
(Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: exen-mechospssgr@jk.gov.in)

Sub:- Annual Maintenance of Central Heating System at Aallama Iqbal Library,Kashmir University, Hazratbal.2026-27
Ref: - This office NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2026-27/74/e-tendering, Dated: -22.10.2026

CANCELLATION

Due to Administrative Reasons the above referred e-NIT floated for above subject work is hereby cancelled.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical & Hospitals Division,
Srinagar.

No: M&HDS/TS/4952-55
DIPK-7064/26
Dated: 24.10.2026

Plastic in Paradise

From Gurez to the Great Lakes circuit, discarded waste is damaging Kashmir’s fragile mountain ecosystems. Visitors must stop treating the wilderness as somebody else’s responsibility to clean.



Dr. Rizwan Rumi

Season sends thousands of us toward the mountains, chasing the same image the tourism brochures sell us: the stillness of Gurez, the green folds of Warwan, the high lakes on the Great Lakes circuit, and the hidden meadows of Daksum.

Cameras come out, and captions gush about a love of nature that seems, on the surface, genuine.

Then the tents come down, and the truth of the visit stays behind, including plastic bottles, foil scraps, styrofoam plates, half-burnt wrappers, and polythene bags scattered through grass that took years to establish.

Within hours of being photographed as paradise, the same meadow becomes a dumping ground.

Beyond an aesthetic complaint, this is an ecological one, and the numbers back it up.

Recent field data from environmental tracking groups show that alpine lakes are absorbing the worst of an unmanaged tourist surge, with the Great Lakes circuit registering trekker volumes that overwhelm what these high-altitude zones can hold.

Cleanliness drives along the Harmukh range have pulled dozens of gunny bags stuffed with plastic out of the ground surrounding Gangabal and Nandkol lakes. These bags were filled by people who called themselves nature lovers days earlier.

Altitude makes the damage far worse.

Above 11,000 feet, sunlight is thin and winter temperatures fall well below freezing, so the biological processes that would normally break down waste barely function.

A wet wipe or a cigarette butt left near a glacier can stay intact for centuries, leaching microplastics and chemical additives into permafrost that has held steady for far longer than human memory.

Dense clusters of dark synthetic trash also change how much sunlight the ground absorbs versus reflects, adding thermal stress to glaciers already melting under a warming climate.

Litter, in other words, does not sit passively on a mountainside. It works on the mountain.

Then there is the water.

Snowmelt from these same alpine zones feeds the Kishanganga, the Lidder, and the Sindh, rivers that irrigate fields and fill taps for millions of people downstream.

Trash left at 12,000 feet becomes the toxicity found in drinking water at sea level.

The connection between a discarded bottle on a ridge and contaminated groundwater in a city home is direct, measurable, and entirely our doing.

Here is what makes the crisis so hard to excuse: ignorance is not the problem. Kashmiris are literate, digitally connected, and politically engaged. We know plastic chokes wildlife, degrades topsoil, and threatens the scenic appeal that our tourism economy depends on.

We toss wrappers under centuries-old pine trees anyway, and hurl

bottles from moving vehicles, comforting ourselves with the fiction that cleanup is somebody else’s job.

Wild animals do not poison their own water sources. Only people do that, and only when they have decided that convenience outweighs consequence.

Blaming poor government infrastructure is a dodge. No official hiked a plastic bottle into a roadless Gurez meadow and threw it into the wildflowers. We did that ourselves. The absence of trash cans in the wilderness is not the root failure. Our refusal to haul our own waste back out is.

And because self-regulation failed, the state has stepped in with force.

District authorities have banned single-use plastics throughout key eco-tourism zones, including Gurez. Checkpoints now operate at Tragbal and Pethkoot, where enforcement teams search vehicles for banned plastics, and on-the-spot fines await anyone caught littering.

These measures work, and they are necessary. They are also an indictment.

A society that needs police checkpoints and monetary penalties to keep its own homeland clean has a civic problem no fine can fully fix.

Real change means walking into these valleys with a different mindset entirely.

Ditch single-use plastic bottles for reusable steel or copper flasks, paired with gravity filters or purification tablets. Dedicate a waterproof section of your pack solely to trash, and bring back all of it, including wrappers, wet wipes, foil, and tins, for proper disposal in the city.

Call out littering when you see it, politely but immediately. Peer pressure changes behaviour faster than any government signpost does.

Make it a personal rule to pick up several pieces of somebody else’s plastic on any trail you walk.

The mountains will outlast us regardless of how we behave. What will not outlast careless tourism is their capacity to sustain the people who depend on them for water, income, and the sense of identity Kashmiris attach to this land.

The next generation stands to inherit faded plastic, contaminated soil, and drying streams instead of the paradise we claim to cherish.

Tourism without environmental restraint is destruction, only slower. The choice sits with us now, before the mountains stop forgiving it.

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

Dump the Dumpers

Heavy vehicles may be essential to construction, but when roads run through villages and residential neighbourhoods, public safety must take precedence over convenience.



Farooq Ahmad Khan

My house is barely 39 feet from the centre of the road. It is a concrete structure, built only ten years ago, but whenever a loaded dumper passes, the walls shake and fear takes hold.

For those few moments, the experience resembles an earthquake.

I often think about families living in older houses along the same road, where a lifetime of savings may have gone into buildings far less capable of withstanding such disturbances.

Over the past five or six years, I have watched these heavy vehicles become a common sight on roads in Jammu and Kashmir that were never designed for the demands of constant heavy traffic. Their presence raises a question that needs attention from the administration, engineers and transport authorities: how can a vehicle be permitted to use a road simply because it is legally registered, when the road itself may be unsuitable for it?

The distinction between different kinds of heavy vehicles is important. People often use the words dumper and tipper interchangeably. Both transport loose material and unload it by raising their bodies hydraulically. The more useful distinction is between tippers built for public roads and specialised mining dump trucks designed for off-highway work.

The difference becomes clear when we examine their specifications.

Tata’s Signa 1923.K has a gross vehicle weight of 18.5 tonnes, while the Prima 2832.K is rated at 28 tonnes and the Prima 3530.K at 35 tonnes. The letter K identifies the tipper version.

These figures include the vehicle and its load, rather than describing the amount of material it can transport.

A dedicated mining dumper belongs to another category. BEML’s BH60M, in its rock-body configuration, weighs approximately 43.5 tonnes without cargo, has a payload capacity of 54.5 tonnes and reaches 98 tonnes when fully loaded. Its reinforced frame, thick steel body and specialised suspension are designed for demanding working conditions.

These specifications do not establish that such mining machines are travelling past my house. They illustrate why authorities must identify the vehicles in use and assess their suitability for the roads they travel.

Heavy tippers can be designed for public roads as well as construction work, and treating all large vehicles as mining machines would obscure the real issue.

The decisive question is whether the road can safely accommodate the vehicle.

A registration certificate tells us about a vehicle’s legal status. It says nothing about the strength of a village culvert, the condition of a bridge or the ability of a narrow residential road to withstand repeated heavy loads.

A vehicle operating within its permitted weight can still be unsuitable for a particular route.

Residents should not have to wait for a wall to crack or a building to develop visible damage before authorities investigate. I know what happens inside my own house when a loaded dumper passes.

Measuring the intensity of the vibration, assessing its effects on buildings and establishing the conditions under which heavy traffic can safely continue are tasks for qualified experts.

For a family with limited means, the stakes are especially high.

A modest house may represent years of work, savings and sacrifice. Whether repeated vibrations are weakening such structures must be established through technical assessment.

The fear experienced by residents, however, is already real. They should not have to live with uncertainty while waiting for visible evidence of damage.

The danger goes beyond residential buildings. A heavily loaded vehicle approaching along a narrow village road can leave little room for a pedestrian or a car coming from the opposite direction. Speed reduces that margin further. Children walking along the roadside and residents going about their daily lives should not have to depend on a driver’s judgement alone for their protection.

Fatal accidents underline the need for closer scrutiny.

In March 2025, 18-year-old Sarika died after being struck by a dumper near Palli Morh in Kathua. In April 2026, another person died in a dumper accident on the Samba-Mansar road.

These incidents alone cannot establish an accident rate or prove that the design of the vehicles caused the deaths. They do, however, strengthen the case for a publicly accessible record of accidents involving dumpers and heavy tippers, including the circumstances of such crashes.

The administration should restrict heavy dumper movement on roads other than highways and specifically approved freight routes, subject to engineering assessments and applicable safety restrictions.

Such decisions must rest on evidence rather than assumptions about vehicle size alone.

Road engineers, structural specialists, transport officials and traffic police should jointly examine road width, axle loads, pavement strength, bridges, nearby buildings and pedestrian movement.

Existing routes need the same scrutiny as proposed ones. Where a road cannot safely accommodate a large vehicle, smaller vehicles should transport material over the final stretch.

Approved routes should also have enforceable speed and weight limits, restrictions during school hours where needed, properly maintained surfaces and an accessible system through which residents can report unsafe traffic.

These measures would allow construction and transport work to continue without placing the full burden of risk on people living beside the roads.

The law already provides a basis for action.

Section 115 of the Motor Vehicles Act permits restrictions on specified classes of vehicles for public safety, convenience or because of the nature of a road or bridge.

The administration therefore has legal grounds to examine where heavy vehicles should be permitted and where their movement should be restricted.

The demand to dump the dumpers is really a demand for better judgement. Jammu and Kashmir needs roads capable of supporting its development, along with rules that recognise the limits of existing infrastructure. Construction costs should include the expense of moving materials safely, rather than leaving residents to absorb the consequences.

I still live in the same house, 39 feet from the road. When a loaded dumper passes, I feel the building shake. An engineering assessment may establish what those vibrations mean for its structure, and sensible restrictions may prevent similar concerns from spreading to other neighbourhoods.

Until then, the people living beside these roads remain exposed to a risk they did not choose. Their homes should not have to serve as testing grounds for the limits of public infrastructure.

The author is an advocate who writes on legal, social and political issues in Jammu and Kashmir. He can be reached at advofarooqahmadkhan@gmail.com.

The Danger Behind Easy Money

Promises of quick profits and guaranteed returns can cloud judgment, turning trust into a costly mistake for families with little room to absorb financial losses.



Irshad Mushtaq

Money comes hard in Kashmir.

A shopkeeper closes his shutters and counts what remains after rent and supplier payments. A labourer hands over a week’s wages after days of back-breaking work. A government clerk divides his salary between ageing parents, family obligations and an uncertain future.

That money represents years of slog, struggle and sacrifice. Someone who understands its emotional value can persuade a family to part with a lifetime of savings in a matter of minutes.

Financial markets, however, reward facts, risk assessment, timing and due diligence rather than the effort it took to earn the money.

Many families in Kashmir make investment decisions with the same emotions that shaped their savings, allowing trust and hope to outweigh scrutiny.

That instinct has cost households far more than many market downturns ever have.

Look closely at how the con actually plays out. A seller promises a fixed, guaranteed return. He says the money will double within months. He asserts everyone else has already jumped in, so hesitation means losing out. He calls it a golden chance meant only for a lucky few.

These lines all do the same job: they shut down the brain before it can ask basic questions, like who regulates this product? Is the return guaranteed, or does it move with the market? Can the value fall? What happens if the money gets needed early?

Once the heart says yes, the brain rarely gets a chance to weigh in.

Trust makes Kashmir especially exposed

here, and that trust runs deep.

People hand over savings because the seller happens to be a cousin’s friend, or because he dresses well and speaks with confidence, or because he carries himself like someone tied to religion or community standing.

Drivers, local agents and unfamiliar callers show up with “opportunities” and walk away with signatures.

The same social bonds that hold Kashmiri life together end up lowering people’s guard around money.

Respecting a person and trusting a financial product are two entirely separate things, and mixing them together has cost families their life savings again and again.

Lock-in periods make the damage even worse. Families put money away thinking they can pull it out whenever life demands it. Years later, they discover it sits frozen, penalties attached, right when a medical bill or school fee comes due.

A product built to sit for a decade does little good for a family that needs cash next spring.

Whether money can move quickly often

decides whether a child stays in school or a surgery gets delayed.

Free tips add another twist to the tale.

WhatsApp groups, Telegram channels and YouTube videos flood phones with “sure-shot” calls on shares, and people treat this advice like a gift.

Free counsel from a stranger almost always benefits the stranger more than the person receiving it. It builds an audience for a paid course, or pumps up demand for a position the tipster already holds, or simply grabs attention for its own sake.

Speculation delivered as friendly advice has turned small savers into gamblers who lose slowly, then lose everything at once.

None of this means people should stop feeling anything about their money. Love for children can still push families toward smarter planning. Concern for aging parents can still push them to protect what little they have.

The real fix sits somewhere between feeling and action, in the form of a habit.

Check who regulates the product. Find out whether the return is guaranteed or tied to the

market. Read the lock-in terms carefully. Ask about hidden charges. Get everything in writing. Confirm the seller actually holds a proper license.

Wealthy investors can absorb a bad bet and move forward, but ordinary Kashmiri families rarely get that same cushion, which makes this checklist far more important here than almost anywhere else in the country.

Financial education has to start early, at home, in schools, in mosques and in community gatherings, treated with the same seriousness as any other life skill.

Kashmir has already proven its toughness against forces much bigger than a bad investment scheme. It can build that same toughness against the smiling stranger promising a guaranteed return.

Investing with heart still matters when it comes to family dreams, but the brain should always be the one to sign the papers.

The author is a Srinagar-based financial educator, and can be reached at drmf757@gmail.com.

Kashmir's Cruel Test of Motherhood

Women who struggle to conceive face questions about their worth as wives and daughters-in-law. Their experiences expose the prejudice that places the burden of infertility almost entirely on women.



Palveen Kour

A young bride in Baramulla smiles through her cousin's wedding, knowing the question will find her before the evening ends: when is the good news coming? She has stopped hoping for kindness at these events, and braces herself instead, the way people brace for weather they already know is on its way. Doctors resolved this argument long ago. Infertility can come from the man, the woman, both of them, or sometimes a cause nobody can pinpoint. Kashmiri households rarely act like they got that message. The woman still carries the full weight of suspicion while her husband walks through the same room untested and unquestioned. She gets labelled unlucky or cursed, and somehow nobody raises the possibility that he might be the reason. That imbalance builds a second wound on top of the first one. She hears comparisons to other women again and again until her confidence wears thin. Festivals stop feeling festive. Family functions turn into events she survives rather than enjoys,

because she already knows what waits for her the moment she walks through the door. Over months and years, that pressure pushes many women toward anxiety, depression, and a slow retreat from the very people who claim to love her. Husbands often make this worse instead of better. Marriage runs on partnership, but plenty of men step back the moment fertility becomes the topic, letting parents and relatives push them toward frustration rather than standing beside their wives. Talks turn into arguments. Failed treatments become fresh grievances instead of shared disappointments. Somewhere in that slow drift, a marriage built on love starts running on blame. In-laws frequently pour fuel on this fire. She goes through test after test and procedure after procedure while nobody suggests her husband get checked too. Some women get told directly that their husband should remarry, or worse, that abandonment waits if she cannot produce results soon enough. None of that comes from a failure on her part. It comes from a failure of basic humanity treated as family tradition. Divorce becomes the next chapter for many of these women, and it rarely happens because of infertility itself. It happens because compassion never came when the marriage needed it most. A woman who married expecting companionship ends up abandoned and blamed for something no test could have predicted, then left to rebuild her life while carrying trauma nobody helped her process. Kashmiri society celebrates



Kashmiri society celebrates motherhood as the ultimate achievement for a woman while ignoring everything else she brings to the table. Her intelligence, humour, and strength as a person barely register once children enter the conversation.

motherhood as the ultimate achievement for a woman while ignoring everything else she brings to the table. Her intelligence, humour, and strength as a person barely register once children enter the conversation. Some husbands take this further and marry a second time, convinced a replacement will fix what

real compassion should have addressed from the start. That decision earns honest scrutiny rather than acceptance. Ask yourself what type of love only survives as long as a woman can conceive. Ask whether a marriage built on conditions was ever built on love in the first place. Real partnership shows itself when life gets hard rather than when

everything goes according to plan. Medicine has come a long way, offering fertility treatments, assisted reproduction, adoption, and surrogacy to families who want them. None of that touches the damage caused by social stigma, though. Emotional support has to move alongside medical care rather than trail behind it as an option. Families need to swap blame for empathy.

Husbands need to show up as partners instead of watching from the sidelines while their wives carry the entire weight alone. Communities need to stop treating weddings and family gatherings as chances to interrogate couples about their fertility, and start building spaces where people can talk about these struggles without becoming the evening's main topic of gossip. None of this changes until Kashmiri families stop measuring a woman's worth by her ability to conceive. Her value comes from her character, judgment, and presence in the lives of people who claim to love her rather than from what her body can or cannot do. Take that recognition away, and infertility stops being a medical situation altogether. It turns into a punishment handed down by the very people who were supposed to protect her from exactly this pain. Beyond childlessness, the real curse was always a community that valued a womb over a woman's wellbeing, blamed her for circumstances she never controlled, and said nothing while she absorbed all of it by herself. The day families across Kashmir start treating infertility as the medical condition it actually is, women stop needing to survive judgment layered on top of grief. They finally get the one thing they needed from the beginning: someone willing to sit down and listen.

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

A School Built on a Community's Dream

Four years after Maulana Muhammad Abbas Ansari's death, Madina Public School traces the growth of an educational vision from a small school in Ahmad Pora to branches in several parts of Kashmir and former students pursuing careers around the world.



Shabir Hussain Malik

When Maulana Muhammad Abbas Ansari began imagining what a small school in Ahmad Pora could become, Kashmir was passing through a period of political uncertainty, economic hardship and social upheaval. For many families, the prospect of a good education remained constrained by poverty and limited opportunities. The Shia Muslim community faced these difficulties alongside a wider concern about its educational and intellectual future. Ansari believed that progress would depend, in large part, on what happened inside classrooms. His answer was Madina Public School, an institution intended to bring modern education, religious instruction and moral upbringing together. The school's history, remembered on the fourth anniversary of his death on October 25, 2026, offers a view of how an educational initiative can grow beyond its original premises to become a shared community project. Its expansion rests on Ansari's vision, the sacrifice of the late Muhammad Zawar Malik and the sustained administrative work of Master Asadullah Malik. The school began with a conviction that education could change the prospects of children whose families had few resources to spare. Ansari understood that political activity alone could not secure the community's future. Children needed the knowledge to pursue professional lives, the confidence to express their ideas and the moral grounding to participate responsibly in society. A school, in this understanding, was an investment in the generation that would inherit the community's unfinished work. The ambition was larger than increasing enrolment or preparing

students for examinations. Ansari wanted children from poor households to have opportunities that might otherwise remain beyond their reach. The school was expected to help them build independent lives while strengthening the intellectual life of their community. Turning that idea into an institution needed people willing to sustain the work through difficult circumstances. Madina Public School developed an educational approach that placed religious instruction alongside modern subjects. Imamiyya studies received particular attention, while arrangements were also made for Shia and Sunni students to receive religious instruction according to their respective beliefs. The intention was to allow children to learn about their faith while pursuing academic education. This combination gave the school a distinct identity. Its underlying belief was that professional achievement and moral development could support one another. Academic knowledge could prepare a student for a career, while religious and ethical instruction could encourage respect for others, consideration for elders and a sense of responsibility towards society. Such an approach also expanded the purpose of education beyond individual advancement. A child who gained access to learning could improve the prospects of a family, while a generation with stronger educational opportunities could contribute to the wider community. The school's philosophy placed these two ambitions together, linking a student's future to the collective aspirations of the people who had established the institution. The Imam Khomeini Conference, held annually in June, became one expression of this philosophy. The event gave students a public platform to speak, debate and present their ideas. Its discussions included Wilayat al-Faqih, the institution of Marja'iyya, the thought of Imam Khomeini and other religious and ideological subjects. Guests from Iran also attended, bringing additional perspectives to the proceedings. The conference was important for reasons beyond its scheduled sessions. Students who took part in speeches and debates had opportunities to practise public speaking, develop their reading habits and explain



MADINA PUBLIC SCHOOL DEVELOPED AN EDUCATIONAL APPROACH THAT PLACED RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION ALONGSIDE MODERN SUBJECTS. Imamiyya studies received particular attention, while arrangements were also made for Shia and Sunni students to receive religious instruction according to their respective beliefs. The intention was to allow children to learn about their faith while pursuing academic education.

their views before an audience. For children who might have had few such opportunities elsewhere, these activities could help reveal abilities that had remained undiscovered. A school's influence is often measured through examinations and professional qualifications. The conference pointed to another part of education, the ability to think independently, speak with confidence and engage with ideas. By giving students a regular place to exercise these skills, Madina Public School sought to prepare them for participation beyond the classroom. The institution's development also depended on people whose contributions were less visible than its founding vision. The late Muhammad

Zawar Malik played a significant role through his sacrifice and devotion to the mission. Master Asadullah Malik helped sustain the school through administration, the continuation of academic activities and efforts to guide its growth. Keeping a small educational institution functioning involves a succession of practical responsibilities. Classes must continue, administrative work must be handled and the school's original purpose must survive the demands of daily operations. Asadullah Malik's contribution lay in helping the institution remain active and advance despite difficulties. His work, alongside Zawar Malik's sacrifice, illustrates how a founder's idea becomes a lasting institution only

when others commit themselves to its upkeep. The school's reach eventually extended beyond Ahmad Pora. Its branches and educational activities in Gund Khwaja Qasim, Bali Hairan Pattan, Nuripora Magam and Grend Kalan brought the initiative to other parts of Kashmir. What began as a local undertaking developed into an educational network serving children in several areas. The significance of this expansion lies in the widening of access. A school established within reach of a family can change the educational choices available to its children. Its influence can extend into the household, where parents see new possibilities for their

sons and daughters, and into the community, where educated young people can contribute their skills to local life. The school's former students now live in countries including China, Taiwan, the United States, Iran, Germany and the United Kingdom. Among its alumni are doctors, engineers and professionals working in different fields. Their achievements belong first to the students themselves, their parents, who made sacrifices for their education, and the teachers who guided them. The institution provided an early foundation on which many of these lives developed. Their geographical spread also gives the school's history a wider reach. A project that began in a small Kashmiri locality has become connected to professional and academic lives in distant countries. The school cannot claim sole credit for the achievements of its alumni, but its role in giving children access to education forms part of that story. Ansari died on October 25, 2022. Four years later, his educational vision can be traced through the school's branches, its combination of religious and modern instruction, the annual conference and the professional lives of former students. The institution provides evidence of what collective effort can build when an idea survives the person who first conceived it. Its future, however, will depend on the work still to be done. Improving educational standards, supporting children from poor families and maintaining religious and moral instruction remain important parts of the mission. Remembering the founders holds an obligation to strengthen the institution they helped establish. Madina Public School began with the belief that a community could improve its future by investing in its children. Its history gives that belief a physical form, in classrooms that have served generations of students and in branches that have taken the school beyond its original home. The founders are gone, but the institution continues to place their ambition before the next generation.

— The author is a PhD scholar at National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Kashmir's Mental Health

childhood adversity, toxic stress, learning disabilities and the early identification of neurodevelopmental disorders.

Opening the deliberations, Prof. Margoo emphasised the need to connect developmental neuroscience with the lived experiences of children and families, particularly in communities exposed to prolonged adversity.

He stressed that early identification, supportive relationships and timely intervention must become central pillars of contemporary mental healthcare.

The keynote address, "The Inner Compass: Mindfulness and Resilience in Young Minds", was delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Rajashree Ray, Chair of the South Asian Division of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, UK.

Her presentation underlined the importance of emotional awareness, resilience-building and psychologically supportive environments in protecting children's mental well-being.

WHEN A CHILD'S DISTRESS GOES UNNOTICED

One of the conference's significant discussions focused on the warning signs of psychological distress that can easily be overlooked in schools and at home.

During a master class titled "Spotting the Invisible: Early Identification in Schools," Prof. Ray highlighted behavioural changes, declining academic performance, unexplained physical complaints, social withdrawal and emerging risk behaviours as possible indicators of underlying distress.

The session drew attention to the role of parents, teachers and educational institutions in identifying children who may need professional support.

The emphasis was on recognising that emotional and behavioural difficulties should not automatically be dismissed as indiscipline, poor academic performance or ordinary childhood problems.

The conference also examined how coordinated support from families, schools and healthcare professionals can help children receive assistance before their difficulties become more serious.

TRAUMA THAT CAN SHAPE AN ENTIRE LIFE

In another major session, Prof. Margoo delivered a master class titled "The Wound That Becomes Us: Trauma, Complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and the Enduring Architecture of Personality."

Drawing on research in developmental psychopathology, attachment, neurobiology and trauma, he examined how repeated or prolonged adversity during sensitive developmental periods may affect emotional regulation, self-perception, relationships and enduring patterns of personality functioning.

The presentation explored the evolving understanding of Complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (CPTSD), highlighting the need to recognise the long-term developmental consequences of psychological trauma.

Importantly, the discussion also focused on the possibilities of recovery. Resilience, neuroplasticity, meaningful human relationships and appropriate therapeutic support were highlighted as factors that can help individuals heal even after prolonged adversity.

The discussions carry particular relevance for Jammu and Kashmir, where prolonged psychosocial adversity has underscored the importance of accessible, preventive and community-oriented mental healthcare.

SUICIDE, PTSD AND COMPLEX PSYCHIATRIC CONDITIONS

The second day of the conference moved from developmental science to clinical practice, with interactive case discussions examining complex psychiatric presentations.

Under the theme "From Evidence to Action," psychiatrists and clinical psychologists discussed suicide and suicidal behaviour, borderline personality disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The sessions featured presentations by Dr. Nizamuddin and Nazia Baba on suicidal behaviour; Dr. Syed Mehvis and Dr. Aijaz Ahmad Khan on borderline personality disorder; and Dr. Shazia Kouser and Aiman Rafiq on post-traumatic stress disorder.

The discussions highlighted the importance of comprehensive clinical assessment, psychological formulation, risk evaluation and individualised therapeutic interventions.

Chaired by Prof. (Dr.) Mansoor Ahmad Dar, Dr. Tajamul Hussain and Prof. (Dr.) Junaid Nabi, the case discussions demonstrated the value of collaboration between psychiatrists and clinical psychologists in managing complex mental health conditions.

DISABILITY: BEYOND DIAGNOSIS AND LABELS

The conference also challenged conventional approaches to disability through a multidisciplinary panel titled "Beyond the Deficit Model: Reimagining Disability in Clinical and Community Settings."

The discussion called for a shift away from viewing disability solely through the lens of individual impairment, emphasising instead dignity, accessibility, reasonable accommodation and meaningful participation.

The panel included Prof. (Dr.) S. M. Salim Khan, President of the J&K State

Medical Council; Prof. Abdul Majid Ganai, former Professor and Head of Community Medicine at SKIMS Soura; Prof. Masooda Yaseen; Prof. (Dr.) Ashfaq Ahmad Butt, Head of Community Medicine at SKIMS Medical College; Dr. Shah Nilofer, Senior Resident in Psychiatry at JVC; and Dr. Arshid Bashir of HRID, VMS.

The deliberations stressed the need for healthcare institutions and communities to become more inclusive and responsive to the needs of persons with disabilities.

Another specialised master class, conducted by Prof. Amit Arya and Prof. Pawan Kumar Gupta, examined developmental and clinical considerations in cases of child sexual abuse, including sensitive assessment, appropriate documentation and preparation for legal proceedings.

The session underscored the importance of protecting children's dignity while ensuring scientifically informed and legally appropriate responses.

A CALL FOR A MORE COMPASSIONATE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

The conference brought together a wide cross-section of medical and academic leadership, including Prof. (Dr.) Arshid Hussain, Head of Psychiatry at IMHANS-K, GMC Srinagar; Prof. (Dr.) Abdul Majid, Head of Psychiatry at SKIMS Medical College, Srinagar; and Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Maqbool Dar, Head of Psychiatry at Kashmir Medical College.

The inaugural session on the second day was attended by Prof. (Dr.) Kaisar Ahmad, President of the Former Faculty Forum of J&K Medical Institutions, as chief guest, and Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Maqbool Dar as guest of honour.

Dr. Farooq Ahmad Kaloo, Secretary of VMS, and Prof. G. M. Malik, former Professor and Head of Medicine at GMC Srinagar and editor of the medical journal JK Practitioner, also attended.

Across the sessions, a recurring theme was the need to strengthen collaboration between healthcare professionals, educational institutions, families, civil society organisations and policymakers.

The underlying message was that mental healthcare cannot be confined to hospitals and clinics. Early recognition of distress, informed families, supportive schools and accessible community services are equally important in preventing avoidable suffering.

SAWAB TAKES ITS MESSAGE ONLINE

A significant milestone during the conference was the launch of SAWAB's official website, marking a step towards expanding the organisation's digital outreach, public engagement and knowledge-sharing initiatives.

The platform is intended to improve access to information about SAWAB's community mental health work and strengthen its engagement with individuals, families and other stakeholders.

Founded by Prof. Margoo, SAWAB—Supporting Always Wholeheartedly All Brokenhearted—emerged in the early 1990s in response to escalating psychosocial distress in Jammu and Kashmir. Its work has focused on community outreach, psychosocial support, mental health education, research, early intervention and care for vulnerable populations.

As the two-day deliberations drew to a close, the central message remained clear: the future of mental healthcare lies not only in treating disorders after they emerge but also in identifying vulnerabilities early, nurturing resilience and building systems that respond to psychological distress with dignity and compassion.

centre of discussions on mental healthcare in Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K Cabinet

my colleagues to please be patient," he said.

The Chief Minister said he had been receiving numerous WhatsApp messages and lengthy biodata from party colleagues hoping to secure ministerial positions, urging them to stop making calls and sending messages.

"Please stop sending WhatsApp messages. I am receiving endless, lengthy messages. Entire books are being written, sending full biodatas as if I don't know who they are! I already know them and their work," he said.

"Whatever has to happen will take place in the next two to three days," he added.

Omar said the Lieutenant Governor would decide the time for the exercise after receiving his request. He also said he had met Sinha to enquire about his health following his absence from Srinagar in recent weeks and to discuss matters requiring consultation with the constitutional authority.

The expansion has remained pending for several months. The Council of Ministers currently has six members, including the Chief Minister, leaving three positions vacant under the maximum permissible strength of nine ministers. The proposed exercise is expected to involve the induction of new members and changes in the allocation of portfolios.

Omar promises help for stranded pilgrims

Separately, the Chief Minister said the government would approach the Ministry of External Affairs to seek a solution for Kashmiri Umrah pilgrims stranded in Saudi Arabia following flight cancellations and a sharp rise in airfares. He described the situation as a

serious concern, noting that travellers from several states were facing similar difficulties.

"This is an issue, a serious concern, and it is not just our pilgrims who are stranded. People from various states across the country are stranded in Saudi Arabia due to flight cancellations," he said.

Omar said flights were operating, but the steep rise in ticket prices had made it difficult for passengers who had originally booked budget fares to arrange alternative travel.

"It is not that flights are not operating at all, but the problem now is that airfares have skyrocketed. People who booked on budget airlines and are stuck there are finding it difficult to purchase new tickets at these inflated rates," he said.

He said the government would approach the Ministry of External Affairs to explore possible assistance and would consider allocating funds from its own budget if the Centre could not provide financial support for tickets or repatriation.

Dental Council powers need examination

Asked about the delegation of powers under the National Dental Commission Act, 2023, to lieutenant governors and administrators of Union Territories to establish State Dental Councils and regulate local dental healthcare, Omar said the matter required examination under the applicable rules of business.

He said it first needed to be established whether the Dental Council fell under the jurisdiction of the Union Territory administration or the Centre.

"It would be better if you ask this question to Sakina Itoo once she returns," he said, referring to the Health Minister.

Declines comment on Ladakh border reports

The Chief Minister declined to comment on reports concerning Chinese patrolling deviations along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh, saying the matter should be taken up with the Ladakh administration or the Union government.

"You should direct this question either to the LG of Ladakh or to the central government," he said, adding that Jammu and Kashmir no longer shares a direct border with China following Ladakh's separation from the erstwhile state.

The cabinet expansion is expected to be among the key political developments in the coming week, with the formal exercise now dependent on the schedule to be fixed by the Lieutenant Governor.

Kashmir Marathon:

Department aims to establish the marathon as an annual event and strengthen Kashmir's position as a destination for national and international sporting events.

Sajjad said the participation of foreign athletes would help introduce Kashmir to a wider international audience. The event would also provide local businesses an opportunity to showcase their products and allow young athletes from Jammu and Kashmir to compete alongside international runners.

Local stalls at the event are displaying handmade goods, handicrafts and agricultural products, he said, adding that such initiatives could support the local economy and tourism sector.

Earlier, Omar Abdullah had said the department had introduced a separate prize category for Jammu and Kashmir to encourage local participation and give runners from the region greater opportunities to showcase their talent.

At the Marathon Expo, inaugurated by the Chief Minister, 20 stalls featuring local handicrafts, handlooms, agricultural produce and other products were set up.

Traffic restrictions and diversions
The Srinagar Traffic Police has announced extensive restrictions and diversions for Sunday to facilitate the marathon and regulate vehicular movement along the route.

Residency Road, from Radio Kashmir Crossing to Polo View, will remain closed to traffic from 5 am to 5 pm. The stretch of M.A. Road from Budshah Chowk towards Dalgate and Badyari, up to Nehru Park, will face restrictions from 5 am to 9 am.

Residency Road, from Court Road–Clock Tower to Biscoe School Crossing, will remain closed from 5 am to 8:30 am. Restrictions will also apply to routes towards Rajbagh and Presentation Convent School from Jawahar Nagar and Lal Mandi during the same period.

Traffic will not be allowed from Nehru Park towards Kralasangri, Nishat, Habbak Crossing and Kashmir University up to Sir Syed Gate from 5 am until the marathon concludes.

Movement from Hotel Lalit towards Gupkar Road and Ram Munshi Bagh, as well as from Sonwar towards Ram Munshi Bagh, will also remain restricted during the event.

Heavy motor vehicles will not be allowed on R.R. Road, Gupkar Road, Boulevard Road and Foreshore Road from 8 pm on Saturday.

Traffic cut-off points will include Lal Mandi, Jahangir Chowk, Mamta Crossing and Ikhwani Chowk from 5 am to 8:30 am. Nishat, Kralasangri, Unani Hospital, Pantha Chowk, Harwan and Grills Junction at Hazratbal will remain restricted from 5 am until the marathon concludes.

Motorists travelling from Harwan, Shalimar, Nishat and Brein have been advised to use the Burzahama–Chandpora–Tailbal–Zakura–Habbak–Naseembagh route in both directions.

Those travelling from Ganderbal and Nagbal towards Lal Chowk should use the 90 Feet Soura Road, while commuters travelling from Rambagh towards Rajbagh have been advised to take Jawahar Nagar Bund Road.

People travelling from Rainawari and Saidakadal towards Hazratbal have been advised to use Lal Bazar Road via Grills Cut towards Kanitar.

Parking arrangements and public advisory

Designated parking facilities for marathon participants include SP College Ground, SDA Parking opposite Pick 'N' Choose, Multilevel Parking at Press Colony, Presentation Convent School, Gindun Park Rajbagh, Institute of Hotel Management Rajbagh, Directorate of Horticulture Rajbagh, Football Ground TRC, Floriculture Park on R.R. Road and Cricket Ground TRC opposite J&K Bank headquarters.

The Traffic Police has advised commuters to plan their journeys in advance and avoid unnecessary travel on Gupkar Road, M.A. Road, Residency Road, Boulevard Road, Badyari, Dalgate, Nishat Foreshore Road, Habbak Crossing and areas near Sir Syed Gate of Kashmir University during the restrictions.

Students appearing for examinations have been advised to carry valid admit cards to facilitate movement through restricted routes. Ambulances, fire tenders and other emergency vehicles will be given priority.

The Srinagar Traffic Police helpline is 103.

MeT Forecasts Dry

recorded a minimum temperature of 2.6 degrees Celsius, two degrees above normal, while Gulmarg registered a low of 1.6 degrees Celsius, 0.4 degrees below normal.

Qazigund recorded a minimum temperature of 7.2 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara and Kokernag registered lows of 4.6 and 7 degrees Celsius, respectively.

In Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 29.7 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 15.5 degrees Celsius.

The Meteorological Centre has advised farmers to continue harvesting and other agricultural operations, with generally dry conditions expected from October 26 to 31. Cloudy weather is likely towards the end of the month.

Sajjan Singh Yadav To

authority, Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav is hereby transferred from Delhi to Jammu and Kashmir as Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir, w.e.f. from 01.11.2026 or from the date of joining, whichever is later," the order stated.

Yadav is currently serving as Additional Chief Secretary in the Delhi government. His appointment will see him supersede at least five IAS officers for the top administrative position in the Union Territory.

Dulloo, a 1989-batch IAS officer, was appointed Chief Secretary with effect from December 1, 2023. His retirement at the end of October will pave the way for the change in the top administrative post.

Yadav has held several key positions in the Central government and various Union Territories during his administrative career, gaining experience in public administration, financial management, governance and public service delivery.

At the Centre, he served as Special Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Joint Secretary in the Department of Expenditure.

He also served as Joint Secretary and Mission Director of POSHAN Abhiyaan under the Ministry of Women and Child Development, where his responsibilities were linked to the implementation of the government's nutrition-related programme.

His other assignments include serving as adviser to the administrator of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Commissioner of Value Added Tax, Chief Executive Officer of the Delhi Jal Board, Commissioner of Food and Supplies in the Delhi government, and Commissioner of the East Delhi Municipal Corporation.

His experience across financial administration, municipal governance, public service delivery and central government departments forms part of his administrative background as he prepares to take charge in Jammu and Kashmir.

Yadav has an academic background spanning public health, public affairs, management and veterinary sciences.

He holds a Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) degree from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and a Master of Public Affairs from the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

He also holds an MBA from the Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi, and a Bachelor of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry degree from Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar.

His contributions to governance and public administration have been recognised with the National Award for e-Governance 2017–18 for outstanding performance in citizen-centric service delivery.

He has also received the President of

India's Medal for outstanding work in Census Operations.

Author and public policy commentator Apart from his administrative responsibilities, Yadav is an author and public policy commentator who has written on civil services, public administration and India's development in the healthcare sector.

His books include Scaling Mount UPSC: Inspiring Stories of Young IAS Officers, published in English by Penguin and in Hindi and Marathi by Manjul Publications.

He has also authored India's Vaccine Growth Story: From Cowpox to Vaccine Maitri, which has been translated into 15 Indian languages.

Yadav has contributed articles to peer-reviewed national and international journals and leading newspapers.

Youth Must Turn

the relevance of Raza's ideas in contemporary times, the Lieutenant Governor said the country's unity was anchored in constitutional ideals, shared traditions, brotherhood, aspirations and everyday experiences.

He called upon citizens to strengthen social trust through dialogue, cooperation and compassion, and to view India's diversity as a source of collective strength.

"The youth must turn every opportunity into a new possibility. It is your responsibility to ensure that development and heritage move forward together," Sinha said.

He urged young people to remain connected to their roots while pursuing ambitious goals, adding that they should carry the values of their heritage wherever they go and transform opportunities into new possibilities through innovation, hard work and dedication.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted India's progress across various sectors, including infrastructure, digital connectivity, financial inclusion, women's empowerment, housing, sanitation and access to essential services.

"Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India is witnessing unprecedented development," he said, adding that efforts towards inclusive development had enhanced the dignity and opportunities available to ordinary citizens.

Sinha said India was demonstrating its capabilities in several fields, ranging from space to digital public infrastructure, and was being viewed by the world as a reliable partner.

"Today, India is demonstrating its capability in many fields, from space to digital public infrastructure, and the world sees our country as a reliable partner," he said.

Calling for collective efforts towards national development, the Lieutenant Governor said the country must move forward with a shared resolve to build an India that is developed, prosperous, strong, self-reliant and technologically advanced.

He underscored that the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 required the active participation of every citizen and accelerated development across all regions so that they could play a meaningful role in India's transformation.

Describing Rahi Masoom Raza's birth centenary as an opportunity to reflect on the country's future, Sinha said people should resolve to make diversity a source of strength and reinforce social trust through dialogue, cooperation and compassion.

"Dr Rahi Masoom Raza's birth centenary celebration is an opportunity to give a new direction to the future. It should be our resolve to make our diversity our strength, and by choosing dialogue, cooperation, and compassion, we will further strengthen social trust," he said.

Srinagar Man

following settlement of their property-related business dealings.

As per proceedings, Bujal had issued a cheque for Rs 46.50 lakh, drawn on J&K Bank, Brein Nishat branch. The cheque was dishonoured with the remark "Payment Stopped by Drawer". A statutory demand notice was subsequently issued, but the accused failed to make payment within the prescribed period.

The accused had denied liability, claiming that he had handed over a signed blank cheque to the complainant in the course of their business relationship and that it was subsequently misused. The court, however, held that the defence failed to rebut the statutory presumption arising from the admitted signature and handing over of the cheque.

The court observed that merely filling in the particulars of a signed cheque by the payee does not, by itself, invalidate the instrument or displace the statutory presumption. It further noted that the accused had not produced convincing material showing that the cheque had been misused or that the alleged liability did not exist.

Holding that the complainant had established all essential ingredients of the offence, the court convicted Bujal under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.

The court sentenced him to one year's simple imprisonment and imposed a fine equal to twice the cheque amount, to be paid as compensation to the complainant. Since the accused was absent when the judgment was pronounced,

the court ordered issuance of a non-bailable warrant and directed that he be communicated the judgment after being brought before the court

Court Orders Trial

Baramulla MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid, Masarat Alam, Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali, Naval Kishore Kapoor, and M/s Trison Farms and Constructions Pvt Ltd.

The ED case stems from a 2017 National Investigation Agency (NIA) case in which charges under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) were invoked.

The prosecution has alleged that the accused received funds from the "Pakistani establishment" through hawala channels and other means to propagate secessionist activities and carry out acts prejudicial to the law of the land.

According to the ED, the money was routed through a complex network involving cash couriers and conduits who allegedly collected funds from the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi and delivered them to separatist leaders, including Malik, for subversive activities.

The agency has alleged that Malik received foreign funds worth more than Rs 3 crore and laundered the proceeds of crime. It has also accused Shah and Rashid of receiving funds through intermediaries and maintaining links with separatist organisations. The allegations are yet to be established through trial.

States Told To

and control, regulatory compliance and healthcare expenditure.

It also flagged instances in which patients were allegedly charged the full cost of medical devices despite their reuse, or the costs were reimbursed by the concerned government authorities.

According to the Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AIMeD), items reportedly being reused include cardiac catheters, guidewires, balloon and ablation catheters, introducer sheaths, dialysis equipment such as dialysers and blood tubing, surgical staplers, laparoscopic trocars and orthopaedic drill bits. Syringes and needles have also been identified among the items.

The DGHS warned that sterilisation does not necessarily make devices designed for single use safe for reuse. Inadequate reprocessing or deterioration could compromise their performance and leave biological material behind.

The practice could expose patients to cross-infections, device malfunction, reduced performance and other procedure-related complications, including hepatitis B and C, HIV and bacterial infections, the directorate said.

The letter also pointed to possible violations of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, the Medical Devices Rules, 2017, the Clinical Establishments Act, 2010, and applicable infection prevention and biomedical waste management requirements.

"It has accordingly been decided that the reuse of single-use medical devices and disposable surgical items shall be strictly prohibited in all healthcare organisations, including both public and private healthcare facilities, under the administrative jurisdiction of the Government of India, states and Union Territories," the letter said.

The DGHS has asked chief secretaries, state health department officials, directors of health services, the Drug Controller General of India and state and UT drug controllers to ensure strict vigilance and effective enforcement.

Authorities have been directed to inspect and monitor healthcare establishments, ensure compliance with the order and take appropriate action in cases of violations.

"All single-use devices/disposable surgical items should be utilised strictly in accordance with the instructions and recommendations of the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM)," the letter said.

The directive also referred to a Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) office memorandum issued in December 2016 concerning the reuse of such devices in hospitals empanelled under the scheme.

Man Booked For

and his son, Tariq Ahmad, residents of Frastabal in Pampore.

The complainants alleged that Haroon Rashid Bandh, a resident of Kachachkoot in Awantipora, impersonated the ADC Pulwama and obtained money from them by misusing his purported official position.

According to the complaint, a portion of Thoker's land at Gudora in Pulwama had been acquired for the widening of National Highway-444, for which compensation was payable.

The complainants alleged that approximately Rs 28 lakh was obtained in connection with the land compensation and a property transaction.

After examining the application and supporting material, the court observed that the allegations prima facie disclosed cognisable offences requiring investigation.

The court accordingly directed the Station House Officer (SHO) concerned to proceed in accordance with the law, following which Pulwama Police registered the case.

The allegations are yet to be established through investigation.

Kashmir Growers Embrace High-Density Apple Cultivation for Higher Yields

Agencies

SRINAGAR: High-density apple cultivation is rising across Kashmir, with more orchardists switching to modern, high-yielding varieties for better returns, higher productivity, and lower fertiliser and pesticide costs.

The growing popularity of this method continues to prompt farmers to remove old apple and almond trees and prepare additional land for high-density plantations. In some areas, farmers are also increasingly converting agricultural land traditionally used for paddy cultivation into apple orchards, reflecting a shift in farming practices driven by the prospect of higher earnings.

Fruit growers in Kashmir are showing greater interest in imported apple varieties that can accommodate more plants in a smaller area and begin producing commercially within a shorter period compared to conventional orchards. The transition is being driven by the perceived economic advantages of high-density plantations, which allow growers to make more efficient use of available land while potentially reducing the cost of crop management.

The Jammu and Kashmir government introduced a scheme



in 2016 to promote high-density apple cultivation, offering financial assistance to growers seeking to replace old and less productive orchards with modern plantations. Under the scheme, eligible farmers are provided a 50 per cent subsidy for establishing high-density orchards, subject to departmental assessment and prescribed conditions. The Horticulture Department also provides technical guidance regarding site selection, plantation layout, irrigation and other essential aspects of orchard management.

An official from the Horticulture Department told KNO that the scheme was intended to help growers modernise their orchards and improve productivity. "After assessing the site,

its suitability and the availability of irrigation facilities, financial assistance is provided to eligible growers for establishing high-density plantations. The objective is to encourage scientific cultivation and help farmers obtain better returns from their land," the official said.

He said the estimated cost of establishing a high-density orchard on one kanal of land was around ₹1.60 lakh, of which the government provides ₹80,000 as subsidy, while the beneficiary contributes the remaining amount. High-density plantations require proper planning and regular maintenance, with irrigation being one of the most important components, he added.

According to horticulture officials, while traditional or-

chards generally accommodate around 250 trees per hectare, high-density systems can accommodate approximately 4,000 plants per hectare, depending on the planting system and variety.

Showkat Ahmad, a high-density apple grower, said the productivity of these orchards improves as the trees mature, encouraging more farmers to adopt the system. "The response from growers has been encouraging because high-density plantations offer the possibility of better production and improved returns. The yield increases as the orchard develops, and the quality and market value of the produce can also make a difference to a grower's income," he said.

Horticulture experts said high-density cultivation could also help reduce the excessive use of agricultural inputs associated with some traditional orchards, as conventional apple trees often grow considerably taller, making spraying and other management operations more difficult.

Ansar-ul-Haq, Assistant Manager at Master Pro Laspura, said high-density apple plantations can reduce fertiliser consumption by around 70 per cent and pesticide spraying by nearly 80 per cent compared

to conventional systems. He said some high-density varieties could produce around 50 to 70 metric tonnes of apples per hectare by the third year under suitable conditions, whereas traditional orchards generally produce considerably lower quantities.

A scientist associated with SKUAST said modernisation of the horticulture sector was essential to improve the economic prospects of fruit growers, and that high-density cultivation offered an opportunity to increase productivity by utilising every inch of land more efficiently. He said certain varieties also offered improved resistance to apple scab, potentially reducing crop losses and the need for chemical treatments.

However, the increasing conversion of agricultural land into apple orchards has brought the changing pattern of land use into focus, particularly in areas where paddy cultivation has traditionally been an important source of livelihood. Experts say farmers should carefully assess the suitability of their land, long-term water availability, establishment costs and market conditions before making the transition, and stress the need for technical guidance and effective implementation of government support schemes—(KNO)

CM Omar Expresses Concern Over Umrah Pilgrims Stranded In KSA

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed concern over the Jammu and Kashmir pilgrims currently stranded in Saudi Arabia after undertaking Umrah, stating that the J&K Government is in active coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs to facilitate their safe and early return.

The Chief Minister reaffirmed the Government's commitment to taking all necessary measures in coordination with the concerned authorities to ensure the safe and expeditious return of the stranded pilgrims.

He also assured the pilgrims and their families that the Government stands firmly with them and will continue to extend all possible support to facilitate their return home at the earliest. (Observer News Service)

Bear Mauls Youth In Anantnag

ANANTNAG: A youth was injured after being attacked by a wild bear at an apple orchard in the Sallar area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday.

An official told KNO that the youth was attacked by a wild bear at an orchard in Sallar.

He was shifted to Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag for treatment and was identified as Nasir Ahmed Hajam (22), son of Khurshid Ahmad Hajam, a resident of Sallar.

Meanwhile, cognisance has been taken, while locals have urged the authorities to take measures to prevent further incidents—(KNO)

Scooter Hits Woman To Death In Baramulla's Sheeri

BARAMULLA: A 45-year-old woman died after being hit by a scooter in the Malpora area of Sheeri in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Saturday.

An official said that the woman was injured after being hit by a scooter and was shifted to PHC Sheeri, where doctors declared her brought dead.

She was identified as Gulshan Begum (45), wife of Mohammad Ramzan Lone, a resident of Malpora, Sheeri.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident and a probe has been initiated—(KNO)

Man Found Dead In Samba

SAMBA: A man was found dead inside an office room at the SIDCO Industrial Complex in Samba district on Saturday, officials said.

An official said that the deceased was working at the Phase III of the SIDCO Industrial Complex, Samba.

He was found unconscious by fellow workers, who later informed the police. He was subsequently identified as Kamal Kumar, a resident of Jalandhar, Punjab.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident and medico-legal formalities are underway—(KNO)

Man Found Dead In Kathua

KATHUA: The body of a 28-year-old man was found in a drain in the Nagri area of Kathua district on Saturday, officials said.

An official said that locals spotted the body in a drain in Nagri, following which police reached the spot and took the body into custody.

The deceased was identified as Nihal Saini (28), a resident of Nagri. His body was shifted to Government Medical College (GMC) Kathua for medico-legal formalities.

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

Experts Warn Polio Threat Persists Despite India's Virus-Free Status

SRINAGAR: Even as India continues to maintain its polio-free status, health experts have cautioned that the threat of the crippling disease persists due to the continued circulation of poliovirus in neighbouring countries, stressing the need for sustained vaccination coverage, effective surveillance and improved sanitation.

On the occasion of World Polio Day, observed annually on October 24, doctors said that maintaining high immunisation coverage among children remains crucial to preventing the reintroduction of the virus, which can cause irreversible paralysis and, in severe cases, death.

India was declared polio-free in 2014, marking a major milestone in its public health efforts. However, doctors said the country cannot afford to become complacent as the virus continues to circulate in some parts of the world, leaving the possibility of imported infections.

Dr Ab Rashid Bhat, a doctor at the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), told KNO that even a single confirmed case of polio can trigger serious public health concerns, making continuous surveillance and vaccination essential. He said the poliovirus multiplies in the intestine and is subsequently shed through faeces, potentially contaminating the surrounding environment and exposing others to infection.

"Poor hygiene, unsafe drinking water and a lack of proper sanitation facilities create favourable conditions for the transmission of the virus. Children below five years are particularly vulnerable, which makes ensuring complete immunisation coverage among this age group extremely important," he said.

Dr Fayaz Ahmad Shah said the consequences of polio can extend throughout a person's life, even after the initial infection has passed. "Many polio survivors continue to experience long-term complications, including muscle weakness, limb deformities and difficulties in walking or performing routine activities," he said.

Fire Breaks Out At Blanket Shop In Srinagar's Karan Nagar, F&ES On Job



SRINAGAR: A fire broke out at a blanket shop near in the Kaka Sarai area of Karan Nagar, Srinagar, late Saturday night, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the fire broke out at a blanket factory near Medicare Hospital in Karan Nagar, Srinagar.

He said Fire and Emergency Services personnel are on the job to douse the flames, while patients were evacuated from the nearby hospital as a precautionary measure.

The official said that, as per preliminary information, no casualties or injuries had been reported and firefighting operations were underway when the report was filed.

Further Details Awaited.—(KNO)

Speaker Inaugurates 5 Km Kutbal-Yousmarg Road, Villages

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a major boost to connectivity and tourism in the area, Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, who is also MLA Charar-i-Sharief on Saturday inaugurated the much-awaited 5 kilometre Kutbal-Yousmarg road, turning a long-cherished dream of residents of dozens of villages into reality.

The newly inaugurated road is expected to significantly improve connectivity between the villages and the popular tourist destination of Yousmarg. Besides facilitating the movement of local residents, the road

is likely to give fresh impetus to tourism-related activities and create new employment and livelihood opportunities for local youth.

Speaking on the occasion, Abdul Rahim Rather reiterated the government's commitment to strengthen the road connectivity across rural and remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that improved road infrastructure is vital for ensuring equitable development, facilitating access to essential services and unlocking the tourism and economic potential of underserved areas.

He directed the concerned authorities to main-

tain a focused approach towards addressing the connectivity-related issues and ensuring timely completion of road projects while adhering to prescribed quality standards. He stressed that development initiatives must translate into tangible benefits for the people, particularly those residing in far-flung and rural areas.

Expressing gratitude to the Speaker, the residents said the project had been a long-pending demand of dozens of villages which has come to reality. They said improved connectivity with Yousmarg would open new avenues for tourism, trade and employment in the region.

SEASON 5: Jashn-e-Manasbal Celebrates Kashmir's Rich Cultural Heritage



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The fifth edition of Jashn-e-Manasbal was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the Open Air Theatre, Manasbal, bringing together prominent poets, writers, theatre personalities, artists and culture enthusiasts to celebrate the rich artistic and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

Organised by Manasbal Dramatics in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) and the Department of Information and Public Relations, Kashmir, the event featured folk music, dance, drama and solo performances that received an enthusiastic response from the audience.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, attended the programme as the Chief Guest, while JKAACL Secretary Harvinder Kaur was the Guest of Honour. Joint Director Information Shahnawaz Bukhari was also present.

Addressing the gathering, Wular and Manasbal Development Authority CEO Ahsan UI Haq Cheti

highlighted ongoing developmental initiatives and stressed the need to develop Manasbal as a major tourist destination after Srinagar.

JKAACL Secretary Harvinder Kaur appreciated Manasbal Dramatics for its contribution to promoting art and culture. She emphasised the importance of organising more cultural programmes, particularly at the Open Air Theatre, and announced schemes aimed at the welfare and betterment of artists.

Chief Guest Nasir Aslam Wani lauded the organisers and called for similar cultural initiatives across Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in rural areas. He said such programmes could help younger generations remain connected to their cultural roots while encouraging positive engagement among youth.

A major highlight of the event was the presentation of literary and theatrical awards recognising distinguished contributions to Kashmiri literature and theatre.

The Niyamatullah Pararay Award was presented

to renowned poet and writer Fayaz Ahmed Teigmami, while the Lal Mohammad Khan Zakhmi Award was conferred upon noted poet and writer Shehbaz Haakbaari. The Khilat-e-Raheem Padshah (R.A.) was presented to acclaimed poet, playwright and actor Rasheed Gamgeen.

The occasion also witnessed the release of Shafqat, the eighth collection of plays by Rasheed Gamgeen. The book was formally released by Nasir Aslam Wani and Harvinder Kaur.

Manasbal Dramatics has been recognising the contributions of poets, writers and theatre personalities through its annual awards since 2022.

The programme was anchored by Mubashir Riyaz and Rifat Raheem, while renowned theatre writer and director Nisar Naseem delivered the welcome address. Bashir Ahmed Pararay presented the vote of thanks.

The gathering celebrated Kashmir's vibrant cultural traditions and highlighted the importance of preserving its literary and theatrical heritage for future generations.

Jammu University Poonch Campus Conducts Academic Induction Programme 2026

Observer News Service

POONCH: The Poonch Campus of the University of Jammu organised the Academic Induction Programme 2026.

The programme aimed to familiarise students with the academic environment, introduce them to the vision and values of higher education and inspire them to pursue their educational goals with confidence.

The programme began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by Chief Guest Additional District Development Commissioner Amarjeet Singh, Director Poonch Campus Prof Rakesh Vaid and other dignitaries.



Prof Vaid highlighted the role of quality education in shaping students' careers, critical thinking and personality development and encouraged them to make the best use of the educational opportunities available on campus.

Assistant Professor (Sericulture) SKC-GDC Poonch Dr Arti Sharma and Assistant Professor (Political Science) SKC-GDC Poonch Raj Kumar spoke on the scope, signifi-

cance and career opportunities in sericulture and political science respectively.

Students presented cultural performances including poetry, a skit, group song, group dance, ghazal and other artistic presentations.

The Chief Guest appreciated the campus's efforts in providing quality education and fostering the holistic development of students. He encouraged students to remain dedicated to their studies, develop essential skills and participate actively in co-curricular activities. Mr Singh assured the gathering that the district administration would provide all possible help for the development of the campus.

Altaf Bukhari Urges PM Modi, Jaishankar To Bring Stranded Umrah Pilgrims Home

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Saturday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to ensure the safe and early return of Kashmiri Umrah pilgrims stranded in Saudi Arabia following the cancellation of their return flights.

In a statement, Bukhari expressed concern over the difficulties faced by the pilgrims, saying their prolonged stay in Saudi Arabia had left many struggling to meet expenses for accommoda-



tion, food and essential medicines.

He urged the Union government to intervene immediately and make necessary arrangements for their safe return.

"I appeal to Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to intervene and ensure that the Kashmiri pilgrims stranded in Saudi Arabia are brought back home safely and at the earliest," Bukhari said.

He said the government must extend all possible assistance to the affected pilgrims until their return flights are arranged.

Bukhari also stressed the need for immediate financial and logistical support, saying the stranded pilgrims should not be left to face further hardship because of circumstances beyond their control.

India Extends Aid to Stranded Nationals, Umrah Pilgrims in Saudi Arabia

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India on Saturday issued a fresh advisory for its nationals in Saudi Arabia, particularly Umrah pilgrims, affected by ongoing flight cancellations and is coordinating with the Gulf Kingdom's authorities to facilitate their early return.

The advisory comes amid escalating tensions in the region due to a series of drone and missile attacks targeting civilian infrastructure by Yemen's Houthis.

The Consulate General of India in Jeddah said its 24x7 Control Rooms in Jeddah and Makkah continued to provide necessary assistance to affected Indians, with support from community associations and volunteers.

The assistance includes food, essential medicines and other immediate requirements wherever needed and feasible, it said.

The mission also said it remained in regular contact with Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah and Ministry of Foreign Affairs to address difficulties caused by the flight disruptions, particularly issues concerning visa validity and delayed departures.

Umrah pilgrims facing difficul-



ties related to accommodation or other services during their extended stay have been advised to contact the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah's Pilgrim Care Centre at 1966 to register their concerns and obtain a case reference number.

They have also been asked to remain in contact with their respective Umrah service providers for necessary assistance.

The consulate said it was in regu-

lar contact with Indian airlines over flight cancellations and passenger concerns, including difficulties in obtaining refunds.

To help arrange alternative travel, the mission has been connecting Indian Umrah tour operators with airlines that continue to operate services to India.

Such arrangements would be subject to seat availability, applicable fares and other requirements of

the airlines concerned, it said.

Individuals affected by the disruptions should stay in constant contact with their airlines, travel agents, or Umrah operators to manage cancellations, rebookings, refunds, and alternative travel plans.

"The Consulate continues to coordinate with the concerned authorities, airlines and other stakeholders to facilitate the early return of affected Indian nationals," the advisory said.

ED Arrests Advocate in Pan-India Cyber Fraud Case



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI/PANAJI: The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday arrested an advocate at the Mumbai airport as part of a money-laundering investigation linked to an alleged pan-India cyber fraud and digital arrest case involving transactions worth Rs 28,000 crore, taking the total arrests in the matter to seven, official sources said.

A team from the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) Panaji unit intercepted Rashesh Upadhyay alias Rashesh Shah at a boarding gate inside the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport when he was about to take a flight to Delhi.

Officers from the Customs and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) assisted the ED in zeroing in on Upadhyay, the sources said.

The accused was taken to Panaji and produced before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court, which sent him to ED custody till October 29, they said.

This was the seventh arrest made by the ED in the case. The central agency earlier said in a statement that its probe in the case began following the registration of an FIR by Goa Police on June 9, 2025, after a Goa-based woman was allegedly duped into transferring Rs 2.60 crore between May 21, 2025, and June 2, 2025, into multiple mule accounts by cyber fraudsters who placed her under digital arrest.

The ED told the court while seeking Upadhyay's remand that he was a "key node" of the network and that when the bank accounts of the alleged cybercrime network were frozen on police complaints,

he got them released by bribing the officials of the concerned agencies, routed through 'Angadiyas' (a private banking network of individuals dealing in cash).

The ED alleged that the accused enrolled as an advocate but never appeared or filed a 'Vakalatnama' for any of the accused or their companies.

The agency said the money cheated from the Goa victim was put in 400 mule accounts of commodity, travel and forex companies run through dummy directors.

These funds were subsequently withdrawn in cash and converted into foreign currency through RBI-licensed money changers, it said.

The alleged cyber fraud network handled banking transactions worth nearly Rs 28,000 crore and deposited about Rs 2,900 crore in cash, according to the agency.

Its accounts appear in over 300 victim complaints and more than 160 FIRs across 20 states and Union territories, with reported losses of more than Rs 400 crore, the ED said.

The agency is trying to identify the officials who allegedly took bribes, the 'Angadiyas' and other intermediaries, and trace the full proceeds of crime.

Digital arrest is a cybercrime in which fraudsters, posing as law enforcement officials, threaten people through audio or video calls, virtually holding them hostage and pressuring them into transferring money online.

The government has said that digital arrest is not legal in India and such crimes should be immediately reported to the national cyber helpline number 1930 or at the web portal cybercrime.gov.in.

Sonia Gandhi Recalls Rajiv's Good Looks in X Debut

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Sonia Gandhi on Saturday described Rajiv Gandhi as a very good-looking and gentle person and shared her memories of their life together as she made her debut on social media platform X.

She put out a video regarding her upcoming book -- "Belonging - a journey of love" -- in which she shares her journey from her younger days till now. The book will be launched on November 10.

Gandhi also shared a nearly two-minute-long video on X as well as on Instagram, in which she recalled how she met her husband Rajiv Gandhi in Cambridge and showed their pictures and that of the restaurant where they first met.



"In a small Greek restaurant in Cambridge my journey of love began. Rajiv and I created a world filled with love, laughter and memories. On 10th November, I share that world with you," she said in her first post on X.

Going through photographs in the video, the Congress parliamentary party chairperson described Rajiv Gandhi as a very good-looking and gentle person.

Asked about what it was like falling in love with Rajiv Gandhi, she said, "Food in England in those days was awful. In those days, you didn't have so many restaurants, you know, like you have today."

"And so, I was constantly looking for a place where I could find some food which was closer to my kind of food -- Italian food in that case."

"And then, we discovered this

place (Varsity Restaurant). It was a Greek restaurant where many European students, but also Indian students, used to go for their meals. And that is where I met Rajiv in that very restaurant," the former Congress chief said.

"When I first met him, I felt almost immediately that, you know, he was someone I would really love to be with. And, of course, I learned that it was the same for him," Gandhi recalled in the video.

She said that a common friend had introduced her to the former prime minister.

"Then, you know, we became friends. Then going to parties with friends or going to see sights or we went to a Valentine's party where there were lots of students."

"He was a very gentle-looking

person. Of course, he was very good-looking, but that gentleness came through. So that was something which really touched me and struck me. So that of course, I'll never forget when I first met him," she said.

This is Gandhi's first foray into social media. Before this, she did not have any account on X, Instagram or Facebook. She has so far been using the X handle of the Congress to release her video statements or messages to share with the public.

The Congress leader has followed the X handles of the Congress, her son Rahul Gandhi, daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and party chief Mallikarjun Kharge. She has quickly garnered a lot of followers within a few hours as several Congress leaders and others began following her handle.

IUML Expels Member in Rs 8-Crore Qatar Currency Theft Probe

Press Trust of India

KOZHIKODE (KERALAM): The IUML has expelled one of its members and removed him from its affiliated organisations amid a probe into the theft of 31 lakh Qatari riyals, worth nearly Rs 8 crore, from the KMCC office in Doha.

The IUML state committee announced the expulsion on Saturday through its mouthpiece, Chandrika Daily. Razak Kunnummel, also known as Rotana Razak, of Thurayoor pan-chayat, has been expelled from the party and its associated organisations, including the Kerala Muslim Cultural Centre.

The KMCC is a cultural and social welfare organisation associated with the Indian Union Muslim League,



a key ally of the Congress-led UDF in Kerala. Razak was an IUML council member in Qatar and an active member of

the KMCC.

Koyilandy police registered a case on September 15, 2026, in connection with the theft of 31 lakh

Qatari riyals from the KMCC office in Doha. The theft was reported on September 18, 2025, at the office in the Al Thumama area of Doha.



MESSAGE

मनोज सिन्हा
उपराज्यपाल
जम्मू, पश्चिम कश्मीर
MANOJ SINHA
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
JAMMU & KASHMIR

I am pleased to know that the Anti-Corruption Bureau and General Administration Department (Vigilance) is observing Vigilance Awareness Week on the theme "Probity for Prosperity" from 26th October to 1st November, 2026. This year's theme serves as a timely reminder that good governance begins with integrity, transparency, and accountability. Public office is a position of public trust and every decision made by a public servant directly impacts people's lives.

"Probity for Prosperity" underscores that sustainable development is inextricably linked to transparency and uncompromising integrity. It mandates the prudent utilisation of public funds, transparent decision-making processes and the elimination of preferential treatment. True progress is measured by their lawful and ethical execution.

A culture of probity strengthens institutional resilience, curtails corruption, enhances public service delivery and fosters civic trust. Public confidence in institutions serves as the foundation for robust, inclusive and sustainable development. Therefore, we must institutionalize integrity as a standard, transparency as a practice, and accountability as an unwavering commitment.

On this Vigilance Awareness Week, I call upon all public servants, citizens and institutions to uphold the highest standards of honesty and ethical conduct and to become active partners in building a society where integrity is celebrated, corruption is rejected and public services remains a sacred trust.

Together, let us build a transparent, accountable and corruption free system for a stronger, fairer and more prosperous Jammu Kashmir. I extend my greetings to all those associated with the organisation of Vigilance Week at Anti-Corruption Bureau and General Administration Department (Vigilance).

I wish the campaign every success.

Manoj Sinha
(Manoj Sinha)

22nd October, 2026
Srinagar



MESSAGE

CHIEF MINISTER
Jammu & Kashmir



On this Vigilance Awareness Week -2026, let us renew our pledge to uphold and strengthen public trust and work together towards a corruption-free and prosperous Jammu & Kashmir.

Under this year's vital theme, Probity for Prosperity we are reminded that true growth and lasting success, both personal and societal, can only be built on a foundation of honesty and ethical governance. The true measure of governance lies not only in the promises we make or the development we achieve, but also in the honesty, fairness and accountability with which we serve our people, ensuring that public resources are safeguarded and the interests of citizens remain paramount. For Jammu & Kashmir, inclusive development and lasting prosperity must be founded on a governance system that is transparent, responsive and accountable. Every citizen deserves fair treatment, timely delivery of public services and equal access to opportunities. The judicious use of public funds, impartial decision-making and an unwavering commitment to public welfare are essential to ensuring that the benefits of progress reach every region and every section of society. Preventive vigilance plays a vital role in translating these principles into practice. Simplifying administrative procedures, promoting digital governance, ensuring transparency in public procurement and strengthening monitoring and grievance redressal mechanisms, can minimize opportunities for corruption and make administration more efficient, and citizen friendly. However, sustainable change requires collective commitment to ethical values, with every public servant discharging their duties with integrity and every citizen contributing to a culture of honesty and accountability.

On this occasion, I call upon all public servants, institutions and citizens to renew their commitment to the highest standards of probity in public life. Let us work together to build a governance framework founded on trust, fairness, transparency and accountability, where public service remains a sincere commitment to the common good. By making integrity the cornerstone of our collective efforts, we can lay a strong foundation for a just, inclusive and prosperous Jammu & Kashmir.

Omar Abdullah
(Omar Abdullah)

Place: Srinagar
Dated: 21st October 2026.



MESSAGE

Chief Secretary
Jammu & Kashmir



The theme "Probity for Prosperity" reminds us that integrity is fundamental for our prosperous future through sustainable use of public resources and effective delivery of public services. For an administrative system committed to cater to million of citizens, probity must be a hallmark for major policy decisions in processes, transactions and interactions.

2. Timely disposal of cases, transparent procurement, proper management of contracts, adherence to established procedures and responsible utilization of public funds are important dimensions of probity. Strengthening these practices not only enhances efficiency but also reduces vulnerabilities that may result in corruption or administrative impropriety. 3. Preventive vigilance must, therefore, become an integral part of institutional functioning. Capacity building, regular review of procedures, identification of areas prone to risk and wider adoption of digital systems can help create stronger safeguards. Technology can bring greater transparency and traceability, but its success depends upon the professionalism, ethical standards and accountability of the personnel entrusted with its use. 4. Vigilance Awareness Week, commencing w.e.f 26th of October, provides us an important opportunity for renewing our collective commitment to clean, transparent and responsible administration. By embedding integrity into our systems and everyday conduct, we can make governance more efficient, credible and capable of delivering sustainable prosperity for the people of Jammu & Kashmir. 5. I urge all officers and employees to treat probity not merely as a compliance requirement but as a professional and personal obligation.

Anil Dhillon
(Anil Dhillon)

Place: Srinagar



MESSAGE

Commissioner / Secretary to the Government
General Administration Department
Jammu & Kashmir



The theme of Vigilance Awareness Week-2026, "Probity for Prosperity", draws attention to the vital role of ethical administration in creating an environment where development is equitable, efficient and sustainable. Probity begins with a culture in which transparency, impartiality and accountability are incorporated in the everyday conduct of public officials. An effective system of governance must continuously review and strengthen its procedures to ensure that they are simple, transparent and resistant to misuse. Delays, excessive discretion and weak internal controls can create vulnerabilities, whereas clearly defined processes, proper documentation and timely decision making enhance both efficiency and accountability. Preventive vigilance is therefore as important as corrective action in safeguarding the integrity of public administration.

The growing adoption of digital governance offers significant opportunities in this regard. Digital records, online monitoring, transparent procurement processes and technology enabled service delivery can improve traceability, strengthen accountability and reduce avoidable human intervention. However, technology must be accompanied by sound institutional practices, adequate capacity building and a clear understanding of ethical and professional responsibilities.

This Vigilance Awareness Week, let us renew our commitment to building an administrative culture in which probity is reflected in every decision and every public service. By strengthening preventive mechanisms, promoting transparency and ensuring responsible use of public resources, we can build institutions that command public confidence and contribute meaningfully to the prosperity and well being of Jammu & Kashmir.

M. Raju
(M. Raju) IAS

Dated: 22-10-2026
Place: Jammu



MESSAGE

Director
Anti Corruption Bureau J&K
Tel. : 0194-2430792 (Srinagar)
0191-2542330 (Jammu)
E-mail : director.vigilance@jk.gov.in



The theme of Vigilance Awareness Week-2026, "Probity for Prosperity", places the fight against corruption at the heart of high governance. Prosperity is meaningful and sustainable only when public institutions function with fairness, integrity and accountability. Decisions taken without proper influence and public resources are protected from misuse. Probity in public life is, therefore, essential to preserving the trust between citizens and institutions.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau is committed to strengthening both enforcement and preventive vigilance. While firm action against corrupt practices remains necessary, equal importance must be given to identifying systemic weaknesses, improving internal controls and strengthening processes that create opportunities for misconduct. A strong vigilance framework must seek not only to detect violations but also to prevent them. Public participation remains an important component of this effort. Citizens should feel confident in approaching the appropriate mechanisms when they encounter corruption or misuse of authority. Responsive complaint-handling systems, transparency in public processes and protection of institutional integrity can help create an environment in which corrupt practices find less space to operate. Technology is also increasingly important in strengthening vigilance. Digital systems, electronic procurement, data-based monitoring and improved record management can enhance transparency and traceability while reducing opportunities for undue discretion. These measures, supported by ethical leadership and responsible conduct, can significantly strengthen preventive vigilance.

This Vigilance Awareness Week, let us reaffirm that probity is not only a safeguard against corruption but also a pathway to prosperity. Through integrity, accountability and effective preventive vigilance, we can strengthen public trust and help build a cleaner, fairer and more prosperous Jammu & Kashmir.

Shakti Kumar Pathak, IPS

Dated: 23-10-2026
Place: Srinagar

DIPK-NB-1945-26
DT: 24/10/2026