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Major Cabinet Reshuffle Likely Today

Four new ministers to join; Congress declines Cabinet berth

All five ministers submit resignations; LG To Administer Oath



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Omar Abdullah-led government in Jammu and Kashmir is set to undertake its first major Cabinet reshuffle on Tuesday, with four new ministers expected to join the Council of Ministers as the ruling National Conference prepares to restructure its team.

Highly placed sources said that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has finalised the induction of four legislators, Ali Mohammad Sagar, Altaf Ahmad Kaloo, Shameema Firdous and Mir Saifullah, into the ministry. Incumbent minister Satish Sharma is likely to be dropped as part of the reshuffle.

The swearing-in ceremony is scheduled to be held at 10:30 am at the Lok Bhavan Auditorium in Srinagar, where

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will administer the oath of office and secrecy to the incoming ministers.

Ahead of the expansion, all five incumbent ministers submitted their resignation letters to Omar Abdullah on Monday, sources said, leaving the decision on their continuation in the government to the Chief Minister.

A close associate of the Chief Minister described the submission of resignation letters as a routine exercise ahead of the Cabinet expansion, clarifying that it did not necessarily mean all the incumbent ministers would be dropped.

"The ministers have submitted their resignation. It is now up to the CM whether to retain them or forward their resignation to Lok Bhavan," sources said. The resignations | [More on P6](#)

FCIK Seeks Debt Recovery Tribunal In J&K

Federation flags costly travel, legal hurdles for borrowers forced to pursue cases in Chandigarh

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) has urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take up with the Centre its demand for establishing a Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) in Jammu and Kashmir, citing the financial burden and legal difficulties faced by local borrowers compelled to pursue cases in Chandigarh.

In a representation to the Chief Minister, the industrial body sought a permanent DRT with regular sittings in Srinagar and Jammu. Pending its establishment, it called for scheduled circuit sittings in both cities to

ensure borrowers have easier access to legal remedies.

The Federation has asked Omar Abdullah to pursue the matter with the Union Finance Minister and the Secretary of the Department of Financial Services in the Ministry of Finance.

FCIK said it had received complaints alleging that some lawyers engaged by borrowers had failed to pursue cases or attend proceedings despite receiving professional fees, resulting in ex parte decisions.

"These complaints merit serious examination and highlight the vulnerability of borrowers who can neither afford repeated travel | [More on P6](#)

3,255 Women, 1,016 Minor Girls Still Missing In J&K Since 2019

» RTI data shows 16,397 women and girls reported missing; over 26% remain untraced

» J&K recorded 2,595 missing adult women in 2025; 158 of 286 girls reported missing this year remain untraced

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: A total of 16,397 adult women and minor girls have been reported missing in Jammu and Kashmir since 2019, with 4,271 still untraced, according to official figures.

Data accessed by The Tribune through an RTI application filed with the J&K Home Department show that 14,593 adult women went missing between 2019 and June 2026. Of these, 11,338 were traced, while 3,255 remain missing.

Similarly, 1,804 minor girls were reported missing between 2019 and August 2026. While 788 were traced, 1,016 remain untraced.

Together, the authorities have traced 12,126 of the 16,397 missing women and girls, leaving around 26 per cent of the cases unresolved.

The Home Department did not provide district-wise



details of the cases in response to the RTI application, the report said.

Official figures show a rising trend in missing adult women over the period, with 1,388 cases reported in 2019 and 1,398 in 2020. The number increased to 1,854 in 2021 before dipping slightly to 1,766 in 2022.

The figure rose sharply to 2,242 in 2023 and reached a high of 2,595 in 2025. Of the women reported missing that

year, 2,102 were traced, while 493 remained untraced.

The second-highest annual figure was recorded in 2023, when 2,242 adult women went missing, with 699 cases remaining unresolved, according to the data.

A similar pattern, though with lower numbers, was seen among minor girls. The number of reported cases stood at 150 in 2019 and fell to 122 in 2020. It subsequently rose to 221 in 2021, 249 in

Marathon Puts J&K On Global Sporting Map: CM Omar

Says event will boost tourism, local economy and sporting talent



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said the successful conduct of the third edition of the Kashmir Marathon had marked another milestone in Jammu and Kashmir's efforts to emerge as a major destination for sports, tourism and international events.

The marathon, held in Srinagar on Sunday,

witnessed the participation of over 2,000 athletes, including runners from 12 countries, competing in the full and half marathon categories for a total prize purse of Rs 3.17 crore.

"The successful hosting of this international sporting event underscores Jammu and Kashmir's growing capacity to host major national and global events, further strengthening | [More on P6](#)

J&K's Shadow Wage Rate Factor Slumps To 0.47 In 2023-24

NITI Aayog-backed study puts rural factor at 0.36 and urban at 0.96

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a sharp decline in its Shadow Wage Rate Factor (SWRF) for unskilled workers during 2023-24, with the overall figure falling to 0.47 from 1.00 in the previous financial year, according to a study supported by NITI Aayog.

The findings, published in the report Reassessment of National Parameters for Appraisal of Public Investment Programmes/Projects in India, reveal significant differences between rural and urban labour markets in the Union Territory.

As per the study, the SWRF in rural Jammu and Kashmir was estimated at 0.36, considerably lower than the urban figure of 0.96.

The report places average

daily earnings of unskilled workers at Rs 162 in rural areas and Rs 554 in urban areas. It also estimates that rural areas account for 81.01 per cent of the working population, compared to 18.99 per cent in urban areas.

The assessment further highlights variations in wages and economic labour costs between male and female workers.

For male unskilled labourers, the study records average daily wages of Rs 162 in rural areas and Rs 564 in urban areas. Their respective shadow wage factors stand at 0.36 and 0.96, bringing the combined figure to 0.47.

In comparison, female workers have been assigned average daily wages of Rs 343 in rural areas and Rs 498 in urban areas. Their corresponding | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir Shivers As Temps Near Freezing Point

Shopian records Valley's lowest minimum at -0.1°C

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Cold conditions continued across Kashmir and Ladakh on Monday, with temperatures hovering around the freezing point at several places in the Valley, while Shopian recorded the lowest minimum temperature at -0.1 degrees Celsius.

In Ladakh, Nyoma was the coldest among the reported stations, recording a minimum temperature of -8.4 degrees Celsius, according to meteorological data.

The chill was particularly pronounced in higher-altitude areas and popular tourist destinations, where minimum temperatures remained close to or below freezing.

Pahalgam recorded a minimum temperature of 0.2 degrees Celsius, while Sonamarg and Gulmarg registered 0.5 and 0.6 degrees, respectively.

Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 3.3 degrees Celsius, while the mercury at Srinagar Airport settled at 1.8 degrees.

Pulwama also recorded a minimum of 0.6 degrees Celsius, while | [More on P6](#)

Fire Guts 40 Shops in Jammu

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A massive fire ripped through Shiv Market near Jammu Railway Station late Sunday night, gutting around 40 shops and causing extensive damage to merchandise and property, officials said on Monday.

No casualties were reported in the blaze, which broke out at around 10:45 pm and continued for over five hours before being brought under control in the early hours of Monday.

A Fire and Emergency Services official said fire tenders from seven fire stations were rushed to the spot after the department received a call about the incident.

"Firefighters worked tirelessly for several hours to bring the blaze under control. After hectic efforts, the fire was brought under control at around 4 am, following which the cooling operation continued for a few more hours to prevent any possibility of the fire reigniting," the official said.

He said one fire tender remained stationed | [More on P6](#)

Lake-Ending Glaciers Account For Over Half Of Global Ice Loss: Study

Researchers say growing glacier lakes and changing glacier boundaries could accelerate ice loss and affect future projections of sea-level rise

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Glaciers ending in lakes, oceans and ice shelves account for just 3.2 per cent of the world's glaciers but contribute more than half of global glacier ice loss, according to a new study published in Nature Communications.

The study, led by environmental scientists from the UK's University of Birmingham and the University of Leeds, found that these glaciers lost an average of 134 billion tonnes of ice annually between 2000 and 2019.

The findings highlight the disproportionate contribution of glaciers terminating in bodies of water to global ice loss and



point to the need for improved models to predict future glacier changes, sea-level rise and associated environmental risks.

The researchers found that glaciers ending in lakes are

generally much larger than those terminating on land. Together, these glaciers cover more than half of the world's glacier area, making their behaviour particularly | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir Village Chokes On Dust As A Lone Campaigner Gives Up

Bashir Ahmad Joo spent months documenting alleged pollution from stone crushers near homes in Wuyan, Pampore. With questions over permits, mining and enforcement still hanging, he says he can no longer fight alone.

Haziqah Shaheen

Srinagar: Bashir Ahmad Joo has spent months pointing his phone at the dust rising over his village in south Kashmir, recording stone-crushing operations near homes and appealing to officials to intervene.

His videos name residential neighbourhoods, question the legality of industrial activity and ask a simple question: How long must people live like this?

Now, the man behind the Save Wuyan Fight Against Pollution campaign says he is stepping away.

In a video he called his final message, Joo said he had raised his voice for the village's clean air, the health of its people and the future of their children. He had given his time to the campaign, he said, but received



too little support from the villagers whose lives he hoped to improve.

"How long can one person fight alone?" he asked.

His decision comes as residents continue to seek answers about dust and noise from stone crushers operating near Green Colony, Gulshan Colony,

Naz Colony and other parts of Wuyan. Authorities have imposed restrictions on stone crushers and mining, a move Joo welcomed. He has since urged officials to keep those restrictions in place and ensure that relief lasts.

The questions behind his campaign remain unresolved.

Joo estimates that 30 to 40 stone crushers operate in the area. He has circulated videos showing dust clouds near the units and asked residents to imagine the combined effect of so many operations close to homes. In another post, he said the crushers ran from 5 a.m. until 10 p.m., leaving nearby families exposed to noise and dust for much of the day.

"What about our children, elderly people and families who deserve to breathe clean air?" he asked in one appeal.

Stone-crushing operations can release large amounts of dust when operators fail to follow pollution-control rules. The extent of the problem in Wuyan, however, calls for on-site inspections and air-quality measurements. Officials also need to check | [More on P6](#)



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Prolonged Sitting May Raise Blood Clot Risk In Young People: Experts

Press Trust Of India

Prolonged sitting while gaming, binge-watching OTT content or attending online classes may increase the risk of blood clots in the legs among young people, vascular specialists have warned, citing evidence linking sedentary behaviour to a higher risk of venous thromboembolism (VTE). The experts said extended periods of uninterrupted sitting can slow blood flow from the legs and contribute to deep vein thrombosis (DVT), a condition in which a clot forms in the deep veins and can become life-threatening if it travels to the lungs. The warning was issued at the VSI-ASVS 2026 conference, being held at Pullman and Novotel, Aerocity, here from October 8 to 10. The conference has brought together more than 400 faculty members and over 1,000 delegates from India and abroad to discuss advances and emerging challenges in vascular and endovascular surgery. A 2024 systematic review and dose-response meta-analysis published in Scientific Reports, which included 25 articles and 31 studies, found that people with the highest levels of sedentary behaviour had

approximately 24 per cent higher risk of VTE than those with the lowest exposure. The analysis also reported a 2 per cent increase in risk for every additional hour of sedentary behaviour per day. Dr Tapish Sahu, Organising Secretary of VSI-ASVS 2026 and Director and Head of the Department of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at Max Hospital Delhi, said doctors were increasingly seeing young patients whose lifestyle habits, including prolonged sitting and excessive screen exposure, warranted closer attention. "We are increasingly seeing young patients in our OPD with symptoms that make us look closely at their lifestyle, including prolonged sitting, excessive screen exposure and long gaming sessions. The latest evidence is concerning because the risk is not restricted to people who are completely inactive," Dr Sahu said. The 2024 meta-analysis found about a 24 per cent higher risk of VTE among those with the highest sedentary exposure, while every additional hour of sedentary behaviour was associated with approximately a 2 per cent increase in VTE risk, Dr Sahu said. When a young person sits continuously for four, five or six hours playing games or binge-watching OTT content, the

calf muscles are barely working as a pump for venous blood, he explained. "We need to make movement breaks a part of digital life," he said. DVT, which was traditionally associated with older age, hospitalisation or prolonged bed rest, can also affect younger people. Experts, however, cautioned that screen use does not automatically cause blood clots and prolonged sitting is generally an additional risk factor, particularly when combined with obesity, dehydration, smoking, hormonal factors, inherited clotting disorders or a previous history of thrombosis. A study examining adolescents with thrombosis identified 11 patients who reported at least four hours of daily screen exposure. Their average digital-device use was around six hours a day, while uninterrupted immobility averaged 2.7 hours. Eight had DVT in the lower limbs, two had pulmonary embolism and one had subclavian-vein thrombosis. Researchers also identified inherited thrombophilia in many of these patients, suggesting that prolonged digital-device use and immobility may act as additional triggers rather than the sole cause of thrombosis.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to Apply for Renewal of FERTILIZER licence under the name M/S Javid ismail Baht if anybody has any objection in this regard they may submit it to the chief agriculture office baramulla with in 7 days from the publication of this notice after that no objection shell be entertained
M/S Javid. Ismil Baht fko
S/o Mohammad ismil bhat
R/o waripora bangil
Tehsil KAWARHAMA
Distt baramulla

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to Apply for a seed licence under the name M/S Bhat seeds at waripora bangil if anybody has any objection in this regard they may submit it to the chief agriculture office baramulla with in 7 days from the publication of this notice after that no objection shell be entertained
Bashir Ahmad Baht fko
S/O Ghulam Nabi baht
R/O waripira bangil
Tehsil .kawarhama
Distt .Baramulla

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 Pawan 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-r

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father's name GH MOHI UD DIN RATHER R/O..BANDI PAYEEN Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040005039 wants to be registered on my name BILAL AHMAD RATHER S/O GH MOHI UD DIN RATHER If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication ofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name.....BILAL AHMAD RATHER fko
S/O...GH MOHI UD DIN RATHER
R/O ... BANDIPAYEEN
BLOCK : WAGOORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name)

Showkat Ahmad Bhat to (new name)

Showkat Ahmad . In future I will be known as (new name) Showkat Ahmad.

If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact passport office srinagar, within 7 days.

After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 5994 7030 1655 the name is entered as BIBI FATIMA while my actual name is FATMA BIBI. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
FATMA BIBI
W/O SONAULLAH
R/o WAVOOSA SRINAGAR. mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 9128 6571 7009 the name is entered as RUBEENA DEV while my actual name is RUBEENA BHAT. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

RUBEENA BHAT
W/O ARIF SULTAN DEV
R/o HYDERPORA SRINAGAR. fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name and dob in my adhaar card is wrongly written as Zainab Mustafa , DOB 06-03-2012 While correct name is Zainab Zehra , Correct DOB is 10-03-2013. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar centre Jammu/Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Zainab Zehra X
D/o Ghulam Mustafa Kawa
R/o Sarai Dangerpora

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as JAVEEDA AKTHER While as my actual name is JAWAIDA BANO C/O AJAZ AHMAD DAR R/O KAWARI 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.
JAWAIDA BANO
C/O :-AJAZ AHMAD DAR
R/O :-KAWARI , KUPWARA FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, Farooq Ahmad Shagoo and Abdul Razak Shagoo, both sons of Late Haji Abdul Rahman Shagoo, residents of PC Depot, Parimpora Bhat, Srinagar, Kashmir, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, hereby declare that Electricity Connection bearing C. ID No. 0203050005644, registered in the name of our deceased father, Late Haji Abdul Rahman Shagoo, and installed at our residential house situated at Parimpora Ghat, Srinagar, may be transferred in favour of Irshad Ahmad Shagoo, as the said connection is being maintained by him. We have no objection to the proposed transfer. Irshad Ahmad Shagoo shall be responsible for all dues, bills, liabilities and other obligations pertaining to the said electricity connection. Deponents:
1. Farooq Ahmad Shagoo
2. Abdul Razak Shagoo 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 AKHTER C/O SHAMIM AHMAD MIR R/O WAVOORA KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193223 Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.
GULSHAN AKHTER
C/O :-SHAMIM AHMAD MIR
R/O :-WAVOORA , KUPWARA MCB

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as KAWSAR JAN While as my actual name is KAWSAR NABI C/O GULAM NABI WAR R/O NATNUSSA HANDWARA 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.
KAWSAR NABI
C/O :-GULAM NABI WAR
R/O :-NATNUSSA HANDWARA , KUPWARA FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

KARAMAT HUSSAIN S/O MOHD FAROOQ R/O bunikheth Buni Khet (Dhooni khet Punch) it is information for general Public that I want to apply for DEE Class Contractor Card if anybody is he/she may contact at Chief Engineer CI&D Wing JKPD C Bemina within a period of seven days No objection Shall be entertained AB

PUBLIC NOTICE

MOHAMMAD. FAROOQ S/O MOHAMMAD DAR R/O Buni Khet Buni Khet SAILAN. Mahara Sialan Surankote punch it is information for general Public that I want to apply for DEE Class Contractor Card if anybody is he/she may contact at Chief Engineer CI &D Wing JKPD C Bemina within a period of seven days No objection Shall be entertained AB



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Leaking Water Pipeline Plagues Residents of Bonapora Batamaloo

Agencies

Srinagar: A leaking water pipeline in the Bonapora Batamaloo area of Srinagar has left residents of a locality grappling with persistent water leakage for the past nine months, with repeated complaints allegedly failing to prompt corrective action by the concerned authorities.

The pipeline is reportedly leaking at two to three points, raising concerns among residents about possible contamination of the water supply. Stray dogs have also been seen licking water near the leaking spots, adding to fears over poten-

tial public health risks.

With winter approaching, residents are also concerned that water accumulating on the road may freeze, creating slippery conditions and increasing the risk of accidents involving pedestrians and passers-by.

Despite repeated complaints to the concerned inspector and senior officials, the leakage reportedly remains unattended. Locals of Bonapora have urged the authorities to inspect the affected stretch and ensure immediate repairs to prevent further inconvenience and address the health and safety concerns. [KNT]

GMC Srinagar Observes Vigilance Awareness Week



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar observed Vigilance Awareness Week by organizing an Integrity Pledge ceremony on the college premises.

The pledge was administered by Masarat Hashim, Administrator. Associated Hospitals Government Medical College Srinagar in the presence of officers and officials of the institution. Nausheen Mushtaq, Chief Accounts Officer was also present on the occasion.

The programme was organised to promote awareness about the importance of integrity transparency and

accountability in public service. During the ceremony the officers and officials took the Integrity Pledge and reaffirmed their commitment to honesty ethical conduct and zero tolerance towards corruption in the discharge of their official duties.

Speaking on the occasion, the Administrator said that integrity and transparency are essential for efficient public service and for strengthening public confidence in government institutions. He called upon all employees to perform their duties with sincerity dedication and professionalism while maintaining the highest standards of ethics and accountability.



‘Arc Of The Verses’ Exhibition Concludes, Celebrates Kashmir’s Artistic Heritage

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A six-day painting exhibition titled ‘Arc of the Verses’, featuring the works of Kashmiri artist Arshad Sualeh, concluded in Srinagar, bringing together artists, writers, journalists and other members of the Valley’s cultural community.

Organised by Art Harbour Srinagar, the exhibition opened on October 20 and remained open to visitors until October 25. The showcase offered art enthusiasts an opportunity to engage with Sualeh’s paintings and explore his creative expression through visual art.

The exhibition also served as a platform for cultural interaction, highlighting the importance of providing local artists with opportunities to present their work, exchange ideas and connect with wider audiences.

Zadibal MLA Tanveer Sadiq inaugurated the exhibition, while senior journalist Imdad Saqi attended the opening ceremony as the guest of honour. The event brought together personalities from diverse fields, including art, literature, journalism, medicine and public life, reflecting the wider cultural interest in the initiative.

A key highlight of the programme was the presentation of the M. Sualeh Award 2026, instituted to recognise contributions to art and associated fields. Noted physician Dr Syed Amin Tabish presented the award to Tanveer Sadiq.

The MLA also felicitated Imdad Saqi, Dr Manzoor Nazar, artist and curator Yousuf Naqashbandi, and ex-

abilities, noting that painting formed part of his family’s creative legacy. He additionally acknowledged Sualeh’s skills as an orator, highlighting his versatility beyond the visual arts.

Classical singer Kifayat Faheem and J&K Bank Manager Saleem Kalloo were among the prominent attendees at the inaugural programme.

During the exhibition, visitors



A key highlight of the programme was the presentation of the M. Sualeh Award 2026, instituted to recognise contributions to art and associated fields. Noted physician Dr Syed Amin Tabish presented the award to Tanveer Sadiq.

hibiting artist Arshad Sualeh in recognition of their contributions and association with the cultural community.

Speaking at the event, Imdad Saqi highlighted Sualeh’s commitment to painting and his artistic journey. He underscored the need to create more opportunities for artists to exhibit their work, interact with audiences and contribute to the region’s evolving cultural landscape.

Writer and broadcaster Abid Gowhar also appreciated Sualeh’s artistic

viewed the displayed paintings and engaged with the artistic themes reflected in Sualeh’s work. The gathering provided an opportunity for members of the creative community to interact and appreciate artistic expression in a shared cultural setting.

The organisers said the initiative aimed to encourage artistic creativity, strengthen engagement between artists and audiences, and provide a platform for recognising contributions to art and literature.

Crime Branch J&K Observes Vigilance Awareness Week

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Crime Branch Jammu and Kashmir on Monday observed Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 by organising an integrity pledge-taking ceremony at its headquarters in Srinagar.

IGP Crime J&K Sarah Rizvi, IPS, administered the pledge to officers and officials, calling for honesty, integrity and ethical conduct in the discharge of official duties.

The ceremony was held as part of the nationwide observance of Vigilance Awareness Week, aimed at promoting transparency, accountability and awareness against corruption.

Officers and officials reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining integrity in public service and working towards a corruption-free society.

NIT Srinagar Renews Focus on Ethical Governance, Corruption Prevention

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar observed Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 with an integrity pledge ceremony near the Mian Faculty Block, reaffirming the institute’s commitment to transparency, accountability and ethical conduct in public life.

Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 is being observed from October 26 to November 1 under the theme “Probity for Prosperity” highlighting the importance of integrity, transparency and ethical practices in public administration and good governance. The pledge was administered in the presence of Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman and Chief Vigilance Officer and Dean Faculty Welfare, Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Ahangar. Heads of Departments, Heads of Centres, faculty members, administrative officers and other staff members participated in the ceremony.



The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
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0194-2452658, Ext.:132;iapmd.kmr@jkbmail.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 11.05.2026 (also published on 31.05.2026) thereby calling upon the Borrowers namely 1) Abdul Rashid Tichoo S/O Mohammad Sultan Tichoo R/O Gogjibath, Srinagar,, Proprietor of M/s Srinagar Golden Transport Service (Borrower/Mortgagor) to repay an amount of Rs. 60,78,722.50 (Rupees Sixty Lacs Seventy Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Two and Pise Fifty Only) being the balance outstanding as on 03.05.2026 in the account of the borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrowers having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrowers in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J&K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on 22.10.2026.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount aggregating to 63,49,499.50 (Rupees Sixty Three Lacs Forty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Nine and Paise Fifty only) as on 30.09.2026 together with future interest thereon from 01.10.2026 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrower’s attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

Land measuring 18 Kanals falling under Khasra No.727/163 min (01 K 06 M) of Khata No.365 and Khewat No. 32 Khasra No. 162-min (01 K 11 M) of Khata No.365 and Khewat No. 32 Khasra No.154-min (01 K) of Khata No.268 and Khewat No.20 Khasra No.164-min (05 K 12 M) of Khata No.207 and Khewat No. 15 Khasra No.165-min (04 K 12 M) of Khata No.196 and Khewat No.12 Khasra No.163-min (03 K 19 M) of Khata No.54 and Khewat No. 05 situated at Mouza Gasoo, Tehsil North & District Srinagar standing in the name of Abdul Rashid Tichoo (Borrower).

Sd/ Authorized Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the electricity connection bearing consumer ID No. 0201030002218 & Installation Number. 144056-R1-L0.5 currently registered in the name of my husband namely, Late. Mohammad Zaffarullah Mir S/O Late. Ghulam Mohammad Mir R/O Arabal Shalimar, Srinagar Now, I Shameema W/O Late. Mohammad Zaffarullah Mir R/O Arabal Shalimar, Srinagar, hereby apply for the transfer of the said electricity connection in my favour at the office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division, Nishat, Shalimar, Srinagar.

If anyone has any objection regarding this transfer, he/she may submit the same to the office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division, Nishat, Shalimar, Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper, after that no objection shall be entertained.

I Shameema W/O Late. Mohammad Zaffarullah Mir R/O Arabal Shalimar, Srinagar

inf

NORTHERN RAILWAY

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL RAILWAY MANAGER NORTHERN RAILWAY, JAMMU TAWI

No.: E/CG/MISC/P/JAT/2026 Dated: 26.10.2026
Category (G) JAT Division.
Sub: CGA Adalat 2026 to resolve cases related to compassionate appointments.
Ref: GM(P)/N.Riy/NDLS lt. No. E-33/CG/Adalat/2026 dated: 15.09.2026.

CGA (Compassionate Ground Appointment) Adalat for pending compassionate ground appointment cases is scheduled to be held in the ORH (Officer rest House), Pathankot, Railway Station on 10.11.2026 (Tuesday) from 11:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs, under the chairmanship of ADRM/JAT, with the presence of Sr. DPO/JAT.

All dependents/widows of Railway employees who died, were medically invalidated, or went missing while in service (instructions contained in Master Circular No. 16) are hereby informed that they may submit their representations, along with all requisite documents/certificates, in duplicate, to the office of Sr. DPO/JAT on or before 05.11.2026, for consideration during CGA Adalat-2026.

Address of Sr. DPO/JAT office is mentioned below:

Personnel Branch, DRM office annexe Building,
Trikutana Nagar, Jammu

All CGA cases Registered with Jammu Division shall only be entertained and examined by this office. However, all cases already closed by JAT division shall not be entertained.

All SWLIs/CWLIs and staff working in the Divisional Office are requested to ensure wide publicity of the above notice. The concerned Welfare Inspectors shall remain present at the venue on 10.11.2026.

Conditions for Representation:

- Policy matters shall not be discussed, and cases shall be considered in accordance with the extant rules/instructions.
- Cases that are under litigation or pending before any court shall not be discussed in the Adalat.
- Representations may be submitted by the ward/widow of the deceased Railway employee or their family members (defined under Pass rules).

Divisional Railway Manager(P)

Jammu Division

3723/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
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- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
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SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



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- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJHERA: 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
15 Jumada al-Awwal
1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 22
ZUHR	12:15
ASR	4: 06
Magrib	5: 47
ISHA	7: 08

This Day In History

- 1627 - English assault on French Il de Ré
- 1644 - Second Battle of Newbury: King Charles I beats parliamentary armies
- 1702 - British troops plunder St Augustine, Florida
- 1795 - Pinckney's Treaty [Treaty of San Lorenzo] signed by Spain and US, establishing the southern boundary of the US and giving Americans right to navigate the Mississippi River
- 1806 - The French Army enters in Berlin
- 1810 - United States annexes West Florida from Spain
- 1916 - Battle of Segale: Negus Mikael, marching on the Ethiopian capital in support of his son Emperor Iyasus V, is defeated by Fitawrari abte Giyorgis, securing the throne for Empress Zauditu.
- 1922 - In Italy, Liberal Luigi Facta resigns in the face of threats from Mussolini that 'either the Government will be given to us or we will seize it by marching on Rome'
- 1924 - The Uzbek SSR is founded in the Soviet Union
- 1941 - Nazi's directs gypsy ghetto in Belgrade
- 1942 - 5th day of battle at El Alamein: heavy battles/Australian advance
- 1948 - Israel recaptures Nizzanim in Negev
- 1954 - President Eisenhower offers aid to South Vietnam Prime Minister Ngô ình Di m
- 1957 - Celal Bayar re-elected president of Turkey
- 1958 - General Ayub Khan succeeds Iskander Mirza as President of Pakistan
- 1959 - Rare Pacific hurricane kills 2,000 in Western Mexico
- 1961 - 1st Saturn launch vehicle makes an unmanned flight test
- 1962 -Black Saturday - Russian nuclear missile crisis in Cuba
- 1966 - UN deprives South Africa of Namibia
- 1969 - Nobel Prize in Economics awarded to John Tinbergen
- 1971 - Republic of Congo-Kinshasa becomes Republic of Zaire
- 1972 - OPEC approves plan providing for 25 percent government ownership of all Western oil interests operating within Kuwait, Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia
- 1977 - NASA launches space vehicle S-200
- 1979 - St Vincent & Grenadines becomes independent of UK (National Day)
- 1981 - The Soviet submarine U 137 runs aground on the east coast of Sweden.
- 1982 - China announces its population has reached 1 billion plus people
- 1982 - IBM ROM is capable of EGA graphics
- 1986 - British government deregulates financial markets in a "Big Bang", enhancing London's status as a financial capital while increasing income inequality
- 1990 - Supreme Soviet of Kirghiz SSR chooses Askar Akayev as republic's first president.
- 1995 - Latvia applies for membership in the European Union.
- 1997 - Microsoft argues it should be "free from government interference"
- 2011 - The Royal Australian Navy announces that they discovered the wreck of a World War II submarine in Simpson Harbour, Papua New Guinea during Operation RENDER SAFE- it is likely to be Japanese.2012 - 46 people are killed and 123 injured in Iraq after a series of attacks and bombs

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Divisional Railway Manager, Jammu Division Notice for Re-engagement of Retired Accounts Senior Section Office (SSO) on contractual basis in Jammu Division

Sr. Divisional Finance Manager, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Jammu Division, for and on behalf of the President of India Invite Applications from eligible retired Railway employees for re-engagement as Senior Section Officer (SSO) in the Accounts Department, Jammu Division, Northern Railway, on a contractual basis, as per the terms and conditions stipulated in Approval Letter (i) No. 2026/Sr. DFM/JAT/Re-engagement of Retd. SSOs Dated: 23.10.2026. (ii) Railway Board's letter No. E(NG)/J/2024/RC-4/9 dated 15.10.2024 (RBE 96/2024), 31.12.2024 (RBE 115/2024), 20.06.2025 (RBE 55/2025) and 22.09.2026 (RBE 73/2026). (iii) GM/NR's sanction conveyed at Note No. 17 dated 12.10.2026 in e-Office File No. NR FZR0ACCT (GENL)/327/2026-SR.DFM/JAT/NR, Computer No. 372224.

Interested and eligible candidates may submit their applications on or before 13.11.2026 (15:00 Hrs) on sdrfmjat@gmail.com or submit in hard copy in the Office.

For application format and further details, candidates may contact at 9186321523 or Email ID: sdrfmjat@gmail.com or visit the Office. Address- Office of the Sr. Divisional Finance Manager, Northern Railway- Jammu Division, Opposite RRB Jammu, PIN-180012.

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3734/26

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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Seventy-Nine Years of Accession

The journey from accession to Union Territory status reveals how constitutional arrangements evolve, and why their political consequences outlast the decisions that create them.



Farooq Ahmad Khan

On October 27, 1947, Indian troops landed at Srinagar as tribal raiders advanced into Jammu and Kashmir.

A day earlier, according to the date on the Instrument of Accession, Maharaja Hari Singh had signed the document joining his state to India.

Lord Mountbatten accepted it on October 27, amid a military emergency that left little time for political deliberation.

Seventy-nine years later, the landing remains a defining moment in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, but its meaning cannot be separated from what followed.

Accession on specified subjects gave way to a special constitutional arrangement, which was progressively narrowed before its removal in 2019.

The former state then lost its statehood, and today, its restoration has become a central political demand.

The distance between these states tells a larger story about the relationship between constitutional authority and popular consent.

When British paramountcy ended in August 1947, princely states had to decide their future relationship with India or Pakistan. Religion, which had influenced the partition of British India, did not automatically determine the destination of princely states. Their rulers executed the instruments of accession, although geography, economic ties and popular wishes remained important political considerations.

Hari Singh initially sought time. His state bordered both new Dominions, and independence appeared to him a possible alternative. Standstill arrangements were intended to preserve existing services while he considered the choices before him.

Events soon overtook that calculation. Rebellion in Poonch, communal violence and the upheaval of Partition placed mounting pressure on the state. Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs suffered in the violence, a history that becomes distorted whenever the experiences of one community erase those of another.

The tribal invasion beginning on October 22 transformed the crisis. Raiders advancing towards Srinagar committed atrocities as the Maharaja struggled to contain their advance. He sought military assistance from India, which made accession the basis for intervention.

tervention.

The Instrument authorised Indian jurisdiction over defence, external affairs and communications, along with related matters. It did not immediately transfer unrestricted authority over the state's internal affairs to the Dominion government. Clause 7 withheld a commitment to accept a future Indian Constitution, while Clause 8 preserved the ruler's authority except where the Instrument affected it.

Accession and complete constitutional integration were therefore separate stages. Their subsequent convergence was a political process, rather than an outcome fully settled by the document signed in October 1947.

Mountbatten's acceptance letter added another element. It envisaged a reference to the people once order had been restored and the invaders removed. The Instrument itself contained no plebiscite clause, but the accompanying correspondence and subsequent government statements established an assurance that would remain central to Kashmir's political history.

The proposal survived the immediate crisis.

In August 1953, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan's Prime Minister Mohammad Ali were still discussing arrangements for a plebiscite, including a provisional timetable for appointing an administrator. Their governments disagreed over demilitarisation, troop levels, local armed formations and the conditions needed for an impartial vote.

India argued that Pakistan had failed to meet the necessary withdrawal requirements. Pakistan questioned whether a vote conducted under an India-aligned administration could be fair.

These disputes obstructed the process, but they do not fully explain India's subsequent retreat from the proposal.

A decisive shift came in 1954, when Nehru argued that American military assistance to Pakistan had altered the security situation. By 1956, he was also invoking Kashmir's constitutional development and the dangers of migration and renewed upheaval. An undertaking once presented as conditional on the restoration of order had become a course India increasingly rejected.

Article 370 belonged to a related but distinct question. A plebiscite concerned the state's political affiliation. Article 370 governed its constitutional relationship with India.

When Gopalaswami Ayyangar introduced the provision in the Constituent Assembly on October 17, 1949, he referred to unsettled conditions, United Nations involvement and the commitment to ascertain popular wishes. He also explained the proposed role of Jammu and Kashmir's own Constituent Assembly in determining its constitution and the extent of Union jurisdiction.

The provision established a framework involving consultation and concurrence, with the original clause (3) contemplating a recommendation from the state's Constituent Assembly for a presidential notification.

The Delhi Agreement of 1952 and the Presidential Order of 1954 developed this arrangement. The 1954 order introduced Article 35A, which protected legislative provisions concerning specified rights of permanent residents.

Over subsequent decades, presidential orders extended more provisions of the Indian Constitution to Jammu and Kashmir. Article 370, initially part of a distinct constitutional arrangement, also became an instrument through which that arrangement was progressively narrowed.

By 2019, the autonomy operating under it was substantially reduced.

India increasingly relied on the state's Constituent Assembly having affirmed accession. The United Nations, however, did not accept that development as a substitute for the envisaged plebiscite. Security Council Resolution 122, adopted in January 1957, maintained that distinction.

Domestic constitutional integration and an internationally proposed settlement remained separate questions.

The decisions of August 5 and 6, 2019, brought the constitutional arrangement to an end. Presidential orders applied the Indian Constitution in its entirety, ending Article 35A's operation.

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act separately divided the former state into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The Union government defended these measures through arguments about integration, equal rights, security and development. Critics questioned both their substance and their adoption while Jammu and Kashmir lacked an elected Assembly.

Beneath the legal dispute lay a political question: how much consent should accompany a decision that changes the constitutional status of an entire region?

China's opposition introduced another dimension, particularly concerning Ladakh and disputed territory along the India-China boundary.

Beijing controls Aksai Chin, which India claims. India also rejects China's 1963 boundary agreement with Pakistan concerning the Shaksgam region. Beijing's territorial interests and partnership with Pakistan help explain its position, which should not be mistaken for a straightforward defence of Kashmiri autonomy.

In December 2023, India's Supreme Court upheld the abrogation of Article 370. It held that presidential power un-

der clause (3) survived the dissolution of the state's Constituent Assembly, while rejecting an interpretive substitution attempted through Article 367.

The Court upheld Ladakh's separation but left open the broader question of converting Jammu and Kashmir into a Union Territory, given New Delhi's assurance that statehood would be restored. It directed elections and restoration of statehood at the earliest.

An elected government returned in 2024, with Omar Abdullah taking oath as chief minister on October 16. But a government in a Union Territory lacks the constitutional authority available to a state government.

Police and public order remain outside the Assembly's legislative competence. The Assembly has renewed its demand for statehood, but restoration remains pending as this anniversary arrives.

The difference is important. Restoring statehood would not automatically revive Article 370 or Article 35A, nor would it restore the former state's territorial configuration.

The present demand concerns the status of Jammu and Kashmir within the Indian Union, even as older disputes and political grievances remain unresolved.

The end of a constitutional arrangement does not, by itself, settle the history that preceded it. A domestic judicial judgment can determine the legal position within India, but it cannot alone reconcile competing territorial claims or resolve the political disagreements that have persisted for decades.

Recognising those disagreements also does not mean that the earlier plebiscite proposal is now agreed upon or being implemented.

Jammu and Kashmir entered the Union through an Instrument that specified the subjects over which India would exercise jurisdiction. Its subsequent constitutional history brought far-reaching integration, diminishing autonomy and, finally, the loss of statehood.

The region now seeks the restoration of a status it once possessed.

Legal authority can establish the powers of a government. Political trust depends on how those powers are exercised, how assurances are treated and whether people have a genuine voice in decisions concerning their future.

The history that began in October 1947 remains unfinished in this respect. Its next chapter will be judged by whether constitutional decisions produce a political relationship that people can accept as their own.

The author is an advocate and a former civil servant. He can be reached at advofarooqahmadkhan@gmail.com.

KO VIEW

J&K's Missing Women

Jammu and Kashmir has a serious public accountability failure in the thousands of women and girls who remain missing.

Since 2019, authorities have recorded 16,397 missing women and girls, including minors. Of these, 4,271 remain untraced.

The figures, obtained by The Tribune through a Right to Information application, demand answers about the fate of those still missing and the effectiveness of the institutions responsible for finding them.

The authorities have traced 12,126 women and girls, leaving more than 26 per cent of the cases unresolved. The figures become more disturbing when separated by age.

Of 1,804 minor girls reported missing between 2019 and August 2026, only 788 have been traced. The remaining 1,016 cases are unresolved.

More than half of all missing minor girls remain untraced, raising serious concerns about the state's ability to protect children from harm. The record among adult women is also troubling.

Of 14,593 women reported missing between 2019 and June 2026, 3,255 remain untraced. The annual figures show that the problem has persisted for years. Adult missing-person cases rose from 1,388 in 2019 to 2,242 in 2023, before reaching a high of 2,595 in 2025. Of those reported missing last year, 493 remained untraced.

The figures for minors show a similarly concerning trajectory.

The number of missing girls rose from 150 in 2019 to 261 in 2023. It reached 289 in 2025, the highest annual figure in the period covered by the records.

By August 2026, another 286 girls had been reported missing, of whom 158 remained untraced. The partial figures for this year already approach last year's total.

These numbers do not establish why the women and girls went missing, and they cannot by themselves prove institutional negligence in individual cases. They do, however, expose the scale of unresolved cases and the need for a serious public accounting.

The J&K Home Department has failed to provide district-wise details, leaving the public unable to assess where cases are concentrated or compare the response of local authorities.

Such information is essential to identifying weaknesses in investigation and prevention.

The National Crime Records Bureau recorded 1,202 cases in Jammu and Kashmir in 2024 involving the kidnapping, abduction or inducement of women to compel them to marry under Section 87 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

These cases form a separate category, but they add to concerns about women's freedom and protection.

The government should publish district-wise data, explain how investigators pursue unresolved cases and disclose what steps authorities take to locate missing minors.

Families need timely information, sustained investigative effort and clear channels of accountability. A missing-person case cannot become an administrative statistic simply because months or years have passed.

The state must account for the thousands who remain untraced and demonstrate, through measurable action, that finding them is a public priority.

The Burden of Big Weddings

What should be a celebration of two lives coming together has become a costly social competition that many Kashmiri families struggle to afford.



Dr. Rameez Ahmad

Modern weddings in Kashmir increasingly resemble public exhibitions where families compete through spending, decoration and spectacle.

Banquet halls overflow with excess, designer outfits appear for a single evening, and wazwan feasts grow larger with every season.

Gold, furniture, electronics and expensive gifts pass through the ceremony as silent social requirements. Every event sends the same message: social standing must remain visible.

Many families simply cannot keep pace.

A painful social crisis now sits behind the glitter of wedding culture. Hundreds of young women remain unmarried because their families lack the money required to satisfy rising expectations. Education, character and compatibility often receive less attention than financial display. Marriage proposals come with indirect demands wrapped in polite language. Families understand the code immediately.

One young woman from north Kashmir illustrates this reality with heartbreaking clarity.

Sana, whose name has been changed, completed her education years ago and hoped to begin a stable married life. Her father works as a daily-wage labourer and spent years saving

small amounts for her wedding. Every proposal eventually collapsed under the pressure of expectations tied to lavish celebrations, expensive clothing and costly exchanges between families. Time moved forward while hope slowly faded inside the household.

Sana represents many daughters in Kashmir today.

This problem extends far beyond rising wedding expenses. Kashmir's marriage culture now operates through status competition. Families measure social respect through visible consumption. American sociologist Thorstein Veblen described this process more than a century ago as "conspicuous consumption," where spending becomes a performance aimed at gaining recognition and prestige.

Kashmir now presents a clear example of that social behaviour.

Even lower-income families feel compelled to imitate wealthy households. Fear of judgement drives much of this behaviour. Parents worry about gossip, humiliation and social exclusion if a wedding appears too simple. Restraint feels socially dangerous, while extravagance appears safer.

That pressure affects nearly every stage of marriage negotiations.

Dowry practices continue through indirect expectations that many families accept as normal social customs. Furniture packages, gold jewellery, electronics and cash exchanges move silently through discussions surrounding marriage arrangements. French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu described this process as symbolic violence, where harmful social pressures become so deeply accepted that people stop questioning them altogether.

The valley's marriage culture increasingly reflects that condition.

Consumerism has also altered how families evaluate marriage itself. Compatibility, emotional understanding and shared values once stood at the centre of marital decisions. Financial status and outward lifestyle now dominate many discussions surrounding matchmaking.

Families compare salaries, social circles, property, fashion and wedding plans before they consider emotional maturity or mutual respect.

That approach weakens marriages before they even begin.

Many family disputes after marriage emerge from unrealistic expectations established during wedding negotiations. Competitive spending creates pressure surrounding lifestyle, income and social obligations long after the ceremony ends. Family functions become financial tests. Comparisons continue, and dissatisfaction grows slowly inside relationships.

Open communication between prospective partners could ease many of these tensions.

Honest discussion about expectations, finances and future responsibilities creates stronger foundations for married life. Sociology has long emphasized the importance of everyday interaction in maintaining stable social relationships. Healthy marriages depend upon clarity, mutual understanding and emotional honesty far more than decorative displays.

Young men also face severe pressure within this system.

Families expect them to function as providers despite rising unemployment and economic uncertainty. Many struggle to meet financial expectations surrounding marriage arrangements and post-marital responsibilities. Kashmiri

society places enormous pressure upon men to prove economic strength before marriage.

Women, however, continue to bear the heavier social burden of delayed marriage.

A new social category now exists inside Kashmir: the waiting daughter.

She studies, works, contributes to her family and hopes for a stable future. Social expectations surrounding weddings delay her transition into married life even when she possesses every quality associated with a good partner. Her waiting shows structural inequality rather than personal failure.

That reality should disturb every family in Kashmir.

A troubling contradiction also defines modern wedding culture. Some families spend extraordinary amounts on a single event while others struggle to arrange the most basic ceremony. Food waste at lavish weddings exists beside households burdened by debt and anxiety.

Such disparities reveal how cultural practices can deepen exclusion when prestige becomes more important than human concern.

Change remains possible because many Kashmiris already recognize the problem.

Conversations with married couples and parents often reveal frustration with current expectations. Many admit they prefer simpler weddings and smaller gatherings. Social pressure pushes them toward excess because nobody wants to appear inadequate before relatives and neighbours.

That cycle continues because entire communities participate in sustaining it.

Kashmir desperately needs voices capable of challenging these harmful norms with clarity and courage. Sociologists, teachers, stu-

dents, religious leaders and community elders can help rebuild healthier social attitudes surrounding marriage.

Awareness campaigns, public dialogue and community initiatives supporting simple weddings could gradually weaken the culture of competitive display.

Educational institutions also have an important role to play. Young people deserve dialogues about marriage rooted in compatibility, emotional intelligence and social responsibility rather than status anxiety.

Communities that encourage moderation and reject dowry practices create stronger social bonds and healthier family structures.

Kashmir possesses a rich cultural tradition grounded in simplicity, mutual respect and collective care. Those values still survive beneath the pressure of modern consumer culture.

Society now faces a choice between preserving marriage as a meaningful human bond or reducing it to an expensive social performance.

That decision will determine whether future generations inherit hope or exhaustion.

Honour should emerge from compassion, fairness and responsibility rather than public exhibition.

Until Kashmir embraces that truth, many daughters will continue waiting for marriages delayed by expectations their families never created and cannot afford.

This article was coauthored by Zeenat Aman and Ruyiya Jaan. The authors are affiliated with the Department of Sociology, Government Degree College Thindim Kreeri. The student coauthors are pursuing undergraduate studies.

Harud – The Crunch in Falling Leaves

A young Kashmiri writer finds beauty in bare trees, falling leaves and snow-covered landscapes, seeing winter as a season of stillness rather than sadness.

Khansa Showkat Anim

There is something about Kashmir's winters that always leaves me longing for them.

Perhaps, it is the stillness that arrives with the season. The snow spread quietly across the land, the yellow-brown grass resting beneath it, or the empty trees standing bare after being stripped of their leaves.

At first, it may seem lifeless and dull. Many people call it depressing, but that feels like a hurried judgment to me. Winter in Kashmir has its own kind of beauty, one that is quiet rather than dramatic.

Leaves turn yellow and fall, settling softly on the ground. The mornings carry a cold breeze sharp enough to wake the senses, and the afternoons follow with a pale but persistent sun.

What some describe as dullness is, nature pausing for a while, a reminder that not everything valuable must appear vibrant.

While people head out for morning walks in the parks, their noses and ears reddened by the cold, the silence is interrupted by the gentle and satisfying crunch of leaves that have turned crisp beneath their feet.

And when winter truly settles in, it arrives like a silent white angel. The green grass turns white, the brown mountains turn white, the blue waters turn white, and even the red roofs surrender their colour beneath the snow.

For a little while, the whole valley is covered in the same shade, making everything feel simple and peaceful. I have never found winter



depressing, and I would never want to leave the valley simply because of the cold or the grey, dull days.

In that whiteness, something

interesting happens: contrast becomes clearer. A single footprint, a distant figure, or a small patch of color suddenly stands out. Winter,

in its quiet way, teaches a simple lesson: when the noise and brightness of life fade for a while, we begin to notice what truly matters.

Perhaps that is the real charm of Kashmir winters. They are not merely a season of cold and silence, but a gentle reminder that

Leaves turn yellow and fall, settling softly on the ground. The mornings carry a cold breeze sharp enough to wake the senses, and the afternoons follow with a pale but persistent sun. What some describe as dullness is, nature pausing for a while, a reminder that not everything valuable must appear vibrant.

simplicity, stillness, and even what appears dull can carry their own quiet beauty.

And that is why I will always long for Kashmir winters. Beneath their silence and seeming dullness lies a beauty that asks for nothing but a little patience to be understood.

— The author is a Class XII student at DPS Srinagar.

A Long History of Scandals

The names and sums have changed, but the pattern remains. From Kangan to Kingfisher, corruption exposes the price of weak oversight.



Syed Nissar H Gilani

In 1958, a scandal in Kangan, a small town in Kashmir, shook the valley and left a mark that lasts even today.

A Naib Tehsildar looted Rs. 85,000 from the local treasury and framed his peon. The peon bore the weight of a crime he did not commit, suffering years of hardship and dying of a heart attack before the truth came out.

Investigators later punished the officer, but the state restored him with promotions and arrears. The injustice, the reversal, left a bitter imprint on local memory.

This early scandal in Kashmir foreshadowed patterns seen across India.

In 1948, V.K. Krishna Menon, India's High Commissioner to the UK, bypassed protocol to order hundreds of jeeps worth lakhs of rupees. Questions of transparency and accountability eventually reached the highest offices.

The Jeep Scandal hinted at a recurring tension in governance: ambitious officials moving faster than rules and leaving citizens to untangle the aftermath.

The 1971 heist by Rustom Sohrab Nagarwala added another layer of mystery. Claiming to act on orders from Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, he withdrew Rs. 60 lakh from the State Bank of India.

The audacity of the act, and the questions it raised about government oversight, remain a source of speculation decades later.

In the 1990s, India faced Harshad Mehta, who manipulated the stock market, exploiting

weaknesses in banking systems.

Investors lost faith as financial instruments meant to secure their futures became vehicles for one man's ambition.

Vijay Mallya's Kingfisher Airlines followed, with billions lost in defaulted loans and allegations of bank fraud.

The Commonwealth Games in 2010 under Suresh Kalmadi exposed inflated contracts and mismanagement on a national stage, turning civic pride into scandal headlines.

Closer to Kashmir, scandals continue to erode trust.

The Srinagar Haj scam duped pilgrims, siphoning lakhs from innocent devotees. Local banking scandals are part of the narrative.

easily greed can hide behind promises of prosperity.

Scandals follow a pattern: weak oversight, opaque governance, and uneven enforcement create spaces for malfeasance.

The story is far from over. Every new scandal reminds us that human ambition finds cracks wherever oversight is weak.

Kangan taught Kashmir that a peon could be punished for another's greed. Kingfisher taught India that billion-rupee defaults ripple through economies. Ponzi schemes show that trust is fragile.

Each case closes one chapter but leaves another waiting.

The question now is whether lessons will be learned or repeated. From treasuries to banks,



KANGAN TAUGHT KASHMIR THAT A PEON COULD BE PUNISHED FOR ANOTHER'S GREED. Kingfisher taught India that billion-rupee defaults ripple through economies. Ponzi schemes show that trust is fragile.

In 1978, J&K Bank clerk K.K. Dhar swindled crores, spending on discos and gambling.

The Medical Health Department scandal saw hospitals supplied with adulterated, even fungus-infested saline. Officers implicated in both cases were later reinstated and promoted.

Ponzi schemes like the Sharda Chit Fund and Saradha Group defrauded millions, showing how

from pilgrimages to markets, India's scandals trace a line between oversight and chaos, ambition and ethics, faith and betrayal.

Kashmir sits on that line, familiar with both the cost of betrayal and the urgent need for accountability.

— The author is a former civil servant from the administrative service. He can be reached at nisargilani57748@gmail.com.

A Father's Unfinished Fight

Separated from his children by a bitter marital dispute, Arman continues to hope that they will one day understand his side of the story.



Syed Majid Gilani

Arman's family thought they had found the perfect daughter-in-law in Rukhsar. They wanted warmth, kindness, and peace in their home. Money and status meant little. Her gentle manners promised loyalty, but behind her smile, a different story waited.

Arman had stepped into marriage with hope and faith. He imagined mornings full of laughter and evenings calm and gentle. When the children came, every smile and sigh felt like proof that life was whole. He held their little hands and listened to their voices fill the house. For a while, he believed happiness had truly arrived.

But that happiness did not last. Smiles grew careful, and the gentle care he once knew turned distant.

At first, Arman excused the distance as ordinary differences between spouses. Gradually, he understood that her heart had never belonged to him.

She had married him for security, comfort, and the power of a stable household. Her own upbringing in a small, modest home left her unaccustomed to stability.

But large rooms, fine furniture, and calm nights were never enough. She called them "too small."

Her demands grew bolder. Pride replaced need. She treated Arman's parents with disdain, turning small disagreements into drawn-out conflicts. Money became a battleground. Remarks about

spending turned into restrictions. She wanted control over finances, decisions, and him.

Arman's refusal to surrender only increased her frustration. When she could not dominate at home, she took her battles outside. Police stations, women forums, courts, relatives, and neighbours. They became stages for accusations designed to trap him.

Years into the marriage, the deepest humiliation arrived. Rukhsar, backed by her family,

are increasingly common.

But the justice system, through careful investigation and fair trial, often reveals the truth. Evidence matters, patience matters, and the law, despite its weight, works to untangle lies from reality.

The most piercing wound came from the children. Those small voices, once the source of joy, became instruments of manipulation. Stories distorted by their mother strained the bond between father and children, leaving grief that no parent should bear.

Arman endured silently. Insults, accusations, and betrayal tested him, but he chose patience. Even from a distance, he stayed present for his children, prayed for them, and hoped they would one day see the truth.

Arman's story is not unique, but it is instructive. Not all women are like Rukhsar. Many remain loving, loyal, and wise. Not all men falter under pressure. Some, like Arman, retain dignity, patience, and love even in hardship.

Life in Kashmir can twist homes into battlegrounds, but goodness persists through endurance.

Arman's life is struggle turned into strength. He was betrayed but not defeated, hurt but not broken. Faith and honour remained intact. He lives for his children, for truth, and for values that cannot be stolen.

Questions remain: Will the storm pass? Will the lies unravel? Will his children one day recognize the sacrifices of a father who never abandoned them in spirit, even when circumstances pulled him away?

Time alone holds the answer. Until then, the Kashmiri father walks under the weight of reality, trusting almighty to reveal intentions.

— The author is a government officer by profession and a storyteller by passion. He can be reached at syedmajid6676@gmail.com

14 States Agree To Raise Judges’ Retirement Age To 62

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday expressed satisfaction that as many as 14 states have agreed to raise the retirement age of district judicial officers from 60

to 62 years and refused to list for urgent hearing the separate pleas of judges who are on the verge of retiring or have just retired.

"This pertains to the persuasive jurisdiction of this court. The issue is between the Supreme Court

and the states," a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana said while declining to list individual pleas of judges who have to demit office after reaching the age of 60 years.

The CJJ said that so far 14 states have agreed to raise the retirement age to 62 years and "we are hopeful that others will also follow." The bench said though it has listed the petition for hearing, it did not approve the moving

of individual pleas by judicial officers.

Senior advocate Ranjit Kumar mentioned the plea for listing saying that judicial officers are retiring every day.

On September 4, the bench had

directed states to raise the retirement age of judicial officers from 60 to 62 years.

The bench had said judicial officers in the seven states—Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra,

Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal— have superannuated on or after March 31 this year shall be given an option to re-join the judicial office, if they have not already obtained subsequent employment.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Major Cabinet

have given Omar Abdullah the option of reshuffling the existing team while filling the vacant ministerial positions. The final decision on which resignations to accept and which ministers to retain rests with the Chief Minister.

The Cabinet expansion follows months of consultations within the National Conference over the accommodation of senior legislators, regional representation and the distribution of ministerial portfolios.

The Council of Ministers currently comprises six members, including the Chief Minister, leaving three ministerial berths vacant. With four new inductions and one incumbent likely to be dropped, the ministry is expected to reach its maximum permissible strength of nine members, including the Chief Minister.

Under Section 53 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the Council of Ministers cannot exceed 10 per cent of the total membership of the Legislative Assembly. With 90 elected seats, Jammu and Kashmir can have a maximum of nine ministers, including the Chief Minister.

New Inductions, Possible Exit

Senior National Conference leader Ali Mohammad Sagar and legislators Altaf Ahmad Kaloo, Shameema Firdous and Mir Saifullah are set to be inducted into the Cabinet, sources said.

Satish Sharma is likely to be dropped from the Council of Ministers, marking the first major change in the composition of the ministry since the National Conference-led government assumed office in October 2024.

The induction of four legislators is expected to address the party's internal considerations, including seniority and regional representation. The proposed changes are also expected to ease the distribution of ministerial responsibilities within the government.

Sources said the reshuffle would not be limited to new appointments, with significant changes in the allocation of portfolios expected after the swearing-in ceremony.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is likely to relinquish some of the departments currently held by him, while existing ministers could also be assigned new responsibilities.

The final distribution of portfolios is expected to become clear after the new ministers take oath.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo are among the existing ministers expected to continue, although changes in portfolio allocation remain possible.

The final list of incoming ministers and the likely exit of Satish Sharma have emerged from sources privy to the developments. The government has not yet formally announced the complete composition of the expanded Council of Ministers.

Congress Declines Cabinet Berth

The Cabinet expansion follows a final attempt by Omar Abdullah to secure the Congress's participation in the government.

Sources said the Chief Minister contacted Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hameed Karra on Monday evening to seek the party's final decision on joining the Council of Ministers.

Karra declined the offer, reiterating the Congress's position that it would not join the ministry until statehood was restored to Jammu and Kashmir. He also conveyed that the Chief Minister could proceed with filling the berth offered to the party.

The Congress has remained outside the Council of Ministers since the National Conference-led government took office in October 2024, despite being an alliance partner.

The party's refusal removed the remaining uncertainty over its participation in the Cabinet expansion, allowing the Chief Minister to proceed with the proposed ministerial changes.

NC Leaders Meet Ahead of Reshuffle
Amid speculation over the Cabinet changes, senior National Conference leaders, including Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Rajya Sabha MP Shami Oberoi, Satish Sharma and Javed Ahmed Rana, met at the Church Lane residence of Minister Javed Ahmad Dar in Srinagar on Monday.

The meeting came a day before the scheduled swearing-in ceremony and amid speculation over possible changes in the composition of the Council of Ministers.

Speaking after the meeting, Dar dismissed speculation surrounding the gathering, describing it as an informal interaction among colleagues over tea.

"We had already decided to sit together for tea. We discussed party

matters, and there was no secret meeting," Dar said.

Asked about the proposed Cabinet expansion and the possibility of ministers being dropped, Dar said the decision rested entirely with the Chief Minister.

"It is the Chief Minister's prerogative who is keeping whom and who is dropping whom. We have no knowledge about it," he said.

Omar Abdullah had earlier said that the list of ministers had been finalised in consultation with National Conference president Farooq Abdullah. He had also urged party colleagues seeking ministerial positions to stop sending messages and making repeated approaches, saying the decision had already been taken.

The Chief Minister had met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday and sought time for the swearing-in ceremony as part of the proposed Cabinet expansion and reshuffle.

The exercise marks the first major restructuring of the Council of Ministers since the National Conference-led government assumed office in October 2024.

While the induction of four legislators and the likely exit of Satish Sharma have emerged as key features of the reshuffle, the final allocation of portfolios and formal confirmation of the changes are expected following Tuesday's swearing-in ceremony. (inputs from agencies)

3,255 Women, 1,016

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The figures on missing women and girls do not, by themselves, establish the circumstances behind individual disappearances or indicate how many cases are linked to kidnapping or forced marriage. District-wise information and further case-level details would be needed to establish the reasons behind the disappearances and the status of investigations.

Kashmir Shivers

Awantipora registered 1.0 degree and Budgam 2.0 degrees. Konibal in Pampore recorded 2.1 degrees, followed by Qazigund at 2.6 degrees, Kupwara at 2.8 degrees, Bandipora at 3.3 degrees and Baramulla at 4.2 degrees Celsius.

In Ladakh, apart from Nyoma, Tangste recorded a minimum temperature of -5.4 degrees Celsius, followed by Padum at -4.6 degrees, Stakna at -4.3 degrees, Drass at -4.0 degrees, Upshii at -3.7 degrees and Chuchot at -3.6 degrees.

Leh recorded a minimum temperature of -4.1 degrees Celsius, while Kargil registered -1.4 degrees. Diskit in Nubra Valley recorded a low of -1.3 degrees, while Khalitse and Garkon registered minimum temperatures of 0.2 and 5.1 degrees, respectively.

Daytime temperatures in Ladakh varied considerably. Kargil recorded a maximum of 16.4 degrees Celsius, followed by Leh at 11.4 degrees and Nyoma at 8.1 degrees.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature of 14.4 degrees Celsius, while Jammu Airport registered 16.3 degrees and Kathua 15.2 degrees.

Among the higher-altitude stations in the division, Bhadarwah recorded a minimum temperature of 4.2 degrees Celsius, Banihal 6.0 degrees, Rajouri 7.6 degrees and Kishtwar 7.9 degrees.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department has forecast mainly dry weather over the coming days, although brief spells of light rain may occur in a few districts.

Residents, particularly those in higher-altitude areas, are likely to continue experiencing cold nights as temperatures remain low.

The latest readings indicate a marked contrast between the colder higher-altitude areas of Kashmir and Ladakh and the relatively milder conditions in the Jammu region.

Fire Guts 40

at the site as a precautionary measure, while personnel continued to monitor the affected area.

Officials said around 40 shops, mostly dealing in food supplies, dry fruits and blankets, were gutted in the fire. The exact extent of damage to shops, merchandise and other property was still being assessed.

"The assessment of the damage is underway. The exact value of the property and goods destroyed in the fire is still being calculated, and it would be premature to give a final figure at this stage," the official said.

Preliminary investigations suggested that a short circuit in one of the shops may have triggered the blaze, which spread rapidly across the market, officials said.

The narrow approach to Shiv Market

posed a major challenge for firefighters, making it difficult for them to reach the affected shops directly. Firefighting teams had to approach the blaze from the rear side of the market to tackle the flames and prevent them from spreading further, officials said.

As the fire spread, several shopkeepers made desperate attempts to retrieve their goods before the flames reached their establishments. However, the fire rapidly engulfed shops, leaving traders with extensive losses.

Bitu Sharma, a shopkeeper, described scenes of panic and helplessness as the flames spread from one shop to another.

"We saw the fire spreading from one shop to another, and within a short time, the situation became extremely difficult to control. We tried to take out whatever goods we could, but the flames were spreading so fast that there was very little time," he said.

Sharma alleged that fire tenders reached the spot nearly one-and-a-half hours after the fire broke out, claiming that the delay hampered efforts to contain the blaze and salvage goods.

The fire has dealt a major blow to traders whose livelihoods depended on the market, with the full extent of their financial losses yet to be determined.

J&K's Shadow

factors are estimated at 0.78 and 0.96, with an overall SWRF of 0.81.

Historical figures presented in the study indicate considerable fluctuations in Jammu and Kashmir's labour-related economic parameters over the past five financial years.

The overall SWRF remained at 0.97 during both 2019–20 and 2020–21 before declining to 0.85 in 2021–22. It subsequently reached 1.00 in 2022–23 but dropped substantially to 0.47 in 2023–24.

A similar trend was observed in rural areas, where the factor stood at 1.00 in 2019–20, slipped to 0.96 in 2020–21 and 0.81 in 2021–22, and returned to 1.00 in 2022–23 before falling to 0.36.

The urban factor, meanwhile, was recorded at 0.87 in 2019–20 and remained at 1.00 for the next three financial years before marginally declining to 0.96 in 2023–24.

The shadow wage rate factor is an economic assessment tool used to estimate the opportunity cost of employing labour in public investment projects in relation to the applicable minimum wage. It does not represent the actual wages paid to workers.

The NITI Aayog-supported exercise seeks to improve the evaluation of government-funded projects by examining the economic value of resources, including labour, rather than relying solely on prevailing market prices.

By assessing differences across regions, gender categories and states and Union Territories, the study aims to provide policymakers with parameters for evaluating project viability, estimating economic costs and improving public investment decisions.

However, the rural wage estimates presented in the overall and gender-specific tables differ, making verification of the original figures necessary before drawing conclusions about wage disparities.

The findings underline the substantial variation in estimated labour costs between rural and urban Jammu and Kashmir and their relevance in the economic appraisal of public development projects. (KNO)

Marathon Puts J&K

its position as a destination of global sporting excellence," Abdullah said in a post on X.

He said the participation of athletes from across the country and abroad had showcased Kashmir's growing appeal on the international sporting map.

Highlighting the route, the Chief Minister said the course took runners past Dal Lake, majestic Chinar trees, the Zabarwan mountains and historic Lal Chowk, offering participants an opportunity to experience Kashmir's autumn beauty.

Abdullah said events such as the Kashmir Marathon, alongside initiatives like the newly developed chrysanthemum garden, were helping extend the tourist season, strengthen the local economy and create opportunities for businesses associated with tourism.

"Alongside initiatives such as the new chrysanthemum garden, events like the Kashmir Marathon are helping extend the tourist season, strengthen the local economy and create new opportunities for hoteliers, transporters, artisans and other tourism stakeholders," he said.

The Chief Minister added that visiting athletes would carry home

memories of Kashmir's natural beauty, warmth and hospitality, helping promote the region as a tourist destination.

He also highlighted the participation of local runners, saying over 1,200 athletes from Jammu and Kashmir took part in the event. A separate prize category worth Rs 25 lakh had been earmarked for local athletes, he said.

Abdullah said competing alongside international runners would encourage young athletes from the Union Territory to improve their performance and aspire to compete at higher levels.

The marathon, he said, provided an important platform for local sporting talent to gain exposure while bringing international attention to Kashmir.

The event forms part of efforts to promote sports tourism in Jammu and Kashmir and attract visitors beyond the traditional peak tourist season. The participation of runners from different countries also offered an opportunity to showcase the region's landscape, hospitality and capacity to host international sporting events.

FCIK Seeks Debt

to Chandigarh nor readily monitor their cases," the Federation said.

It added that borrowers risked adverse orders and enforcement action against their businesses and assets when their legal representatives failed to appear and their defence was not effectively presented.

The Federation said borrowers in Jammu and Kashmir had previously been able to access local judicial remedies. Referring to the High Court of India and Others, it noted that Sections 17-A and 17-B of the SARFAESI Act had provided remedies through the District Court and High Court in the erstwhile state.

Following the statutory changes accompanying the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019, jurisdiction came to be exercised by the DRT in Chandigarh. A notification issued on September 10, 2021, under reference S.O. 4145(E), provided for the extension of its jurisdiction to Jammu and Kashmir, the Federation said.

"Borrowers who previously had recourse to local judicial institutions now have to pursue their statutory remedy outside J&K. The resulting cost and difficulty deserve an institutional response," FCIK said.

The industrial body also referred to the Department of Financial Services' annual report for 2025–26, which listed 39 DRTs across the country, including three in Chandigarh, but none in Jammu and Kashmir.

FCIK urged the Union Government to assess the need for a tribunal in the Union Territory by considering accessibility, geographical constraints and borrowers' financial circumstances, in addition to the volume of cases.

The Federation said the High Court had described proceedings in Chandigarh as cumbersome, inconvenient and expensive, and observed that establishing DRTs or benches and circuit benches in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh could help address these difficulties.

It also cited shortcomings in virtual participation recorded by the court, including connectivity problems that had led to directions for physical appearance.

FCIK Head of the Advisory Committee Shahid Kamili said repeated travel, accommodation expenses, legal fees and absence from business placed an additional burden on entrepreneurs already facing financial distress.

"Banks have every right to recover lawful dues. Borrowers must equally have an affordable and meaningful opportunity to be heard. A statutory remedy must be accessible in practice," Kamili said.

Besides seeking a permanent tribunal and interim circuit sittings, the Federation has called for hearing alerts to be sent electronically to borrowers alongside their counsel, as well as prompt access to court orders.

FCIK urged the Chief Minister to support a formal proposal to the Union Government and offer suitable premises to facilitate an early decision on the demand.

The Federation said accessible adjudication would help ensure fair and timely resolution of debt recovery disputes while complementing the government's efforts to revive the industrial sector.

Kashmir Village

whether the units hold valid permissions and follow the conditions attached to them.

Joo has repeatedly asked the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution

Control Committee, the District Administration Pulwama and the District Mineral Officer to carry out those checks. He wants authorities to examine dust-control systems, verify operating consents and take legal action against units found violating environmental rules.

He has also shared a morning video recorded with a GPS-enabled camera in Green Colony. He said the footage showed reduced visibility and haze, and asked officials to inspect the location and assess the conditions themselves.

Another video focuses on a new stone crusher being built beside a mountain. Joo says its foundation appears about halfway complete, with machinery and conveyor equipment still to be installed. He has asked the authorities to establish the status of the land and verify the required approvals, including consent from the pollution-control committee and permissions relating to mining.

The available material does not establish whether the proposed unit lacks the required approvals. That is one of the questions an official inspection could settle.

Joo has raised a similar concern about the transportation of raw material. He says he has evidence of what he believes may be unauthorised movement of material and has asked the District Mineral Officer to investigate. He has questioned whether the alleged activity shows failures in monitoring, while stopping short of accusing any particular official of wrongdoing.

His demands go beyond inspections. He wants the authorities to publish a time-bound report detailing the units examined, violations identified and action taken. Where officials find that pollution cannot be controlled at existing locations, he has asked them to consider relocation or other measures permitted by law.

The concerns in Wuyan have a longer history. Residents of the area complained about pollution from crushers and heavy vehicles in 2018, alleging that dust affected their health and that operators failed to use adequate pollution-control equipment. The complaints included concerns about schoolchildren and trucks moving through local roads.

The industry also supports local livelihoods. In 2024, quarry workers and crusher owners from Wuyan and neighbouring areas appealed to the government to let them resume operations, saying families depended on the industry for income and education expenses.

Joo has repeatedly acknowledged that dependence. His campaign, he says, is about making businesses follow the law while protecting residents from pollution. He has stressed that he wants no personal confrontation with crusher owners.

The restrictions recently imposed by the authorities gave him hope. He thanked the district administration and the District Mineral Officer, while asking whether the measures would remain in force or last only a few days.

"Wuyan needs permanent protection, rather than temporary relief," he said in one appeal.

Nadeem Qadri, an environmental advocate from Pampore, said the campaign had raised a larger question about how institutions respond when residents report environmental harm.

"When one person has to fight alone for an entire village's right to clean air, it raises serious questions about the system," Qadri said. "No business should come at the cost of people's health. Restrictions may bring temporary relief, but without regular checks and strict action, the dust will return. The people of Wuyan have a right to clean air, and the authorities must make sure they get it."

Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat, an environmental activist who has taken mining and pollution concerns to the National Green Tribunal, has also called for intervention in Wuyan.

Bhat urged the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee and the tribunal to examine residents' complaints, inspect the crushers, verify their no-objection certificates and operating consents, and act against violations. He also called for closer monitoring of illegal mining and transportation without proper safeguards.

Bhat's appeal adds to the pressure on authorities to establish the facts on the ground and make their findings public. An inspection could determine which units comply with the rules, whether any mining activity lacks authorisation and what measures residents need to protect them from dust and noise.

For Joo, the personal cost of pressing those questions has become harder to bear. In his final video, he said he could no longer continue the campaign

alone. His appeal to the village was also a plea for collective responsibility.

"Wuyan belongs to everyone, and its responsibility belongs to everyone," he said.

He ended by praying for the health and prosperity of his village.

His videos may stop, but the questions they raised remain. Residents still need clear answers about pollution, operating permissions and the enforcement of environmental rules. The authorities have the power to establish those facts and explain what happens next.

Joo has stepped back because he believes one person cannot sustain the fight. Whether the village and its officials take it forward will determine whether the restrictions become lasting protection or another brief reprieve from the dust.

Lake-Ending Glaciers

significant for understanding global ice loss.

The study also found that glaciers ending in lakes flow, on average, 10 per cent faster than land-ending glaciers, while those terminating in oceans flow 44 per cent faster.

In terms of ice loss relative to their size, lake-ending glaciers lose around 57 per cent more ice than glaciers ending on land.

"Glaciers ending in lakes really stand out. They're losing ice particularly quickly. We don't yet know exactly why. It could be the lakes themselves, the size and shape of the glaciers, or a bit of both," said study author Joseph Mallalieu.

He said identifying the factors responsible for the accelerated ice loss was a key question for future research, particularly as glacier lakes become more common in a warming climate.

According to the researchers, lakes can influence glacier dynamics through several processes that may accelerate ice loss.

Glaciers terminating in lakes can shed large chunks of ice from their fronts into the water, a process known as calving. In addition, lake water can melt the submerged portions of glacier ice, contributing to further ice loss.

These processes, combined with differences in glacier size and shape, may help explain why lake-ending glaciers lose ice more rapidly than their land-ending counterparts. However, the researchers said the precise reasons for the higher rates of ice loss remain unclear.

The study found that lake-ending glaciers are present in every major glacier region worldwide and, in most regions, lose ice faster than glaciers terminating on land or in oceans.

The researchers also documented changes in glacier types as the climate warms. In parts of the Arctic, glaciers that once terminated in the ocean are retreating onto land. Elsewhere, the formation and expansion of glacier lakes are turning some land-ending glaciers into lake-ending ones.

These transitions could have contrasting effects on glacier loss, the study found.

Glaciers retreating from the ocean onto land may experience slower ice loss, while glaciers that begin retreating in lakes could lose ice more rapidly. The findings suggest that the environment at a glacier's terminus, or its ending point, can play an important role in determining how quickly it loses ice.

The researchers said these changes make it important to distinguish between glaciers according to where they terminate when assessing their evolution and projecting future ice loss.

Existing models used to project glacier change do not yet fully account for glaciers ending in lakes, the study noted. This could limit the accuracy of projections relating to sea-level rise, water resources and natural hazards.

The researchers said the new glacier classification developed by the team could help address this gap by enabling scientists to better account for differences between land-, lake-, ocean- and ice-shelf-ending glaciers.

A more detailed understanding of these differences could improve assessments of how glaciers respond to a warming climate and help refine projections of their future evolution.

The study's authors said further research is needed to identify how environmental conditions and glacier geometry influence glacier dynamics.

"Our findings underscore the need for improved representation of non-land glacier termini in models of glacier evolution and sea-level rise, and suggest that distinguishing the environmental and geometric controls of termini on glacier dynamics remains an important challenge for future research," the authors wrote. (Agencies)

Breast Cancer Emerging As Major Health Challenge In Kashmir: Experts

Call for early detection, timely consultation, access to comprehensive care

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Breast cancer is emerging as a major health challenge in Kashmir, with medical experts stressing the need for greater public awareness, early diagnosis and timely treatment to improve survival rates.

Although breast cancer is one of the most common cancers affecting women worldwide, experts say the challenge in Kashmir extends beyond the disease burden, as many patients approach hospitals only after the cancer has progressed to an advanced stage. Doctors said that breast cancer is often treatable, particularly when detected early, and that timely medical intervention can significantly improve outcomes and quality of life.

Speaking to KNO, Dr Shabnam Bashir, Director of Surgical Oncology specialising in breast and colorectal cancers at New City Hospital, Tendorpora Bypass, said understanding the disease, recognising its warning signs and seeking medical advice without delay are essential to reducing its impact. "Breast cancer develops when cells in the breast grow abnormally and uncontrollably, usually originating in the milk ducts or lobules. Although it predominantly affects women, men can also develop the disease," he said.

Global & National Burden

Breast cancer remains one of the most frequently diagnosed

cancers worldwide and the leading cancer affecting women in many countries. Millions of women are diagnosed every year, while hundreds of thousands lose their lives to it. The burden varies across countries, with differences in awareness, screening facilities, access to di-



agnostic services and availability of timely treatment contributing to variations in survival rates. In countries with well-established screening programmes, more cases are detected early, allowing treatment to begin before the disease spreads. In settings with limited screening or delayed access to specialist services, women are more likely to be diagnosed at advanced stages.

Rising Concern In Kashmir

Studies conducted at tertiary-care centres in Kashmir have reported that approximately 70-73 per cent of breast cancer patients presented with stage III disease, highlighting the need for earlier detection and faster referral for specialist assessment. A late diag-

nosis can limit treatment options and increase the complexity of care, whereas cancers detected early generally offer better prospects for successful treatment.

Why Is Breast Cancer A Growing Concern?

Experts say the burden is in-

fluenced by a combination of reproductive, biological, genetic, lifestyle and healthcare-related factors. No single factor can explain the trends observed in Kashmir.

Changing reproductive patterns — early onset of menstruation, later age at first childbirth and having fewer children — may influence risk through hormonal pathways, while breastfeeding is associated with a protective effect. Obesity and sedentary lifestyles, particularly excess body weight after menopause and insufficient physical activity, are recognised risk factors. Women with close relatives who have had breast or ovarian cancer may face a higher risk, and inherited genetic alterations,

including those involving BRCA1 and BRCA2, can substantially increase susceptibility in some families.

Limited knowledge about early symptoms, fear of a cancer diagnosis and hesitation in discussing breast-related problems can delay consultation, while travel costs, geographical challenges and delays in reaching specialist services can make timely diagnosis difficult, particularly for those in remote and rural areas. Greater public awareness, better diagnostic facilities and improved cancer registration may also contribute to the increased number of cases identified over time. Experts caution that breast cancer can develop even in women with no identifiable risk factors, making awareness and timely evaluation important for everyone.

Early Detection

Early detection is among the most effective ways to improve outcomes. Doctors emphasise breast awareness — becoming familiar with the normal appearance and feel of one's breasts and promptly reporting unusual changes — while noting it is not a substitute for clinical examination or imaging. Clinical breast examination and mammography may help identify abnormalities depending on age, individual risk and available guidance. Women with a strong family history may require an individualised screening plan, potentially starting earlier.

For Kashmir, experts say awareness campaigns must be accompanied by accessible diagnostic facilities and reliable referral systems so that women with suspicious findings undergo further investigation without delay. Mobile screening initiatives and peripheral camps can help, but their effectiveness depends on ensuring timely diagnostic confirmation and treatment. Any suspicious lump or persistent change should be evaluated promptly rather than waiting for a routine screening appointment.

Diagnosis generally begins with clinical examination, followed by imaging such as breast ultrasound or mammography, and a biopsy to confirm whether a lesion is cancerous and to determine hormone-receptor and HER2 status. Treatment is tailored to the patient and may involve surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, hormone therapy or targeted medicines, supported by rehabilitation, nutritional support, physiotherapy and psychological counselling. Doctors stress that breast cancer care requires a multidisciplinary approach.

Dr Shabnam Bashir said the availability of diagnostic and treatment facilities in Kashmir has made it possible for patients to access comprehensive breast cancer care within the region. She stressed that women should not delay seeking advice because of fear, stigma or the belief that treatment would require travelling outside Kashmir—(KNO)

Four Held With Fake Gold Coins In Banihal

SRINAGAR: A Srinagar resident was among four persons apprehended by police after fake gold coins were recovered from their possession during checking in Banihal, officials said on Monday.

An official told KNO that the four were travelling from Jammu towards Srinagar when they were intercepted at the tunnel.

He said fake gold coins were recovered during a search and further recoveries in this regard were yet to be made.

They were identified as Aijaz Nabi, son of Ghulam Nabi, a resident of Batmaloo, Srinagar; Abdul Ahad, son of Ghulam Rasool, of Drugmulla, Kupwara; Farhat Majeed, son of Abdul Majeed, of Buhi Pora, Kupwara; and Altaf Hussain, son of Ghulam Moideen, of Hayan Tregam, Kupwara.

Meanwhile, police have registered FIR No. 246/2026 and further investigation into the matter is underway—(KNO)

7 Drug Peddlers Arrested in Anantnag

SRINAGAR: Continuing its sustained crackdown against drug trafficking and substance abuse, Jammu and Kashmir Police in Anantnag intensified its efforts to curb the drug menace across the district. During a series of operations, police teams apprehended seven peddlers and recovered large quantity of contraband substances from their possession.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, officials said that a police party from Police Station Anantnag apprehended Sareer Ahmad Bhat son of Khazir Mohammad Bhat resident of Chirhama Mirbazar, at Nawwathoo Danter and recovered approximately 230 grams of charas powder-like substance from his possession. In another operation, police intercepted a Hyundai i10 bearing registration number JK05B-3181, driven by Mohd Altaf Bhat son of Abdul Majeed Bhat, resident of Mirdanter. Approximately 153 grams of charas powder-like substance was recovered during the search from his possession. Besides, vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized.

In separate operations at Wazirbagh and behind Police Station Anantnag, police apprehended Bittu Dantani son of Raju Dantani resident of Chapur Mehdi Kuwa, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, presently residing at Achabal Adda, Anantnag, and Ajay Kumar son of Kishan Kumar, resident of Verrugam Kadi, Gujarat. Approximately 17 grams and 22 grams of charas, respectively, were recovered from their possession, officials said.

Meanwhile, acting on reliable information, Police Post Sangam conducted a raid at the residential house of Bilal Ahmad Bhat son of Abdul Wahab Bhat, resident of Balyar Marhama, and recovered approximately 7170 kilograms of ganja-like substance. Similarly, a naka party of Police Post Shairbagh apprehended Danish Manzoor Shaikh son of Manzoor Ahmad Shaikh, resident of Janglat Mandi, Anantnag, at High Ground and recovered approximately 205 grams of charas-like substance from his possession.

Moreover, a naka party of Police Station Mattan apprehended Javid Mukhtiyar Pashoo son of Mukhtiyar Ahmad Pashoo, resident of Gopalpora, Mattan, and recovered approximately 52.6 grams of charas-like substance from his possession.

In a separate action, a police party of Police Post DK Pora apprehended Bashir Ahmad Bhat son of Mohd Abdullah Bhat, resident of Brinty, and recovered approximately 15 grams of charas from his possession.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and further investigations have been initiated, officials added.

Police reiterated its firm commitment to eradicating the drug menace and appealed to the general public to cooperate with police by sharing credible information regarding drug trafficking and peddling.

Awantipora Police Seize Five L&T Machines, Four Dumpers

AWANTIPORA: Awantipora Police have seized five heavy L&T machines and four dumpers in a crackdown on alleged illegal mining at Bathen, Patalbagh and Galander, registering three FIRs in connection with the seizures.

Police said five heavy L&T machines were seized at Bathen, falling under Police Station Khrew, while four dumpers were seized from Patalbagh and Galander within the jurisdiction of Police Station Pampore.

FIR No. 84/2026 has been registered at Police Station Khrew, while FIR Nos. 93/2026 and 94/2026 have been registered at Police Station Pampore under relevant provisions of law. Investigations into the cases are underway.

Police described the action as a major crackdown on illegal mineral extraction and transportation in the area, claiming it was the first action of its kind locally involving the seizure of such heavy machinery and dumpers. [KNT]

Vigilance Awareness Week Begins Across Shopian



SRINAGAR: Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 commenced across Shopian with a series of awareness activities aimed at promoting integrity, transparency, accountability and ethical conduct among officials, stakeholders and the general public.

The Vigilance Awareness Week is being observed from October 26 to November 1, 2026, under the theme "Probity for Prosperity." As part of the opening-day activities, an Integrity Pledge was administered at Town Hall Shopian.

The event was presided by Additional Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz.

CEO MC and other officers were also present on the occasion. The participants reaffirmed their commitment to upholding honesty, integrity, transparency and accountability in the discharge of their responsibilities and contributing towards a corruption-free society.

Similar activities were also organised at various locations across Shopian, with officials, employees and members of the community participating in initiatives aimed at creating greater awareness about ethical governance, prevention of corruption and the importance of probity in public life.

The week-long observance will feature various awareness programmes, outreach activities, sensitisation sessions and other initiatives to engage employees, stakeholders, students and citizens on issues relating to integrity, transparency and accountability. (Observer News Service)

Northern Railway To Hold Digital Life Certificate Camps From November 1

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Northern Railway will organise the fifth Digital Life Certificate (DLC) Campaign from November 1 to 30, 2026, to facilitate railway pensioners and family pensioners in submitting their life certificates through digital means.

The campaign will be conducted in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare and the Railway Board. Camps are proposed to be organised across all divisions and various workshops of Northern Railway to make the submission process easier and more accessible for pensioners.

The initiative aims to promote the use of digital technology in pension-related services and reduce the inconvenience faced by pensioners while submitting their annual life certificates.



Through the Digital Life Certificate facility, eligible pensioners can complete the process from anywhere in India without having to visit a pension office physically.

Railway pensioners can generate and submit their Digital Life Certificates using face authentication technology through compatible Android or iOS devices. The facility is intended to eliminate the need for repeated visits to banks and other offices, helping pensioners avoid long queues and unnecessary travel.

Northern Railway said the digital initiative had yielded encouraging results during camps organised over the last two financial years. Building on this progress, the railway administration is seeking to encourage more pensioners and family pensioners to adopt the facility and take advantage of the simplified process.

The month-long campaign is expected to provide additional assistance to pensioners who may require guidance in using digital tools to complete the process.

Govt Orders Probe Into Alleged Tender Irregularities In R&B Division Anantnag

Four-member committee to examine works allotment process, identify officials responsible

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Jammu and Kashmir government has ordered an in-depth fact-finding inquiry into alleged irregularities in the allotment of works by the Public Works (Roads and Buildings) Division, Anantnag, directing a four-member committee to examine the tendering process and identify officials responsible for any violations.

As per Government Order No. 358-PWD(R&B) of 2026, the R&B Department has constituted a preliminary enquiry committee to scrutinise the procedure adopted in the allotment of works under NIT No. 168/Anantnag/2026-27/E-Ten-

dering/1717, issued on August 24, 2026, by the Executive Engineer, R&B Division Anantnag.

According to the terms of reference, the committee will examine the award of a contract to the L2 bidder, allegedly in violation of the guidelines issued by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and the provisions of the General Financial Rules (GFR).

The panel has also been tasked with reviewing other tenders issued by the division during the financial year 2026-27 in which contracts were awarded to bidders other than the L1 bidder.

The inquiry will assess whether such allotments resulted in any financial loss or potential loss to the pub-

lic exchequer and determine the circumstances under which the contracts were awarded to bidders other than the lowest bidder.

It will also identify the officers and officials involved in the allotment of contracts in cases where violations of the prescribed rules and procedures are established.

The fact-finding exercise is aimed at examining compliance with established tendering procedures and financial regulations in the allotment of public works.

The findings of the committee are expected to bring clarity to the circumstances surrounding the alleged irregularities and fix responsibility, wherever warranted.

Govt Committed To Ensure Smooth Winter Tourism Activities In Sonamarg: Avny Lavasa

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Secretary Tourism, Avny Lavasa, on Monday said that issues related to electricity supply, snow clearance and other requirements would be taken up with the Ganderbal district administration to ensure smooth tourism activities during the upcoming winter season in Sonamarg.

Talking to reporters here Lavasa, according to KNO, said, representatives of the Hotel and Market Association met her and raised several concerns, particularly regarding power supply and snow clearance during the winter. "These issues require coordination among mul-



multiple departments. We will take them up with the district administration and make every possible effort to support winter tourism activities and the local tourism industry," she said.

Lavasa said the government would examine the concerns raised by local stakeholders and take necessary measures to promote tourism in the

area.

Regarding the sewage treatment facility, she said the plant was expected to be commissioned soon and would help ensure scientific treatment of sewage and septage waste. "The connectivity network to the plant is yet to be completed. However, waste collected through municipal suction and jetting machines will be treated at the facility," she said.

On winter tourism activities, Lavasa said the CEO has already briefed her about the proposed initiatives. "We will hold a joint meeting with the Directorate and work out a plan to promote and support winter tourism activities," she added—(KNO)

People Demand Widening Of Shopian-Aglar Road

Agencies

SHOPIAN: Residents of several villages in South Kashmir have urged the government to widen the 22-km long Shopian-Aglar road to ensure smooth traffic movement and reduce the risk of accidents on this important thoroughfare.

Residents while talking to KNO said, "Narrow stretches of this road frequently lead to traffic congestion and increase the risk of accidents."

They said the road serves as a vital link connecting dozens of villages across Shopian and adjoining areas of Pulwama and Anantnag districts.

Residents said the route witnesses heavy traffic throughout the day. "Hundreds of employees, labourers and other people travel to the Industrial Estate SIDCO Laspipora through this road," they said.

Residents of Aglar, Nikloora, Shirmal, Heff, Chillipora, Sugan, Turkwangam, Molu, Dangerpora, Trenz, Pahnoo and several other villages said the road has become increasingly narrow to accommodate the heavy volume of vehicular traffic.

They said that although the authorities have undertaken maintenance work on the road, its limited width at several places continues to cause incon-

venience to commuters, with vehicles often getting stuck while attempting to pass each other.

Fayaz Ahmad of Heff, said the government has done commendable work in maintaining the vital road, but its existing width is insufficient to accommodate the heavy rush of vehicles.

"The Shopian-Aglar road is an important route for people travelling between Shopian, Kulgam and other adjoining areas. A large number of people use it daily to reach the Industrial Estate at Laspipora, but the narrow stretches frequently cause traffic jams," he said.

"Since the road connects numerous villages and remains busy throughout the day, widening it has become a necessity. The present condition at several points causes inconvenience to commuters and increases the chances of accidents," he added.

Sameer Ahmad, of Turkwangam, said the road is particularly important for people travelling to SIDCO Laspipora and other workplaces in the area.

He said labourers, employees and other commuters often face delays due to traffic congestion on the narrow stretches, affecting their daily schedules.

"The road provides connectivity to several villages

and is used by a large number of people travelling to the industrial estate and nearby offices. However, its narrow width makes the journey difficult, particularly during peak hours," he said.

Other residents said traffic congestion had become a recurring problem, with commuters frequently facing difficulties while crossing narrow portions of the road.

They said widening the road would not only ease traffic movement but also improve connectivity between villages and facilitate the movement of people travelling for work, education, healthcare and other essential purposes.

The residents said they had repeatedly brought the issue to the attention of the concerned authorities, but no concrete steps had been taken so far to widen the road.

They appealed to the government and the concerned department to take up the matter on priority and initiate measures to widen the entire stretch.

The residents said timely intervention would help prevent avoidable traffic congestion, minimise the risk of accidents and provide much-needed relief to thousands of people who depend on the road for their daily commute—(KNO)

India's Green Cover Shrank From 36.9% in 2001 to 31.35% in 2025: Study

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI- India saw a decline in green cover and a corresponding expansion of non-green landscapes by 5.6 percentage points between 2001 and 2025, which contributed to rising summer temperatures across the country, according to a new analysis.

"The difference in average summer temperature between the two land-cover categories (between 2001 and 2025) ranged

from approximately 1 to 2.5 degrees Celsius, highlighting the important role of vegetation in regulating land-surface thermal conditions," said the analysis released on Monday by Climate Trends, a Delhi-based climate research organisation.

According to the study, India's green-cover area decreased from approximately 36.95 per cent in 2001 to 31.35 per cent in 2025.

Non-green land increased from 63.05 per cent to 68.65 per cent

during the same period, indicating continuous expansion of anthropogenic and sparsely vegetated surfaces across large parts of the country.

Dr Palak Balyan, research lead at Climate Trends, said, "The findings clearly demonstrate that vegetation is not merely an ecological asset; it is an important component of India's climate-adaptation infrastructure."

"The persistent 1 to 2.5 degrees Celsius summer tempera-

ture difference between green and non-green landscapes highlights the role of vegetation in regulating local thermal conditions through evapotranspiration, shading and moisture retention," she added.

The study also found that regions experiencing green-cover loss generally coincided with stronger summer warming, although regional climate forcing also influenced temperature rise.



US on the Sidelines? Four Regional Powers Meet in Tehran

Trans Asia News

TEHRAN- In a potentially significant geopolitical development following the 40-day US-Israeli war on Iran, top security officials from Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey are due to meet Iranian leadership in Tehran on Monday to discuss a regional security framework that could reshape strategic calculations across West Asia.

The proposed gathering brings together four influential regional powers with overlapping, and at times competing, security interests at a moment when the fallout from the Iran war, tensions surrounding the Strait of Hormuz and uncertainty over US-Iran diplomacy continue to threaten regional stability.

Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman, Pakistan's Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir and Turkey's National Intelligence Organization chief Ibrahim Kalin are expected to participate in the meeting with Iranian officials, including Supreme National Security Council Secretary Major General Mohsen Rezaei, according to statements by Iranian officials.

The meeting's significance extends beyond the immediate question of military security. It reflects an emerging



effort by major regional players to explore whether West Asia can develop its own security arrangements rather than remain dependent on external powers, particularly the United States.

Iranian officials have presented the initiative as an opportunity to draw lessons from the recent conflict and build a framework based on regional countries' own interests, capabilities and decisions.

If translated into sustained cooperation, the Tehran meeting could open a new diplomatic channel among countries that have traditionally approached regional security from markedly different strategic positions.

'Regional Security Must Be Decided Here'

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei said the initiative could serve as a starting point for establishing a regional security mechanism rooted in the interests and concerns of

countries in West Asia.

Speaking at his weekly press conference on Monday, Baqaei said the proposal emerged during Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir's recent visit to Tehran and was welcomed by the Iranian leadership.

"From our perspective, the fact that regional countries are seeking to establish, or at least consider, regional security mechanisms based on their own interests and concerns is a welcome development," he said.

Baqaei described the meeting as a possible prelude to further steps towards what Tehran calls endogenous security—a model in which regional countries assume primary responsibility for protecting their territories and maintaining stability.

Iranian Deputy Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Ali Baqeri Kani said the gathering would also draw on Iran's experience during the 40-day conflict with the United States and Israel.

Tehran maintains that its reliance on indigenous defence capabilities helped it withstand the military campaign, and Iranian officials are now presenting that experience as a potential model for regional security cooperation.

However, whether Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan will endorse Iran's broader strategic vision remains an open question. Participation in the meeting does not, by itself, signify agreement with Tehran's military doctrine or its positions on the United States and Israel.

WHY THIS MEETING MATTERS

The proposed meeting is particularly significant because it brings together four countries whose relationships with Washington, regional rivals and one another differ considerably.

Saudi Arabia remains a major US security partner, while Turkey is a NATO member with its own regional ambitions. Pakistan maintains longstanding military ties with Saudi Arabia and has important security and diplomatic interests in the wider Muslim world. Iran, meanwhile, has consistently advocated a regional order less dependent on Western military power.

Israel Heads to Polls Amid Uncertainty Over Netanyahu's Political Future

Press Trust Of India

JERUSALEM- Israel will hold parliamentary elections on Tuesday, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu seeking to retain power amid debate over the government's handling of the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack, the subsequent wars and its domestic and foreign policies.

The election is widely seen as a test of Netanyahu's leadership, as opposition leaders, including former military chief Gadi Eisenkot and former prime minister Naftali Bennett, seek to challenge his right-wing coalition.

Opinion polls indicate neither bloc is assured of the parliamentary majority needed to form a government.

Israel, roughly the size of north-eastern India's Mizoram state, uses a nationwide proportional representation system, with the entire country serving as a single electoral constituency to elect the 120 members of the Knesset, Israel's parliament.

Voters do not elect individual members of parliament. Instead, they vote for closed party lists. This system allows numerous political parties to compete for seats in the legislature.

To enter the Knesset, a party must cross the 3.25 per cent electoral threshold, a requirement that often prompts pre-election alliances and mergers.

The Knesset serves a four-year term, though elections can be held early under certain circumstances. The party winning the most seats does not automatically form the government.

After the election, the president consults political factions and appoints a lawmaker to form a government. The candidate must secure the support of at least 61 lawmakers to form a government.

Netanyahu, leader of the right-wing Likud party, has served as Israel's prime minister for nearly 19 years across three separate periods since 1996.

He seeks to retain power after a period marked by the October 7 attack, which

took place three years ago, and the multiple military campaigns that followed.

The Hamas-led assault in 2023 killed around 1,200 people in Israel and triggered the war in Gaza, which subsequently widened into a broader regional conflict involving Israel, Iran and other armed groups.

Following the attack, Israel launched a large-scale military campaign in the Gaza Strip, involving airstrikes, ground operations and restrictions that severely disrupted civilian life.

According to Gaza's health ministry, more than 74,000 Palestinians have been reported killed and over 175,000 injured since the start of the war.

Security and accountability for the October 7, 2023, attack are central issues in the campaign.

Netanyahu also faces

charges of fraud, breach of trust and bribery, which he denies. The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for him in 2024 over alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Eisenkot, a former chief of staff of the Israel Defence Forces, leads the centrist Yashar party and has emerged as a principal challenger to Netanyahu. He previously served as an observer in Netanyahu's war cabinet but resigned in June 2024 after criticising the government for lacking a clear war strategy.

Eisenkot has positioned himself as an alternative on governance while maintaining a hard line on security. His party has performed strongly in some opinion polls, though the opposition faces the challenge of assembling a viable coalition.

Bennett, a former prime minister, is leading the B'Yachad electoral alliance, which includes former prime minister Yair Lapid's Yesh Atid party. A right-wing politician who opposes Palestinian independence and supports Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, Bennett has also criticised Netanyahu's handling of security and governance.



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