

Dry Spell To Continue Till Nov 6: MeT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Shopian recorded the lowest minimum temperature in Kashmir at minus 0.5 degrees Celsius as night temperatures dipped across the Valley, while the Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast largely dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir till November 6.

According to the MeT department, most parts of Kashmir are likely to experience dry weather on Wednesday, with a brief spell of light rain or snow-fall possible over higher reaches at scattered places towards the evening of October 29.

Generally dry weather is expected from October 30 to November 6, with partly cloudy conditions at times. Brief spells of light rain or snowfall may occur over isolated higher reaches, but no significant weather activity is expected during the period.

The department has advised farmers to continue harvesting and other agricultural operations.

Among the minimum temperatures recorded across Kashmir, Shopian was the coldest at minus 0.5°C, followed by Pahalgam and Pulwama at 0.4°C each.

Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 2.3°C, while Kupwara settled at 2.2°C and Qazigund at 2.5°C. Gulmarg recorded 1.4°C.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature of 14.6°C, while Banihal registered 4.8°C, Bhadarwah 4.3°C and Rajouri 7.2°C.

In Ladakh, | [More on P6](#)

CM Omar Expands Cabinet With Four New Ministers

» Veteran NC leaders Ali Mohammad Sagar and Mir Saifullah return to the Council, while Shamima Firdous and Altaf Kaloo join for the first time as Satish Sharma is dropped



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday expanded his Council of Ministers, inducting

four National Conference (NC) legislators from the Kashmir Valley, in a reshuffle that triggered discontent among senior party leaders who were left out and drew criticism from the

opposition BJP over regional representation.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha administered the oath of office to Ali Mohammad Sagar, Mir Saifullah, | [More on P6](#)



CM Backs New Ministers

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday visited the office chambers of four newly inducted ministers at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar, congratulating them on assuming

office and expressing confidence in their contribution to Jammu and Kashmir's developmental agenda. The Chief Minister personally met Ali Mohammad Sagar, Saifullah Mir, | [More on P6](#)

» LG Sinha administers oath to new ministers; Congress continues to stay out of the cabinet

'Dropped Again': Mubarak Gul's Supporters Turn Up Heat On NC

Drama and disappointment surrounded the ruling National Conference on Tuesday as party workers protested at its headquarters here in support of senior party leader Mubarak Ahmad Gul following his exclusion from the Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet.

The workers gave the party leadership two days to address their demand for Gul's induction as a minister.

The supporters raised slogans at Nawa-i-Subh Complex, questioning the party high command's decision to leave out the six-time MLA from the Cabinet despite inducting four other legislators into the Omar Abdullah-led government.

The workers expressed anger over Gul's exclusion, with many saying they would seek his resignation from the party post if the leadership failed to address their concerns.

"Aga Ruhullah's decision is right, and we will also seek Mubarak Gul's resignation," a party worker said during the protest, reflecting the growing discontent over the Cabinet decision.

The workers said Gul's political experience and long association with the party deserved recognition.

One supporter said Omar Abdullah was not as old as Gul's political experience.

'Farooq Abdullah has assured me': Gul Later in | [More on P6](#)

HC Quashes PSA Detention, Orders Youth's Release

KO Correspondent

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has quashed detention order under Public Safety Act against a 23-year-old youth from Anantnag, holding that the detention was based on mere apprehension, lacked a live and proximate link to the alleged criminal activity and vitiated by inordinate delay in deciding his representation.

A bench of Justice Rajesh Sekhri allowed a petition filed by Gulzar Ahmad Vaid, a resident of Mukhdampora, Marhama Bijbehara, through his father, challenging the detention order dated December 31, 2024, issued under the PSA by district Magistrate Anantnag.

The police dossier had referred to FIR No. 219/2022 registered at Police Station Anantnag under Sections 120-B and 130 IPC and Sections 18 and 39 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. It alleged that the Vaid had remained in contact with over-ground workers and was involved in providing logistical support and transportation to terrorists.

However, the Court observed that the authorities themselves had stated that the investigating agency was still collecting comprehensive evidence and that Vaid would be formally arrested once sufficient evidence was gathered.

"It is intriguing to note that it is own case of the respondents (authorities) that investigating agency is on the job to collect comprehensive evidence," the court observed, holding that the detention was | [More on P6](#)

CAT Asks Govt To Revisit Transfer Of Employee Nearing Retirement

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) in Srinagar has asked the Government to reconsider the transfer of a 59-year-old employee of the Cooperative Department, who is due to retire within a year, while refusing to intervene in the transfers of four other employees.

Member (Judicial) M.S. Latif passed the order on a plea filed by five employees challenging a government order dated 1 October 2026 whereby they were transferred from Kashmir Division to Jammu Division.

The applicants had sought their retention or adjustment against available posts of Assistant Registrars (Cooperative) or equivalent posts in Kashmir Division, citing a departmental proposal and availability of vacancies.

The Bench noted that the applicants had been placed as In-charge Assistant Registrars/

Auditors in June 2026 and subsequently transferred under the impugned order. The Government, however, maintained that the post of Assistant Registrar/Equivalent was a UT-cadre post under SRO-663 of 2019 and carried transfer liability across Jammu and Kashmir.

The authorities also submitted that the applicants had served in Kashmir Division for prolonged periods ranging from three to eight years and that their transfer was necessitated by administrative requirements and operational deficiencies in Jammu Division. They further stated that 55 vacancies existed in Kashmir Division and 39 in Jammu Division.

The Tribunal reiterated that courts ordinarily have limited scope to interfere in transfer matters, observing that transfer is an exigency of service and an employee has no vested right to remain posted at a particular place. However, it said administrative decisions | [More on P6](#)

LG Sinha Reviews J&K Security, Stresses Counter-Infiltration

Sinha seeks strategy to choke terror funding and logistics, dismantle support networks

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday directed security agencies to intensify counter-infiltration measures, choke terrorist financing and dismantle support networks while reviewing the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir at a Unified Headquarters (UHQ) meeting in Srinagar.

"A foolproof counter-strategy must be implemented to completely choke off logistical and financial support for terrorists and we must step up measures to disrupt and counter infiltration," Sinha said while chairing the meeting at Lok Bhavan.

He stressed that counter-terrorism operations must continue to target the remaining elements of the terrorist



ecosystem and urged security agencies to dismantle networks allegedly involved in misleading and radicalising people.

"Operations must continue to neutralize the remnants of the terrorist ecosystem. We should aggressively target and dismantle the networks trying to misguide and radicalize the people," he said.

Reviewing the overall security scenario, Sinha underscored the importance of real-time coordination among security forces, police and intelligence agencies to address emerging threats and strengthen security arrangements across the Union Territory.

He also reviewed the operational preparedness of security agencies ahead of winter

and emphasised the need for sustained vigilance to counter emerging threats during the season.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the Army, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), Jammu and Kashmir Police and intelligence agencies for the peaceful conduct of the Amarnath Yatra 2026.

Emphasising the importance of public confidence in security institutions, Sinha directed security forces and the J&K Police to ensure that people's concerns were heard and their grievances addressed.

"Security forces and J&K Police need to build public trust by ensuring voices of people are heard and their grievances are | [More on P6](#)

41% Nutraceutical Samples Fail Quality Checks In J&K

Agencies

Srinagar: More than four out of every ten nutraceutical samples tested across Jammu and Kashmir over the past six months have failed to meet prescribed regulatory standards, prompting the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) to launch a fresh enforcement drive across all districts of the Union Territory amid concerns over the quality and compliance of health supplements available in the market.

Official figures released by the FDA on Tuesday revealed that 136 of the 328 nutraceutical samples collected during the preceding six months were found non-conforming, translating into a failure rate of 41.46 per cent.

The findings have raised significant questions about regulatory compliance in the nutraceutical market, which includes products such as dietary and nutritional supplements marketed for health and wellness purposes.



According to the FDA, the high proportion of non-conforming samples prompted authorities to intensify surveillance of businesses involved in the manufacture, storage, distribution and sale of nutraceutical products.

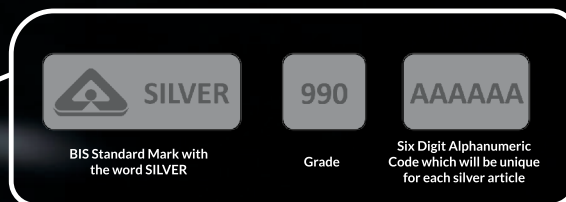
In the latest enforcement-cum-sampling drive, officials carried out 168 inspections across districts of Jammu and Kashmir and collected another 146 samples for laboratory examination.

These fresh samples will undergo testing for safety and quality parameters, along with scrutiny of | [More on P6](#)

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2

Childhood Abuse May Leave Lasting Brain 'Scars', Effects Stronger In Women: Study

Press Trust Of India

Maltreatment during childhood could show up as a 'scar' on the brain in the form of differing cortical thickness, surface area and subcortical volume across some regions, according to samples analysed from eight countries.

The findings, published in the journal Biological Psychiatry, showed that more severe abuse was correlated with great dramatic changes in the brain, with effects more pronounced in women than in men or children.

Researchers, led by those at the US' University of California Los Angeles, said the findings challenge the notion that childhood trauma has a singular, static effect on the brain.

Instead, distinct types of early life adversity may be associated with a variety of changes in brain structure that depend on age and sex, they said.

The team added that the more severe effects in women may have to do with the higher incidence of sexual trauma among girls as compared to boys during childhood, which is a sensitive period of development, or that their brains may respond to trauma more strongly. During childhood, the brain is still developing many of its major neural networks and is especially sensitive to environmental inputs, a situation known as heightened plasticity, the researchers explained.

Much of the neuroimaging research in this area has focused on the cumulative effects of multiple exposures in individuals exposed to childhood maltreatment. The study is the largest of its kind to examine the neurobiological legacy of childhood maltreatment across a diverse, global sample of people, they said.

The researchers collaborated with an international research collective called the ENIGMA Consortium to examine brain MRI images of 1,389 patients with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and major depressive disorder (MDD), along with 2,322 healthy people. Brain dimensions, such as the thickness of the outside layer of the brain—called the cortex—and the volume of the inner layers of the brain, called the subcortex, along with the overall surface area of the brain, were measured.



INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT
CATERING TECHNOLOGY & APPLIED NUTRITION
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India)
RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR – 190008
Website: www.ihmsrinagar.edu.in, Contact No. 0194-2312234

GIST OF ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE NO. 1 OF 2026

The Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Srinagar (J&K), invites applications from eligible citizens of India for engagement against the following posts on a contractual basis:-

S. No.	Name of the Post	Consolidated Monthly Remuneration	No. of Posts (UR)	Maximum Age
1.	Upper Division Clerk (UDC)	₹25,500/-	01	Not exceeding 30 years
2.	Lower Division Clerk (LDC)	₹19,900/-	01	Not exceeding 28 years

Qualifications and Eligibility: Candidates are advised to visit the Institute's official website, www.ihmsrinagar.edu.in, for details regarding essential qualifications, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions of contractual engagement, and the prescribed application form for each post.

Last Date for Submission of Applications: Duly filled-in applications, complete in all respects, must reach the undersigned in a sealed envelope within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice.

DIPK-NB-1959/26
dated: 27-10-2026

Sd/-
(Dr. Vimal Kumar)
Principal

Office of the Block Medical Officer, Charari-Sharief

Sealed tenders affixed with Revenue Stamp of Rs:-10 are invited from the registered dealers of Liquefied Petroleum Gas for refilling and supplying the commercial; gas cylinders for Block Charari-Sharief, which should reach the office of U/S within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Sd,
Block Medical Officer
Charari-Sharief

Detailed Terms and conditions.

- 1 That, you will provide the Gas to the Block Charari-Sharief without any Interruption and delay.
- 2 That, you will provide rate list on monthly basis to this office.
- 3 That, you will provide the authorization letter of the concerned agency.
- 4 That you will provide the Photostat copy of the Bank Account No. where from you are operating the account.
- 5 That, the Gas cylinders will be received after proper weighing.
- 6 That, no leaking/under weight cylinder will be accepted.

DIPK-7102/26
dated: 27-10-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sara Banoo, W/o Gh Mohd Zargar, R/o Near Masjid, Beerwah, District Budgam, Jammu & Kashmir, do hereby notify that my name has been inadvertently recorded as Sara Begum in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 4909-1532-1114, which is incorrect. My correct and actual name is Sara Banoo. I am a permanent resident of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Through this notice, I seek correction of my name in the relevant records and publication of the necessary notification in the Government Gazette through Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person concerned may take note of the above correction.

Sara Banoo
W/o Gh Mohd Zargar
R/o Near Masjid, Beerwah, District Budgam, J&K
Cell No.: 9797340367

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Lizer Maqbool, D/o Mohammad Maqbool Dar, R/o Herpora Awoora, Trehgam, District Kupwara, Jammu & Kashmir, do hereby notify that my name has been inadvertently recorded as Lizera Maqbool in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 2677-9657-7656, which is incorrect. My correct and actual name is Lizer Maqbool. I am a permanent resident of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Through this notice, I seek correction of my name in the relevant records and publication of the necessary notification in the Government Gazette through Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person concerned may take note of the above correction.

Lizer Maqbool
D/o Mohammad Maqbool Dar
R/o Herpora Awoora, Trehgam, District Kupwara, J&K
Cell No.: 9797340367

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Nazima Ali, W/o Fayaz Ahmad Gojri, R/o Hanjiwera, Pattan, District Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir, do hereby notify that my name has been inadvertently recorded as Nazma Begum in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 7473-0792-7072, which is incorrect. My correct and actual name is Nazima Ali. I am a permanent resident of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Through this notice, I seek correction of my name in the relevant records and publication of the necessary notification in the Government Gazette through Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person concerned may take note of the above correction.

Nazima Ali
W/o Fayaz Ahmad Gojri
R/o Hanjiwera, Pattan, District Baramulla, J&K
Cell No.: 9797340367 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Nisar Ahmad Bhat, F/o Suhail Nisar, R/o Near Masjid Sharief, Hayat Pora, District Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir, do hereby notify that my son's name has been inadvertently recorded as Suhail Ahmad Bhat in his Aadhaar Card bearing No. 5203-9449-8562, which is incorrect. His correct and actual name is Suhail Nisar. I am a permanent resident of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Through this notice, I seek correction of my son's name in the relevant records and publication of the necessary notification in the Government Gazette through Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person concerned may take note of the above correction.

Nisar Ahmad Bhat
F/o Suhail Nisar
R/o Near Masjid Sharief, Hayat Pora, District Baramulla, J&K
Cell No.: 9797340367

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gh Nabi Ganie, S/o Abdul Gaffar Ganie, R/o Puchnag, Kreeri, District Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir, do hereby notify that my name has been inadvertently recorded as Ghulam Nabi Ganie in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 9654-9557-2944, which is incorrect. My correct and actual name is Gh Nabi Ganie. I am a permanent resident of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Through this notice, I seek correction of my name in the relevant records and publication of the necessary notification in the Government Gazette through Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person concerned may take note of the above correction.

Gh Nabi Ganie
S/o Abdul Gaffar Ganie
R/o Puchnag, Kreeri, District Baramulla, J&K
Cell No.: 9797340367

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gulshana Akhter, C/o Ali Mohd Khan, R/o Trikolbal, Pattan, District Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir, do hereby notify that my correct name is Gulshana Akhter, whereas my name has been erroneously recorded as Afroza Bagum in the records of Jammu and Kashmir Grameen Bank, Hanjiwera Pattan Branch, in respect of Account No. NF 1015, due to a clerical error. Both names refer to one and the same person. My correct name, Gulshana Akhter, is duly reflected in my official identity documents. The concerned bank authorities are requested to rectify the error and update my name as Gulshana Akhter in the bank records accordingly.

Gulshana Akhter
C/o Ali Mohd Khan
R/o Trikolbal, Pattan, District Baramulla, J&K

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shaista Bashir, D/o Bashir Ahmad Waza, R/o Chukar, Pattan, District Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir, do hereby notify that my name has been inadvertently recorded as Shayista Bashir in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6038-7724-6963, which is incorrect. My correct and actual name is Shaista Bashir. I am a permanent resident of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Through this notice, I seek correction of my name in the relevant records and publication of the necessary notification in the Government Gazette through Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person concerned may take note of the above correction.

Shaista Bashir
D/o Bashir Ahmad Waza
R/o Chukar, Pattan, District Baramulla, J&K
Cell No.: 9797340367

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) FAMIDA AKHTAR to (New name) FAHMEEDA AKHTER. In future i will be known as (new Name) FAHMEEDA AKHTER.

If any body having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

MCB

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No. JK-0420100007827

issued in favour of MUSHTAQ AHMAD KUMAR Parentage ABDUL AHAD KUMAR
Whereas an application has been received by one MUSHTAQ AHMAD KUMAR Parentage ABDUL AHAD KUMAR wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as MUSHTAQ AHMAD SHEIKH Parentage ABDUL AHAD Which needs to be changed as MUSHTAQ AHMAD KUMAR Parentage ABDUL AHAD KUMAR.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir
MCB

PUBLIC NOTICE

SEARCH FOR ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public that the original documents of ALSA Arts and Craft Society, Registration No. 4596, registered approximately 20 years ago, have been lost. The Society intends to make certain changes to its official records, for which the original documents are required. Anyone who has found these documents or has any information regarding them is requested to kindly contact the President of the Society at the following numbers:

Contact Numbers:
9419427034, 6006466609
Address: Alamgri Bazar, Zadibal, Srinagar.
Your cooperation in this matter will be highly appreciated.

By Order of the President
ALSA Arts and Craft Society

Media line addt

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES CENTRES AUTHORITY

Building ID 12-B, Block-12, Zone-1, Road-1A,
GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat

File No.73/IFSCA/ Consultants/2020-21 October 26, 2026

VACANCY NOTIFICATION

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), a statutory unified regulatory body under the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, invites applications for the following positions at GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat:

1. Young Professionals/consultants on contract basis. Advt. dated 09.10.2026

2. Executive Director on deputation/contract basis. Advt. dated 19.10.2026

2. The candidates willing to apply are requested to refer www.ifsc.gov.in/career for detailed vacancy notification/s and corrigenda issued. The last date for receipt of application along with requisite documents by post is 16.11.2026 by 6.00 PM. General Manager Dept. of General Administration

CBC 15228/11/0003/2627

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Sahiba Nazir D/o Nazir Ahmad Lone R/o Tujar Pahlihar while my correct name is Sahiba Athar D/o Nazir Ahmad Lone R/o Tujar Shreef. Now I have applied for correction of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Sahiba Athar D/o Nazir Ahmad Lone
R/o Tujar Shreef

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Zahida Maqbool, W/o Javid Ahmad Malik, R/o Srive Dangarpura, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, hereby declare that I am the applicant/proprietor/authorized person of the proposed insecticide sale and storage business under the name and style of Bhat Pesticides, situated at Lalpora. I undertake to comply with the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968, and the Insecticides Rules, 1971. I shall ensure that insecticides are not manufactured, stored or sold in the same building where articles intended for human or animal consumption are manufactured, stored or exposed for sale, in accordance with Rule 10(c). I further undertake to maintain the premises properly, prevent contamination, keep insecticides separate from foodstuffs and animal feed, and comply with all requirements and directions issued by the competent licensing and inspecting authorities. I declare that the information furnished above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and that nothing material has been concealed.

DEPONENT:
Zahida Maqbool

zk

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Champion Tour And Travel Situated At Kumar Stop Magam Tehsil. Magam

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I, Mr. Abid Amin Zargar S/o Mond Amin Zargar R/o BON. Malkhama intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of M/S Champion Tour And Travel Situated At Kumar Stop Magam Tehsil. Magam KASHMIR under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas I will submit state subject / Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, pan card / Experience Certificate (Minimum 5 years), Police character certificate, Bank statement (minimum balance 10000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by sub Registrar, printing material (Letter head / Visiting card) Photograph of the unit (indoor and outdoor) and Two passport size photographs to the department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist I Prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.

/ Adventure Tour Operator Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12) before my case is processed for my registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ Financial institutions/Bank/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration(email id: ddtregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in a leading newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Marifat Nabi, W/o Mohd Abdullah Peer, R/o Rawan Pora, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, do hereby declare that my name has been inadvertently recorded as Marfata Begum in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6287-4902-7328, whereas my correct and actual name is Marifat Nabi.

I hereby declare that both names refer to one and the same person. I seek publication of a Gazette Notification regarding the correction of my name in the Government Ranbir Press, Jammu.

Objections, if any, may be raised before the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Marifat Nabi
W/o Mohd Abdullah Peer
R/o Rawan Pora, Tehsil Kunzer,
District Baramulla, J&K

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abdul Rashid Rather, F/o Muheet Rashid Rather, R/o Rawat Pora, Tehsil Tangmarg, Post Office Tangmarg, District Baramulla, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, do hereby declare that my son's name has been inadvertently recorded as Mohid Mustafa Rather in his Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8422-8064-1861, whereas his correct and actual name is Muheet Rashid Rather.

I hereby declare that both names refer to one and the same person. I seek publication of a notice in the Government Gazette regarding the correction of his name.

Objections, if any, may be raised before the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Abdul Rashid Rather
F/o Muheet Rashid Rather
R/o Rawat Pora, Tehsil Tangmarg,
Post Office Tangmarg, District Baramulla, J&K.

fko

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL PARADISE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Goom Ahmaddpora Pattan, Baramulla – 193401.

Ref. No.: PPS/GAP/43/2026

Dated: 27/10/2026

Class-Wise Monthly Fee Structure for the Session 2025–2026

S. No.	Class	Monthly Fee ()
01	Nursery	600
02	LKG	600
03	UKG	600
04	1st	600
05	2nd	600
06	3rd	600
07	4th	600
08	5th	600

Principal
Paradise Public School
Goom Ahmaddpora, Pattan

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Zabada Begum, S/D/W/o Peer Zamir Ahmad, R/o Ogmuna, Tehsil Kowarhama, District Baramulla, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, do hereby declare that my correct name is Zabada Begum, whereas my name has been wrongly recorded as Zubaida Begum in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 314395675467. Both names refer to one and the same person, i.e., myself. I have executed this notice to declare my correct name and to seek correction of the same in my Aadhaar Card.

Deponent
Zabada Begum

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Zahida Maqbool, W/o Javid Ahmad Malik, R/o Srive Dangarpura, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, hereby declare that I intend to apply for a Fresh Seed Licence to carry on the business of sale and distribution of seeds at Lalpora, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla. I undertake to comply with all applicable provisions of the Seeds Act, 1966, the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983, and other rules and instructions issued by the competent authority. I shall deal only in genuine and properly labelled seeds procured from authorized sources, maintain the prescribed records and registers, and shall not sell spurious, substandard, expired or misbranded seeds. The information furnished in my licence application is true and correct, and nothing material has been concealed.

Deponent:
Zahida Maqbool

zk

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Zahida Maqbool, W/o Javid Ahmad Malik, R/o Srive Dangarpura, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, hereby declare that I am the applicant/proprietor/authorized person of the proposed insecticide sale and storage business under the name and style of Bhat Pesticides, situated at Lalpora. I undertake to comply with the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968, and the Insecticides Rules, 1971. I shall ensure that insecticides are not manufactured, stored or sold in the same building where articles intended for human or animal consumption are manufactured, stored or exposed for sale, in accordance with Rule 10(c). I further undertake to maintain the premises properly, prevent contamination, keep insecticides separate from foodstuffs and animal feed, and comply with all requirements and directions issued by the competent licensing and inspecting authorities. I declare that the information furnished above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and that nothing material has been concealed.

DEPONENT:
Zahida Maqbool

zk



Women Entrepreneurs Showcase Products At SARAS Mela

Agencies

Srinagar: The SARAS Mela underway in Srinagar is bringing together women entrepreneurs from 17 states, providing a platform for rural women to showcase and market their products while promoting cultural and economic exchange.

Speaking on the sidelines of the mela at Polo Ground Park, Srinagar, Mission Director of the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), UMEED, Dr Shubhra Sharma, according to KNO, said the event reflects the diversity of the country and aims to present a glimpse of "Mini India" to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The fourth edition of the SARAS Mela, being held from October 25 to November 3, features around 80 stalls, including nearly half from various districts of

Jammu and Kashmir.

Sharma said the primary objective of the mela is to provide women associated with self-help groups (SHGs) a marketing platform to display and sell their products, helping strengthen their livelihoods and economic independence.

She said the event also enables women entrepreneurs to interact with participants from other states, exchange ideas and learn about new products and business opportunities.

Officials said the mela offers visitors an opportunity to explore a wide range of products made by rural women from Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country.

The SARAS Mela is aimed at expanding market access for SHG members and empowering rural women through entrepreneurship and income-generation opportunities—(KNO)

Div Com Administers Integrity Pledge on Vigilance Awareness Week 2026

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Reaffirming the administration's commitment to integrity, transparency and accountability in public service, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg administered the Integrity Pledge to officers and officials in observance of Vigilance Awareness Week 2026.

Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Basharat Qayoom; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo; Additional Commissioners Akramullah Tak and Zahoor Ahmad Magray, along with other officers and officials of the Divisional Commissioner's Office, participated in the pledge-taking ceremony.

On the occasion, the Divisional Commissioner

underscored the importance of upholding the highest standards of honesty, integrity and professional ethics in the discharge of official responsibilities. He emphasised that transparency, accountability and a strong commitment to ethical conduct are fundamental to ensuring effective governance and strengthening public trust in institutions.

The programme served as a reaffirmation of the collective resolve to promote probity in public life, foster a culture of accountability and ensure a corruption-free work environment. It also highlighted the vital role of every public servant in upholding ethical values and maintaining the highest standards of integrity in public administration.

Vigilance Awareness Week

CS Administers Integrity Pledge Officials

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Tuesday administered the Integrity Pledge to Administrative Secretaries, officers and officials at the Civil Secretariat, marking the observance of Vigilance Awareness Week 2026, being observed from October

26 to November 1 under the theme 'Probity for Prosperity'.

On the occasion, Chief Secretary led the officers and officials in reaffirming their commitment to uphold the highest standards of integrity, honesty, transparency and professional ethics in the discharge of their official duties.

Srinagar Police Crack Khanyar Theft Case, Recover Gold Worth ₹45 Lakh

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar Police have solved a major theft case in the Khanyar area, arresting two accused and recovering gold ornaments worth approximately 45 lakh, officials said on Tuesday.

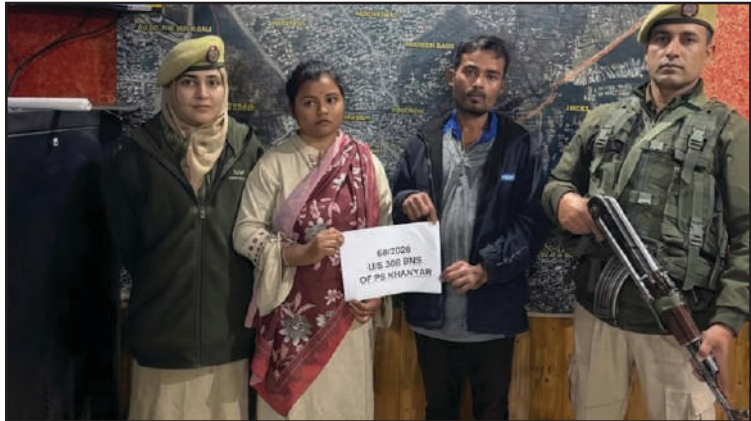
The case came to light on October 25, when Police Station Khanyar received a complaint from Basharat Husain, son of Ghulam Qadir Gulzar and a resident of Miskeen Bagh, Srinagar, alleging that valuable gold ornaments had been stolen from his residence.

Following the complaint, police registered FIR No. 68/2026 under Section 306 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at Police Station Khanyar and launched an investigation into the incident.

As part of the investigation, multiple police teams were constituted to identify and apprehend those involved in the theft. Using human intelligence, technical surveillance and sustained investigative efforts, the teams subsequently identified and arrested two suspects.

The accused have been identified as Nikita Das, 24, daughter of Ganesh Das, and Deep Baruah, 28, son of Joy Kanta Baruah. Both are residents of Morigaon district in Assam.

According to the police, the investigation revealed that the two accused had been working as domestic



helpers at the complainant's residence and had allegedly committed the theft before fleeing.

During the investigation, police recovered the stolen gold ornaments from the possession of the accused. The recovered items include 16 gold rings, five necklaces, four bangles, two brooches, three tie pins, seven pendants and nine pairs of gold earrings.

The total estimated value of the recovered ornaments is approximately 45 lakh, police said.

Further investigation is underway to establish all the circumstances surrounding the theft and determine whether any other persons were involved.

City Police Observes Vigilance Awareness Week

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar Police observed Vigilance Awareness Week across all Police establishments in District Srinagar, including Police Stations and Police Posts, by administering the Integrity Pledge to reaffirm its commitment to honesty, transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct in public service.

Form No. 3
[See Regulation-13 (1)(a)]

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT I)

2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35 Sector-17 A, Chandigarh

Case No:- OA/739/2026

Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.

Exh. No:- 35989

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED
V/s
M/S UNIQUE TRADERS

To,

(1) M/S UNIQUE TRADERS
THROUGH ITS PARTNER(S) (BORROW SITUATED AT:
SAMANDER BAGH NEAR S P COLLEGE M A ROAD Srinagar,
JAMMU AND KASHMIR -190001

(2) MUSHTAQ AHMAD GUROO
S/O LATE GHULAM MOHAMMAD GUROO
R/O 11-GUROO ESTATE BAGHI MEHTA, NEAR BYE PASS
BRIDGE, SRINAGAR, JAMMU AND KASHMIR -190019

(3) BILAL AHMAD GUROO
S/O LATE GHULAM MOHAMMAD GUROO
R/O 11-GUROO ESTATE BAGHI MEHTA, NEAR BYE PASS
BRIDGE, SRINAGAR, JAMMU AND KASHMIR -190019

(4) GHULAM MOHAMMAD GUROO
S/O ABDUL GAFFAR GUROO
R/O BAGHI MEHTAB, METHAN NATIPORA SRINAGAR, JAMMU
AND KASHMIR -190019

(5) OWAIS AHMAD GUROO
S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD GUROO
R/O BAGHI MEHTAB, METHAN NATIPORA SRINAGAR, JAMMU
AND KASHMIR -190019

(6) JAWAHIRA
W/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD GUROO,
R/O 11-GUROO ESTATE BAGHI MEHTA SRINAGAR, JAMMU
AND KASHMIR -190019

(7) RAZIA GUROO
D/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD GUROO
R/O 11-GUROO ESTATE BAGHI MEHTAB SRINAGAR, JAMMU
AND KASHMIR -190019

SUMMONS

WHEREAS, OA/739/2026 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 01/09/2026.

WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 62806283.78/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed). In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 03/11/2026 at 10:30A.M failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date:30/09/2026.

Sd/ Authorised Officer

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable.

Form No. 3
[See Regulation-13 (1)(a)]

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT I)

2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35 Sector-17 A, Chandigarh

Case No:- OA/922/2026

Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.

Exh. No.: 36176

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED
V/s
MR. MOHAMMAD YASEEN KAWA

To

(1) MR. MOHAMMAD YASEEN KAWA
D/W/S/O- S/O MUKHTAR AHMAD KAWA
R/O NUNDRESH COLONY, BEMINA
Srinagar, JAMMU AND KASHMIR -190018

(2) MR. MOHAMMAD SHAFI SOFI
S/O ABDUL RAHIM SOFI
R/O REEPORA, NAMTHAL PORA, CHADOORA,
BUDGM ,JAMMU AND KASHMIR

(3) MR. MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL MALLA
S/O ABDUL REHMAN MALLA
R/O GOGJI MOHALLA, KHUMANI CHOWK, BEMINA,
SRINAGAR, JAMMU AND KASHMIR

SUMMONS

WHEREAS, OA/922/2026 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 24/09/2026.

WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 4172785.52/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 25/11/2026 at 10:30A.M failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date:01/10/2026

Sd/ Authorised Officer

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200



AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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

 HIJRI CALENDAR 16 Jumada al-Awwal 1448	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	5: 21
	ZUHR	12:15
	ASR	4: 07
	Magrib	5: 48
ISHA	7: 09	

This Day In History

- 306 - Maxentius proclaimed Emperor of Rome
- 312 - Emperor Constantine the Great beats rival Maxentius at the Battle of the Milvian Bridge
- 1420 - Beijing is declared the capital of the Ming dynasty under the Yongle Emperor
- 1492 - Christopher Columbus sights Cuba and claims it for Spain under the name "Juana"
- 1516 - Battle of Yavis Khan: Turkish forces under the Grand Vizier Sinan Pasha defeat the Mameluks near Gaza
- 1531 - Battle of Amba Sel: Imam Ahmad ibn Ibrahim al-Ghazi again defeats the army of Lebna Dengel, Emperor of Ethiopia. The southern part of Ethiopia falls under Imam
- 1740 - Ivan VI becomes Tsar of Russia [05=Oct 17]
- 1831 - Michael Faraday demonstrates his dynamo invention, an electrical generator
- 1864 - Second Battle at Fair Oaks, Virginia, ends with 1554 casualties
- 1864 - Battle of Wauhatchie, Tennessee
- 1886 - Statue of Liberty dedicated by US President Grover Cleveland, celebrated by first confetti (ticker tape) parade in New York City
- 1914 - German battle cruiser Goeben enters Black Sea
- 1916 - Australian government holds a national referendum seeking support for the proposal of compulsory conscription; it is rejected
- 1918 - Czechoslovakia gains independence as Austria-Hungary breaks up
- 1922 - Benito Mussolini takes control of Italy's government
- 1924 - French-Russian trade agreement signed
- 1943 - German submarine U-220 sunk by US aircraft in the Atlantic
- 1944 - Russia & Bulgaria sign weapons pact
- 1946 - German rocket engineers begin work in USSR
- 1948 - Flag of Israel is adopted
- 1954 - Nobel Prize for Literature is awarded to Ernest Hemingway
- 1962 - Radio Moscow reports nuclear missiles in Cuba deactivated
- 1970 - US/USSR sign an agreement to discuss joint space efforts

From KO Archives

MoU Contained Some Deficiencies

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a candid admission, the chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, today said the Centre had taken him for a ride when the former union energy Minister P K Kumaramanglam, obtained his signatures on the memorandum of understanding (MoU) whose contents later turned out to be detrimental to the state's interests

According to a CNS report Dr Abdullah told the state assembly during an obituary reference to the late Kumaramanglam that a MoU had been signed between him and union minister. However, when the documents were prepared the union energy minister allegedly with malafide intentions, obtained his signatures on such papers which, on closer scrutiny later revealed that these were against the interests of the state.

However an official handout issued today said the chief minister had said "the MoU signed by him with the then union energy minister had been signed in good faith to benefit the State." However the handout said "Later on the state officials pointed out some deficiencies." He said he immediately up the matter with Kumaramanglam who "readily agreed". But before correction could be effected, the union Minister passed away. "These clauses have to be modified to protest the interests of the State" Dr. Abdullah added.

When contacted the principal secretary power development department Ajit Kumar told Observer News Service, the deficiencies pertained to the state's claim for reimbursement of the expenditure it had already incurred on the power projects. The MoU did not mention this. However, Kumar said the Centre had agreed to reimburse the expenditure and necessary modifications would be incorporated in the MoU shortly.

(Kashmir Observer, October 28, 2000)

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
E-Tender Notice			
Tender Notice No:- 81-2026-27-JAT-DRM-JAT (to be opened on 17.11.2026) acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.irops.gov.in with closing date 17.11.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to the closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through payment modes available on the IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheques, Deposit receipts, FDR, etc. are not allowed.			
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	
Open	Works	Single packet System	
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time	
26.10.2026	03.11.2026	17.11.2026	
S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	
1	81-2026-27-JAT-DRM-JAT	Scour monitoring of Bridge No. 137 on the BHRL-JAT upline pier no. 09, Bridge No. 32 (PTK-JNDX) upline pier no. 10 & Bridge No. 232 (PTK-JRC) upline section in the jurisdiction of Sr/DEN-II/JAT	
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of Offer Period of Completion
		63,58,860.48	60 Days 18 Months
Note:- Contractors are advised to check the IREPS website for any corrigendum issued against this tender before submitting the bids. 3735/2026			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Umar Sidiq S/o Mohd Sidiq Sofi R/o Old Fateh Kadal, Kalamdanpora, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir - 190002 hereby notify that my name/parentage and DOB has been wrongly recorded as Umer Rafiq Sofi S/o Mohammad Sidiq Sofi and DOB: 17/10/1989 in my PAN Card bearing No. COVPS9012P. While as my correct name/parentage & DOB as per my Aadhaar card is **UMAR SIDIQ S/O MOHD SIDIQ SOFI AND DOB 17/08/1988**. Now the same is to be corrected. Objections if any, must reach concerned authorities within a week at the most.

Abuss Advi.

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 8899256463
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobsvr.net

Beyond Roads & Tunnels

A proposed Mountain Development Policy must turn scientific evidence into binding rules before construction, tourism and urban expansion put more lives and livelihoods at risk.



Dr S Bashir Ahmad Veeri

“A tunnel can shorten a journey, and a new road can open a market. Neither achievement guarantees lasting prosperity if the hillside above the road begins to fail or the fields beside it lose their water.

age channels need enforceable protection, with planning organised around watersheds and river basins rather than administrative boundaries alone.

The same discipline must govern land use. According to figures cited in the Jammu and Kashmir Economic Survey 2025-26, agriculture and allied activities contribute 20.45 per cent of Gross State Value Added. The Periodic Labour Force Survey for 2023-24 indicates that these activities support about 43 per cent of the workforce.

Those figures represent families whose incomes depend on productive land. Apple orchards, walnut groves and irrigated fields are working assets, built up through years of cultivation. Converting them to roads, buildings or commercial projects can weaken the rural economy that development is supposed to support.

Public projects should therefore face a strong presumption against diverting high-value agricultural land when feasible alternatives exist.

Urban growth should favour infill development and the reuse of previously developed land, subject to seismic safety, water availability and sewage-treatment capacity.

Tourism needs similar limits. Opening new destinations without functioning waste-processing and sewage-treatment facilities shifts the cost of commercial expansion onto local communities and the surrounding environment. Carrying-capacity assessments should set limits according to water supplies, traffic, slope stability and municipal services. A transparent environmental levy on tourism enterprises could help pay for waste management and ecosystem restoration.

These measures will remain promises unless the government confronts the fragmentation of responsibility.

Public Works, Tourism, Forest, Irrigation and Flood Control departments, along with urban and rural local bodies, need a common spatial framework and shared environmental standards. Risk assessments should be public, scientific scrutiny independent and consultation with farmers, elected representatives and specialists a formal part of project planning.

Progress should be judged through evidence of healthier watersheds, stable slopes, reliable irrigation and secure livelihoods, alongside the roads and buildings completed.

Jammu and Kashmir already has the research and institutional experience to begin this work. The proposed Mountain Development Policy can bring them together, provided it establishes binding standards and gives public agencies clear responsibility for enforcing them.

A tunnel can shorten a journey, and a new road can open a market. Neither achievement guarantees lasting prosperity if the hillside above the road begins to fail or the fields beside it lose their water.

The real test of development in Jammu and Kashmir is whether people can build their futures in the mountains without undermining the natural systems on which those futures depend.

The author is a serving legislator from South Kashmir and contributes occasionally on public policy and governance in Jammu and Kashmir. He can be reached at drvree2@gmail.com.

KO VIEW

Burden of Proof

The arrest of Kashmiri Pandit activist Rakesh Handoo over alleged manipulation and circulation of terror threat messages raises a serious question for Kashmir: how can authorities protect vulnerable communities without turning online activism into grounds for suspicion?

The answer lies in evidence-based investigations, consistent application of the law and respect for due process.

Jammu and Kashmir Police arrested Handoo in Faridabad and booked him under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and provisions of the Information Technology Act. Police allege that he altered and circulated threat material attributed to militant groups, falsely identifying a Kashmiri Pandit government employee as a target. Forensic reports remain pending, and the allegations must stand up to judicial scrutiny.

The stakes extend beyond one accused activist. The circulation of purported threat letters containing names and contact details of Kashmiri Pandit employees reportedly caused widespread anxiety. Hundreds of employees recruited under the government's special employment package stayed away from work for nearly three weeks. If investigators establish that someone deliberately fabricated or manipulated threats, the consequences would reach far beyond online disputes. Such conduct could deepen fear within a community already marked by insecurity.

The case also exposes the risks of a public debate driven by instant verdicts. Some social media users have defended Handoo's right to a fair trial, while others have treated his arrest as proof of guilt. Both reactions place public judgment ahead of the legal process. An arrest establishes that authorities suspect a person of an offence. It does not establish guilt.

Handoo's public profile and his engagement in community affairs should neither shield him from investigation nor make him a target because of his views. Kashmir needs space for activists, critics and community representatives to raise uncomfortable questions. Treating outspoken voices as potential security threats would narrow that space and encourage self-censorship. The state must distinguish between controversial speech and evidence of criminal conduct.

That difference places a clear responsibility on the police. Investigators must establish who created the alleged threat material, whether it was altered, how it circulated and whether the accused knowingly participated. They must examine digital evidence and possible motives without assuming that political tensions explain the case. The UAPA's use makes careful scrutiny particularly important.

The public also needs to resist the temptation to turn an investigation into a contest between communities or political camps. Such reactions can obscure the facts and deepen existing mistrust. Accountability depends on evidence, rather than on the popularity, identity or affiliations of the person under investigation.

Kashmir has little to gain from public verdicts delivered before investigators finish their work. If the allegations are proved, the law should take its course. If the evidence fails to establish guilt, the courts must protect the accused.

The credibility of the investigation will depend on whether the authorities establish facts rather than confirm suspicions.

Jammu and Kashmir has spent years pursuing connectivity through roads, tunnels and new tourist destinations. These projects promise shorter journeys, easier access to markets and fresh economic opportunities. But in a region where slopes can fail, rivers change course and rainfall can overwhelm drainage systems, the definition of progress needs closer scrutiny.

A road built on an unstable hillside or a tourist spot that runs short of water can leave people paying the price of development even after the construction work ends.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's announcement of a comprehensive Mountain Development Policy at the 13th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit at SKUAST-Kashmir's Shalimar campus on October 12, 2026, presents an opportunity to change those priorities.

Jammu and Kashmir needs a development model that begins with the limits of its terrain, protects the livelihoods sustained by its mountains and holds public agencies accountable for the consequences of their decisions.

The scientific evidence already exists to make that shift possible. The challenge is to ensure that research influences decisions before machines reach a hillside and contracts commit public money.

A study published on August 28, 2026, in Scientific Reports, part of the Nature Portfolio, mapped 42,950.43 square kilometres of mountainous terrain in Jammu and Kashmir. Led by Professor Avtar Singh Jasrotia and researchers from the University of Jammu's Department of Geology, it assessed landslide susceptibility using factors such as slope, rock type, rainfall, drainage, land use and proximity to roads.

Its findings should command attention. About 28.08 per cent of the mapped area, equivalent to roughly 12,062 square kilometres, falls within high or very high landslide-susceptibility zones. Proximity to roads also emerged as an important variable in the modelling.

These findings do not make road construction inherently harmful. Roads connect patients to hospitals, children to schools and apple growers to markets. They become dangerous when engineering decisions overlook the ground beneath them.

A hillside cannot be treated as an empty surface awaiting excavation, particularly when its geology, drainage and exposure to rainfall determine how it will respond to construction.

A related landslide study involving engineers and faculty members in geology and geography was completed last year, with this writer among its authors.

A paper examining landslide risks along national highways in Jammu and Kashmir was presented at a conference in New Zealand on February 3 and 4, 2026. Such work gives policymakers a growing body of evi-

dence to consult before approving projects.

Major road, tunnel and hill-cutting proposals should undergo geotechnical investigations, susceptibility mapping and independent technical scrutiny before tenders are issued.

Designs should include appropriate slope stabilisation, bioengineering and cross-drainage systems. Construction debris must stay out of streams, forests and farmland.

Executing departments and contractors should face clear accountability for preventable damage during construction and throughout the maintenance period.

The difficulty lies partly in the distance between research and administration.

Jammu and Kashmir has experience in bringing scientific expertise into public policy, but the follow-through has often been inadequate.

During this writer's tenure as chairman of the Environment Committee of the Legislative Council, the committee consulted forest officers, universities and climate specialists, including experts from Hyderabad and Delhi. It also organised awareness programmes at nearly a dozen district headquarters. A document containing recommendations was prepared with expert input, but the proposals did not translate into policy.

That history points to a problem deeper than a shortage of information. Research has limited public value when departments fail to turn its findings into rules, budgets and decisions. Revisiting earlier reports could help the government build on existing work, identify unanswered questions and avoid repeating exercises whose recommendations remain unimplemented.

Climate variability makes this institutional failure more consequential.

Shifting precipitation, changing snow conditions, prolonged dry spells and intense rainfall can expose infrastructure designed around historical averages to stresses its designers underestimated.

A mountain policy must account for these changing conditions before a project receives financial approval.

A publicly accessible Himalayan Environmental Information System could bring together rainfall, snowpack, groundwater, spring discharge, river flows and landslide records. Major transport, hydropower and urban-development projects should undergo formal climate-risk screening.

Springs, wetlands, floodplains and natural drain-

Are Our Schools Delivering?

ASER's findings on children's reading and arithmetic skills demand a wider examination of an education system that often treats schooling as proof of learning.



Zafar Iqbal

When I wrote Kashmir's Teacher Wants to Go Viral, I wanted to examine what happens when the pursuit of online recognition begins to compete with a teacher's responsibilities in the classroom.

Shahid, the government schoolteacher at the centre of the article, had become increasingly drawn to the screen of his phone. His story raised questions about ambition, insecurity and the need for public approval, even after years spent building a professional life.

Some readers saw the article differently. They believed I was targeting an entire profession because of one individual. Others wondered why teachers were being scrutinised when so many other professions had their own shortcomings.

Their objections need care and consideration.

Criticism of an individual can easily become a generalisation about a profession, and scrutiny of a profession can be mistaken for an attack on the institution it represents. But the reaction also revealed how readily a difficult question about education can become an argument about respect.

The question I want to examine now is simpler, and harder to answer: Are our children learning?

Education occupies a special place in Kashmir's public imagination. Parents who have little money to spare pay school fees, borrow for tuition and hope that examination results will give their children opportunities they never had themselves.

Education is seen as a way out of poverty, a route to employment and a chance to build a different life.

Such faith is understandable. It also places a responsibility on the institutions that families trust with their children.

The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024 provides reason to examine how well those institutions are fulfilling that responsibility. Its assessment of rural Jammu and Kashmir found that only 6.7 per cent of Class III children attending government schools could read a Class II-level text.

Among Class V students in government schools, the proportion was 21.8 per cent. By Class VIII, it had risen to 47.2 per cent. The findings on arithmetic tell a similar story.

Only 16.3 per cent of Class III children in government schools could perform subtraction, while 22.7 per cent of Class V children could solve division problems at the level assessed.

These figures describe the survey's rural sample, rather than the performance of every school or teacher in Kashmir. They also tell us little about why particular children struggle.

Still, they raise questions that professional defensiveness cannot answer.

A child reaches Class V without mastering basic division. Another advances towards secondary education without being able to read a text expected of a younger student. The school

records their progress through successive classes, but the knowledge those classes are supposed to represent remains incomplete.

We tend to imagine education as a straightforward process. A child attends school, a teacher completes the syllabus, examinations measure achievement and the student moves towards a better future.

The arrangement sounds reassuring because it gives parents a clear reason to believe that their sacrifices will pay off. But the reality is less reassuring.

A teacher can finish a lesson without ensuring that children understand it. A student can memorise answers for an examination without learning how to use that knowledge independently. A child who falls behind can continue moving through the school system while the difficulty grows harder to correct.

Schooling records where a child has reached, but learning tells us what the child has gained.

That difference also explains why my earlier article should not be read as an indictment of teachers. Shahid's story raised a concern about an individual's attention and priorities.

The ASER findings point towards a broader question about educational outcomes. Treating the two as identical would be unfair to teachers and unhelpful to children.

A teacher can work hard and still need better training, academic support or new ways to teach. Large classes, administrative work and a lack of resources can also make teaching difficult. School leaders and education authorities have a role to play when children struggle to learn.

Accountability is useful when it helps identify and fix these problems, rather than placing all the blame on the teacher in the classroom.

A child who has failed to develop basic read-

ing skills needs help before moving into more demanding lessons. A teacher struggling to support students needs access to appropriate training and resources. Education officials must be able to explain what they are doing when assessments reveal persistent weaknesses.

Each part of the system has a responsibility to understand why children are falling behind.

The stakes are particularly high for families who depend on government schools. Parents with money may hire tutors, buy additional learning materials or move their children to another institution. Families without those resources have fewer choices. Their children depend on the school available to them.

When learning falters, the consequences can follow a child into higher classes, vocational training and employment. A difficulty with reading or arithmetic may seem small at first, but it can limit a young person's ability to understand lessons, pass examinations and pursue further opportunities.

The promise of education becomes less credible when a child's progress depends on whether the family can afford help outside school.

ASER alone cannot explain the causes of these learning gaps. That would require closer examination of classroom practices, teacher deployment, school leadership, attendance, language of instruction and the conditions in which children study at home. Teachers themselves must be heard in that process, alongside students and their parents.

Assessments should help schools identify what children have understood and where they need additional support. Teacher training should be judged by its effect on classroom learning. Education authorities should examine whether their methods produce better results,

rather than treating the completion of administrative tasks as evidence of success.

The objection that other professions also need scrutiny is fair. Public institutions and professional groups should all face examination when their work affects people's lives. But a concern about one institution does not become less important because other institutions have their own failures.

My earlier article began with a teacher whose attention appeared to be shifting towards an online audience. The larger question concerns an education system that must keep its attention on the children sitting in its classrooms.

We tell Kashmiri parents that education can change their children's lives. The ASER findings ask us to look beyond that promise and examine what schools are actually delivering.

A child will move into the next class when the academic year ends. The school register will record the promotion, and the family may see it as another step towards a better future. But the child may still struggle with a division problem or a passage of text that should have become familiar years earlier.

That is where the real test of education begins. A school's work cannot be judged by how far a child has progressed through its classes alone. It must also be judged by what that child can read, understand and do.

Respect for teachers and scrutiny of schools belong together. The children in those classrooms need both.

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

A Garden of Joy

At Bagamanzuk, children are discovering the pleasures of farm life through apple picking, outdoor games and nature-based learning.



Afshan Rashid

The morning mist still floats over Pulwama as the first cars pull into a small farmhouse nestled in the gentle folds of South Kashmir's apple country.

The air smells of dew and fresh hay. Somewhere nearby, a cow calls out. Time feels slower here, softer, as if it moves with the sway of the trees. Children step out of their cars, rubbing sleep from their eyes. They look at the orchard that stretches before them: rows of apple trees glistening in the golden light.

Within moments, their hesitation gives way to curiosity. They run across the grass, their laughter spilling through the air like birdsong. Parents follow with hesitant smiles, some still carrying the city's hurry in their step.

The farm's name, Bagamanzuk, meaning "garden of joy", feels true to its spirit. Once, it was simply a family orchard, known for its crisp apples and a sense of calm that only the countryside could offer. Today, it has become a living classroom for children and families, a place where nature is both teacher and companion.

The hosts, a local homesteading family, have reimaged their ancestral land into a space for learning and belonging.

"We wanted children to know what real food looks like, where it

grows, and how it tastes," says one of them, adjusting a wooden ladder against an apple tree. "Our generation knew the smell of soil and the patience of trees. We wanted to pass that on."

The idea took root slowly, nurtured by people who believed that a farm could be an emotional space than merely an economic zone. That belief brought Dr. Rumana Masudi, founder of Booyin Breeze Kashmir, into the story.

Dr. Masudi, a physician by training, had watched her own child grow up surrounded by screens. She began to wonder what it meant for children to lose touch with the living world.

"Nature is our first teacher," she says softly, standing by the orchard gate, watching a group of children climb onto a hay cart. "It teaches patience, observation, and empathy, things no classroom can replace."

Her organization, Booyin Breeze, creates nature immersion programs that allow children to explore freely and learn through play. She believes that a child's connection to nature is essential to mental well-being.

"We're living in a time when attention spans are shrinking and anxiety is growing," she explains. "When children dig in the soil or chase butterflies, something shifts. Their nervous systems calm down. They begin to see beauty in small things again."

The collaboration between Booyin Breeze and Bagamanzuk began last year with a simple apple-picking event. It was meant as a one-day retreat. It became a movement.

Since then, the farm has hosted everything from kiwi harvesting and compost-making to kite flying under the blue Pulwama sky. Children learn how to prune a branch, recognize fruit ripeness, and even taste the difference between early and late harvest apples.

Each activity is small and sensory.



ON MY WAY BACK, COFFEE IN HAND, I WONDERED IF THIS WAS MADNESS OR MAGIC.
Maybe it's both. Maybe being a bibliophile means you don't just read stories. You live them. Carry them. And sometimes, you lose yourself in them.

A child crouches to examine earthworms. Another presses fallen petals into a scrapbook. A father wipes soil

off his son's hands, laughing at the mud stains on his kurta. The air hums with stories of

farming, childhoods long gone, and a generation trying to return to something it lost in the rush of modern life.

For Dr. Masudi, this feels more like healing than just a day of fun.

"We have to remind ourselves that mental health is beyond therapy or medication. It's essentially about how connected we feel to the world around us," she says. "Our workshops are built around that idea."

The team at Bagamanzuk agrees. Their goal is to make the farm a bridge between the old and the new, and to merge traditional wisdom with modern sustainability.

"Farming in Kashmir is changing," says one of the hosts, leading visitors to a small kitchen garden. "Pesticides, market pressures, and adulteration have taken over. We want the next generation to understand food from seed to plate. It's not nostalgia. It's survival."

The farm has also become a hub for small local businesses that share the same philosophy.

For their latest event, Bagamanzuk collaborated with The Juicery, a local restaurant known for its fresh fruit blends and ice creams. Under a canopy of apple branches, the eatery serves chilled smoothies made from freshly picked apples, tangy kiwi popsicles, and honey-glazed nuts sourced from nearby farms.

"The idea is to keep everything local," says the café's owner, arranging cups on a wooden counter. "When families see how much effort goes into growing food, they start valuing it differently. It's about trust and taste, and passing that understanding to our children."

He believes that events like these also strengthen the rural economy. "It's not just about sales. It's about connection. We want people to see Pulwama as more than headlines. It's a place of learning, and life."

As the day unfolds, the farm becomes a mosaic of moments. A child releases a kite into the wind, her hair flickering with sunlight. Another stands on tiptoe to pluck a red apple. Mothers chat under walnut trees, while fathers help carry baskets back to the barn. The scent of fresh juice and damp soil blends in the breeze.

By afternoon, the sun begins to soften, and the orchard glows amber. The children sit in a circle on woven mats, sharing fruit slices and stories.

There's a hush, like the land is listening. "Every time we do this," says Dr. Masudi, "I see children rediscovering joy. That's what keeps us going."

A few feet away, the host family tends to the farm animals. They speak of future plans: expanding the garden, adding night camps, hosting parents-and-kids retreats. They dream of a Kashmir where learning happens under the open sky.

Beyond farm, Bagamanzuk today is a conversation between generations. It's a reminder that nature doesn't belong in textbooks. It lives in every leaf, seed, and breath of wind. It's a place where children learn to see again, and parents learn to slow down.

As evening falls and the families prepare to leave, one little boy tugs at his mother's sleeve. "Can we come again next week?" he asks, his fingers still sticky with apple juice. She smiles, knowing the answer.

In the fading light, the orchard hums softly. The land seems to breathe, alive with laughter, roots, and renewal. In Bagamanzuk, joy grows the way it always has, from the ground up.

— The author is a senior scribe from Kashmir. Her works have appeared in different regional and national publications.

Lost in Stories

When a fictional character suddenly returns during an ordinary afternoon, a lifelong reader begins to question where the stories end and her own life begins.



Hirra Sultan

It was one of those rare winter days when everything looks perfect. The sun was high, the sky was brilliantly blue, and snow from the day before still blanketed the earth in blinding white.

After being stuck indoors, I was finally stepping out, hoping to soak up the warmth of the sun and the cold of the snow at once. I was unusually cheerful.

I wasn't the only one. Near the Dal Lake, people had poured out like spring after a long frost. Tourists posed for photos, kids threw snowballs, and couples sipped kehwa. Even the famously lazy locals had made an exception for the weather.

The mountains in the distance looked dipped in white. The evergreens had been gently dusted, and black clouds hovered above them, threatening more snow.

I was there to meet a friend for a driving lesson. Learning to drive had been on my list for a while, mostly because I've always liked wandering, and driving felt like freedom. I imagined myself behind the wheel, taking off into the unknown, chasing roads without maps.

After a few warm-up rounds—clutch here, brake there—I finally hit a stretch of empty road. It felt like mine. I gently pressed the accelerator, aiming just to glide forward. But instead, I was suddenly somewhere else.

It was morning again. I was in a car, next to Kemal Bey. We were driving out of Fatih, headed toward Europe. I was dizzy from too much wine, the weight of betrayal, and a string of broken dreams. Then I rammed the car into a tree. No hesitation. Just pain.

The vision startled me so much I had to pull over. I took deep breaths, trying to remember where I really was. Who I really was. I told my instructor I wasn't feeling well and would continue later. Then I walked away, shaken.

Once alone, I wondered if I was losing it.

Was I slipping into someone else's story? Did Fusun, did Kemal Bey—characters I hadn't thought of in years—just hijack my thoughts? Was fiction bleeding into my reality?

I've been a bookworm all my life. Before I could even borrow books from the school library, I would spend recess buried in them. When the librarian finally let me take books home, I felt like I'd won a lottery. Even the new librarians who quizzed me couldn't quite figure out how or why I read so much. My father once said novels weren't good for me. I'd shrugged it off. Now I wasn't so sure.

ON MY WAY BACK, COFFEE IN HAND, I WONDERED IF THIS WAS MADNESS OR MAGIC.
Maybe it's both. Maybe being a bibliophile means you don't just read stories. You live them. Carry them. And sometimes, you lose yourself in them.

The snow started again. Light, soft, and steady. I thought of Snow, of K wandering Kars. And then, sitting by the lake, I felt like Ella—calm on the outside, chaos rippling within.

Was I still me? Sometimes I'm Salaa's lover. Sometimes I'm waiting for Santiago. Or hoping for a magic mirror to reach Wonderland. I see Pip, Mitch, Anna, Anne Frank, Havisham. I see them all. I feel their pain, their joy, their longings. These stories aren't just things I've read. They've stayed. They've shaped me.

The world always shrunk for me, and books became my only real escape. But somewhere along the way, they stopped being escapes. They became parts of me.

On my way back, coffee in hand, I wondered if this was madness or magic. Maybe it's both. Maybe being a bibliophile means you don't just read stories. You live them. Carry them. And sometimes, you lose yourself in them.

— The author is a Srinagar-based techie. She can be reached at prlhirr@gmail.com.

A Voice From the Mountains

A distinctive language of the Chenab Valley is finding new life through academic research, folk archives and digital technology.



Sadaket Ali Malik

Listen closely in Bharderwahi and you will hear a melody that doesn't belong to Urdu or Kashmiri.

It's Bharderwahi, a language shaped by the hills, trade routes, and memory. Its sound carries traces of ancient Indo-Aryan speech, but its rhythm belongs to the Chenab Valley alone.

The story of Bharderwahi is a story of a small language that refused to disappear.

In 1908, a Scottish linguist and missionary, T. Grahame Bailey, made the first known record of Bharderwahi in The Languages of the Northern Himalayas. He travelled through rugged terrains, collecting words, sounds, and stories from the locals. His discovery was significant.

Bharderwahi, he concluded, was part of the Indo-Aryan family, distinct from the neighbouring Dardic or Tibeto-Burman languages. He noticed features that were rare even among Indo-Aryan tongues: a full set of voiced aspirated consonants, a neuter gender, and vowel lengths that could change a word's meaning.

A decade later, Sir George Abraham Grierson confirmed Bailey's work in the Linguistic Survey of India (1919). He placed Bharderwahi under the Western Pahari subgroup and described it as a "transitional language," standing between Indo-Aryan and Dardic families.

That single insight gave Bharderwahi its rightful place in India's linguistic map and hinted at the region's layered cultural



identity, where influences from the plains and the mountains meet and mingle.

The mid-20th century brought renewed academic focus. Dr. Siddheshwar Varma studied the language in depth, documenting its verb systems, genders, and growing vocabulary. His work gave scholars a clearer understanding of Bharderwahi's structure.

But, as political unrest spread across the region in later decades, research slowed and institutions turned their gaze elsewhere.

The language retreated to the mountains, held together by oral tradition: songs sung at weddings, plays performed in villages, and proverbs passed from elders to children.

Bharderwahi survived because its people kept speaking it, not because anyone was studying it.

The tide began to turn again in the 21st century. In 2010, Dr. Sanjay Sharma at the University of Jammu published A Descriptive Grammar of Bharderwahi, the first detailed academic work in nearly a century.

Modern linguists began using technology, including recordings, acoustic analysis, and digital corpora, to measure its sound patterns and track changes in pronunciation.

Studies by researchers such as Sheikh, Zargar, and Rakesh Kumar confirmed Bailey's early findings, while new work showed how Bharderwahi speech was absorbing tones from Urdu and Kashmiri in urban areas.

For the first time, science met storytelling.

Recognition soon followed. The University of Jammu launched a certificate course in Bharderwahi in 2022. A year later, the Central Institute of Indian Languages included it in its official survey. Local writers published collections like Bharderwah ki Kahautin, a compilation of traditional proverbs, and began reviving the old Bharderwahi script.

Across villages, people started recording folk songs and oral histories on their phones, creating their own informal archives.

Now, in 2025, Bharderwahi has entered the digital age. The Indian Languages Data Consortium is developing online repositories and standardizing its orthography, ensuring that future generations can read and learn it anywhere in the world.

For a language once confined to the slopes of the Chenab Valley, this is no small achievement.

Bharderwahi's journey from a missionary's field notes to an officially recognized digital language is a reminder of what cultural persistence looks like. It also challenges the way we think about linguistic heritage in Kashmir.

Each valley here speaks differently, linguistically and emotionally. To preserve these languages is to preserve the diversity of thought, rhythm, and identity that defines the region.

— The author is a researcher documenting the languages and cultural heritage of the Chenab Valley. He can be reached at sadaketjammu@gmail.com.

Bharderwahi's journey from a missionary's field notes to an officially recognized digital language is a reminder of what cultural persistence looks like. It also challenges the way we think about linguistic heritage in Kashmir.

Tribunal Orders Eviction of Son, Daughter-in-law to Protect Elderly Man's Rights

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: In a significant ruling underscoring the right of senior citizens to live with dignity in their own homes, an appellate tribunal in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda directed the eviction of an elderly man's son and daughter-in-law from portions of his self-acquired property, according to his lawyer.

The tribunal under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, headed by the district magistrate of Doda, Krishan Lal, allowed an appeal filed by the septuagenarian Niaz Ahmed, and modified the order of the Maintenance Tribunal, which had declined to grant eviction while directing the respondents not to interfere with his peaceful possession, life and property.

The 19-page order, issued on October 22, directed Sheraz Ahmed, the appellant's son, and his daughter-in-law, Afsha Begum, to vacate the portions of the property occupied by them and hand over possession to Niaz Ahmed, defence lawyer Asif Nawaz Bandy, who represented the Appellant in the case, told PTI on Tuesday.

He said the property comprises a two-storey building constructed on 10 marlas of land along Dessa Road, Doda, which Niaz Ahmed had purchased through a registered sale deed on June 16, 2003.

According to the appeal filed



on July 2, the elderly man had approached the Maintenance Tribunal seeking protection of his life and property, alleging harassment, intimidation, threats and physical assault, besides interference with his peaceful possession.

He also alleged that the respondents had occupied additional portions of the premises during his temporary absence from his house in February.

The appellant further claimed that a shop on the premises provided him with a source of income and that its alleged occupation had affected his livelihood and peaceful enjoyment of the property.

The case brought into focus a painful family dispute involving an ageing father whose wife had died four years ago and his

own son, the lawyer said.

The appellant also relied on a registered deed of disinheri- tance dated January 20, 2023, concerning his son.

The Tribunal had earlier acknowledged that Niaz Ahmed was a senior citizen and the owner in possession of the property, and that his allegations of harassment and threats deserved protection. However, it declined to order eviction at that stage, citing pending civil litigation and the possibility of conflicting findings.

Challenging that decision, Niaz Ahmed argued before the appellate forum that merely restraining the respondents from interfering with his possession did not provide effective protection in the circumstances alleged by him.

The respondents opposed the appeal, contending that the proceedings were not maintainable and that disputes concerning possession and property rights should be decided by the competent civil court. They also referred to proceedings under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, involving the parties.

After examining the record, the tribunal observed that the appellant's ownership of the self-acquired property and his status as a senior citizen were not in dispute.

It held that the allegations of harassment, threats and physical assault, along with concerns about his safety and peaceful living, had to be considered collectively.

The tribunal also noted that the earlier civil suit for a permanent prohibitory injunction had been dismissed in default on March 5. It concluded that the mere existence of other proceedings did not, by itself, deprive the Maintenance Tribunal of jurisdiction to consider statutory protection for a senior citizen.

Drawing upon legal precedents, including a judgment of the Supreme Court, the appellate tribunal held that eviction could be ordered where necessary to safeguard a senior citizen's life, property, dignity and peaceful living, subject to the applicable law and procedural requirements.

The tribunal accordingly

directed the respondents to vacate the occupied portions of the property and hand over possession to the appellant.

The Tehsildar, Doda, was directed to take necessary steps to implement the order, with police assistance if required.

It further directed that the implementation process be completed within 30 days of receipt of a copy of the order, the lawyer said, adding that the tribunal directed the respondents be served with appropriate notice and given a reasonable opportunity as required under the applicable procedure before coercive steps are taken.

Clarifying the scope of its decision, the tribunal said the order was confined to statutory protection for the senior citizen and the consequential eviction from his self-acquired property.

It would not constitute a final adjudication of any independent claim, defence or remedy available to either party before a competent court or authority, the order said.

Describing the order as landmark, Bandy said the ruling reaffirms the principle that senior citizens should not be left vulnerable in their own homes.

For Niaz Ahmed, the order offers a legal avenue to reclaim peaceful possession of his property and restore his sense of security and dignity in the place he calls home, he said.

Asian Paints celebrates Diwali preparations with ‘Taiyyari Shuru, Tyohaar Shuru’

Musical campaign captures the joy, warmth and togetherness of festive preparations



Observer News Service

Mumbai, October 27: Asian Paints has launched its Diwali campaign, ‘Taiyyari Shuru, Tyohaar Shuru’, celebrating the excitement, laughter and togetherness that accompany preparations for the festival.

Conceptualised by Ogilvy, the campaign features a colourful musical advertisement that captures the festive bustle of cleaning, decorating and refreshing homes with paint as families and friends come together to prepare for Diwali.

Featuring a catchy tune and playful lyrics, the film transforms everyday household preparations into a celebration, highlighting how giving homes a fresh look with Asian Paints becomes an integral part of the festive experience.

The campaign reflects the brand's view that Diwali

celebrations begin well before the festival itself, with preparations bringing families closer and filling homes with colour, music and laughter.

Amit Syngle, CEO and Managing Director of Asian Paints, said the campaign celebrates the build-up to Diwali and the shared moments of joy that make preparations special.

“Through our musical ad film, we have captured the energy, warmth and togetherness that make Diwali preparations so special,” Syngle said.

Sukesh Nayak, Group Chief Creative Officer at Ogilvy India, said the campaign celebrates Diwali as a season of festivity rather than just a few days.

He said the team sought to capture the “magic and chaos” of preparations through a warm, foot-tapping musical that reflects familiar festive experiences.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

CM Omar Expands

Shamima Firdous and Altaf Ahmad Wani, popularly known as Altaf Kaloo, at Lok Bhawan in Srinagar.

With the induction of the four ministers and the dropping of Independent MLA Satish Sharma, the Council of Ministers has reached its maximum permissible strength of nine, including the Chief Minister.

All four new ministers hail from the Kashmir Valley. Seven members of the expanded council are from Kashmir, while Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Chaudhary and Javed Rana represent the Jammu region.

Reshuffle triggers 'dissent within NC

The reshuffle sparked resentment among senior NC leaders who were not accommodated in the cabinet. Mubarak Gul, the six-time MLA on Eidgah, publicly expressed disappointment over being overlooked, while his supporters staged a protest outside the party headquarters at Nawa-e-Subah in Srinagar.

"I will speak at an appropriate time. I have attended 30 oath ceremonies and every time, I have been dropped. You can say I have been dropped again," Gul told reporters before the swearing-in ceremony.

In a move that came amid the discontent, NC president Farooq Abdullah appointed Gul as the party's new general secretary, replacing Sagar, who was inducted into the cabinet.

Another senior party leader, Abdul Majid Bhat Larmi, also expressed disappointment over his exclusion, saying he felt hurt but would continue to remain loyal to the party.

Larmi questioned the decision to induct Kaloo instead of him, citing his seniority and experience. He, however, said he accepted the leadership's decision.

The BJP also criticised the cabinet composition, alleging that the reshuffle had created a regional and cultural imbalance. Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma said governments must ensure representation for every region, community and area.

The Congress, an ally of the ruling alliance, continued to stay out of the Council of Ministers, reiterating that it would not join the government until statehood is restored to Jammu and Kashmir.

Veteran leaders return to cabinet

Sagar, 73, is a senior NC leader and a seven-time MLA. He was first elected to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly from Batamaloo in 1983 and retained the seat in 1987. He later shifted to Khanyar, which he won in 1996.

He has never lost an Assembly election and retained Khanyar in the 2024 elections, defeating former Srinagar Deputy Mayor Sheikh Imran, who contested as an independent candidate, by 9,912 votes.

Sagar served as a Minister of State in the government headed by Farooq Abdullah from 1996 to 2002 and as a cabinet minister in Omar Abdullah's government from 2009 to 2014. He took the oath in Urdu on Tuesday.

Mir Saifullah, 66, represents Trehgam in Kupwara district. He represented the erstwhile Kupwara constituency three times between 1996

and 2014 before winning Trehgam in the 2024 Assembly elections following delimitation.

A lawyer by profession, Saifullah served as the Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs in the Omar Abdullah-led government from 2009 to 2014.

Two ministers make debut

Shamima Firdous, 60, represents Habbakadal in Srinagar and was elected to the Assembly for the third time in 2024, having previously won the seat in 2008 and 2014.

She heads the NC's women's wing and previously chaired the State Commission for Women in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. She is the second woman in the current Council of Ministers after Sakina Itoo.

Altaf Ahmad Wani, 74, represents Pahalgam in Anantnag district. He won the seat in 2014 and retained it in 2024. After losing the 2008 Assembly elections to a People's Democratic Party candidate, he was nominated to the Legislative Council in 2009.

Both Firdous and Wani have become ministers for the first time.

Before the expansion, the Council of Ministers comprised six members. All sitting ministers had submitted their resignations to Omar Abdullah ahead of the reshuffle to facilitate the reconstitution of the council.

The expansion comes nearly two years after the NC-led government assumed office in October 2024. The Union Territory's 90-member Assembly allows a maximum of nine ministers, including the Chief Minister, under the applicable 10 per cent limit.

The portfolios of the newly inducted ministers are yet to be announced.

CM Backs New

Shamima Firdous and Altaf Ahmad Wani and extended his best wishes for their tenure.

Omar Abdullah expressed confidence that the ministers would discharge their responsibilities with dedication and contribute to effective governance and the overall development of Jammu and Kashmir.

Emphasising the importance of collective efforts, he underscored the ministers' role in advancing the government's developmental priorities and ensuring public welfare.

He also expressed hope that their experience and commitment would strengthen the government's efforts to fulfil the aspirations of the people.

The newly inducted ministers thanked the Chief Minister for his visit and encouraging words, reaffirming their commitment to working collectively under his leadership to deliver on the promises made to the public.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Ministers Sakina Itoo and Javid Ahmed Dar, his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, Director Estates Kashmir Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, and other senior officers and officials.

Earlier in the day, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha administered the oath of office to the four ministers at Lok Bhawan in Srinagar as Omar

Abdullah expanded his Council of Ministers. (ONS)

'Dropped Again

the evening, Gul urged the workers to give him some time, saying discussions with the party leadership were underway.

Addressing the workers, he was seen in a video saying that he had spoken individually to National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah and received a special assurance from him. The MLA added that he would share the details with the supporters at an appropriate time.

"I have spoken to Farooq Sahib one-to-one. He has given me a special assurance. When the document comes, I will share it with you," he said.

The supporters, meanwhile, remained firm in their demand, saying they would give the National Conference leadership two days to respond. Emotional scenes and slogan-eering continued as workers voiced their disappointment over Gul being denied a ministerial berth.

Party appoints Gul general secretary

Earlier in the day, following the Cabinet expansion, the National Conference leadership appointed Mubarak Gul as the party's general secretary, succeeding Ali Mohammad Sagar, who was inducted into the Council of Ministers.

In a special gesture, Dr Abdullah formally seated Gul in the general secretary's chair at the party headquarters. Photographs shared by the party showed Gul being welcomed and felicitated with garlands by party leaders and workers.

Later, a meeting of party leaders and functionaries was held under Dr Farooq Abdullah's chairmanship to discuss organisational matters, the political situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the party's future course.

Addressing the gathering, the NC chief reiterated the party's commitment to democracy, people's rights, the restoration of Articles 370 and 35A, full statehood and the protection of Jammu and Kashmir's distinct cultural identity. He expressed confidence that the newly inducted ministers would work for public welfare and development across sectors.

Gul thanked the leadership for entrusting him with the responsibility of general secretary and said he would work to strengthen the organisation.

However, the appointment failed to quell the anger among some of his supporters, who continued to insist that the veteran leader deserved a place in the Cabinet.

'Dropped then, dropped today too'

Earlier in the day, four legislators, Ali Mohammad Sagar, Shamima Firdous, Mir Saifullah and Altaf Ahmad Kaloo, were sworn in as ministers at Lok Bhawan in Srinagar, with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha administering the oath of office and secrecy.

Gul had expressed disappointment over his continued exclusion, telling reporters that he had attended nearly 30 oath-taking ceremonies without being inducted as a minister. "I have attended 30 oath-taking ceremonies till now. Every time I was dropped, and

today as well, I am being dropped," he said.

Gul has represented Eidgah in the Legislative Assembly six times—in 1983, 1996, 2002, 2008, 2014 and 2024.(KNO)

HC Quashes PSA

based on a mere apprehension and without evidence against the petitioner in the sole FIR.

The court further noted that although Vaid had been bound down and released on a surety bond and his activities were kept under surveillance, neither the sponsoring officer nor the detaining authority had explained why such security proceedings were insufficient to prevent him from allegedly engaging in activities prejudicial to national security.

The court stressed that preventive detention under the PSA cannot be invoked unless there are "compelling reasons and emergency based justifications" that cannot be addressed through the ordinary law.

The court also found fault with the authorities over the delay in dealing with Vaid's representation against detention. The representation was sent by the Home Department to the District Magistrate on April 22, 2025, although it had been received by the Home Department on February 3, 2025.

Relying on the Supreme Court judgment, the Court held that inordinate delay in considering a detainee's representation infringes the valuable constitutional safeguard available to a person under preventive detention.

The constitutional safeguards guaranteed to a citizen under Article 22(5) are of vital significance, the court observed, emphasising that the right extends not merely to making a representation but also to its consideration and communication of the decision with reasonable dispatch.

Holding that the detention order did not sustain in law, the Court quashed it and directed that Vaid be immediately released from detention, provided he was not involved in any other case.

Dry Spell To

Kargil recorded a minimum temperature of 1.6°C, while Nubra Valley registered 1.2°C.

The forecast indicates that dry conditions are likely to persist across the region over the coming days, with only isolated precipitation possible over higher elevations.

CAT Asks Govt

must take into account relevant circumstances, including the case of an employee nearing superannuation.

"This Tribunal has already, in a number of applications, held that the law is already settled that the scope of the Courts, as far as the order of transfer is concerned, is very limited. It is no more res integra that a Court can only interfere, if an order of transfer is mala fide or passed by an incompetent authority."

The law is also settled that the transfer is an exigency of service and no employee has a vested right to be posted at a place of his choice, it said. "Once an employee accepts the public

employment, he has to serve wherever the employer so chooses, however, the same has to be in the public and administrative interest."

Regarding one of the applicants Shahzada Amiq Hussain, aged 59, the Tribunal observed that he was due to superannuate within a year and would need to prepare his pension papers.

It also took note of the authorities' own stand that two other officials nearing retirement had been retained near their hometowns.

"The case of applicant no. 1 (Hussain) warrants consideration," the Tribunal observed, directing the competent authority to reconsider his case.

The Tribunal directed the competent authority to pass an appropriate order on his case within two weeks "positively".

As regards the remaining four applicants, the Tribunal found no merit in their case, holding that the Administrative Department had to address pressing operational deficiencies in Jammu Division and that there was no sufficient ground to interfere with their postings.

LG Sinha Reviews

resolved," he said.

The meeting was attended by General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma; Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat; General Officer Commanding, Chinari Corps, Lieutenant General Balbir Singh; and General Officer Commanding, White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General Mohit Seth.

Special Director General of Police (Coordination), Police Headquarters, S.J.M. Gillani; Air Vice Marshal Anand Sondhi, Air Officer Commanding, J&K and Ladakh; Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department, Chandraker Bharti; ADGP CID M.K. Sinha; and Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor Govind Jaiswal also attended the meeting.

Senior officials of the Armed Forces, CAPFs, J&K Police, intelligence agencies and the civil administration were present.

41% Nutraceutical Samples

mandatory labelling declarations, to determine whether the products comply with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and the regulations framed under it.

The FDA also detected seven labelling violations during the inspections, recommending notices under the applicable regulatory provisions.

Further action in these cases will depend on the findings and the relevant provisions of food safety law.

The latest figures indicate that regulatory concerns extend beyond isolated instances of non-compliance, with a substantial proportion of previously tested samples failing to satisfy the prescribed requirements.

However, the administration has not specified how many of the 136 non-conforming samples failed on account of product composition, quality, safety parameters or labelling deficiencies.

The distinction is significant because

a product may be classified as non-conforming for different regulatory reasons, and the findings do not, by themselves, establish that all the products were unsafe for consumption.

The FDA said the fresh drive was undertaken specifically in response to the findings of the preceding six months.

"During the said period, 328 samples of nutraceuticals were lifted, of which 136 samples were reported as non-conforming, reflecting a non-conformity rate of 41.46%," the administration said in its official communication.

It added that the significant level of non-conformity made a fresh and intensive enforcement exercise necessary across the Union Territory.

The administration said the objective was to assess compliance with prescribed standards and initiate appropriate regulatory action wherever violations were established.

The latest drive also places renewed attention on the information provided to consumers through product packaging and labelling.

Under the regulatory framework, nutraceutical businesses are required to comply with mandatory declarations and restrictions governing product claims.

The FDA has advised Food Business Operators to ensure strict adherence to the statutory provisions applicable to their products at every stage, from manufacturing and storage to distribution and retail sale.

The enforcement findings are particularly relevant to consumers who purchase nutritional supplements on the basis of advertised health benefits, product labels and claims made by manufacturers or sellers.

Although the FDA has disclosed the scale of non-conformity, its communication does not identify the brands or manufacturers involved, the districts from which the failed samples were collected, or the specific standards breached.

It also does not disclose whether prosecutions, penalties, recalls or other enforcement measures have already followed the earlier findings.

The results of the 146 samples collected during the latest drive are yet to be reported, making them an important next step in determining the extent of current compliance in the market.

The FDA reiterated that nutraceutical products must meet prescribed standards governing safety, quality, labelling and product claims.

It further warned that enforcement and sampling drives would continue to strengthen regulatory compliance and ensure that products offered to consumers meet the requirements of food safety legislation.

The findings have brought the quality of nutraceutical products under renewed scrutiny in Jammu and Kashmir, with the next phase of regulatory action expected to depend on laboratory results and the identification of specific violations.

For consumers, the central concern remains whether products marketed for improving health and nutrition are consistently meeting the standards prescribed to protect them.

Sopore Bypass Bridge Repair Nears Completion, Reopening Expected Nov 1

Agencies

SOPORE: Repair work on the vital Sopore bypass bridge is underway, with the key link expected to reopen by November 1. Its closure, however, continues to strain the town's road network, causing traffic congestion and inconvenience to commuters and transporters.

The bridge, which connects Kupwara with Srinagar and serves as an important route to Asia's second-largest fruit mandi, has remained closed since October 22 for repairs.

According to details available with KNO, the closure has diverted traffic through Sopore town, leading to frequent bottlenecks on major roads.



Authorities have put traffic management measures in place, including barricades, di-

versions, advisories and the deployment of Traffic Police, civil police and Municipal Council

personnel.

Officials are regulating vehicular movement at key junc-

tions to ease congestion.

Meanwhile, the repair work came under scrutiny after a video allegedly showing the use of sub-standard material on the bridge surfaced on social media. Following the incident, the administration ordered the immediate replacement of the material.

The work is being closely monitored, with Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, the Senior Superintendent of Police and other officials conducting regular inspections to review progress and assess traffic management arrangements.

Commuters have been advised to follow designated diversion routes and cooperate with traffic personnel during the repair period—(KNO)

Employees Of Five New GMCs To Resume Protest From Nov 16

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Employees of five new Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) in Jammu and Kashmir have announced that they will resume their protest from November 16 if their long-pending demand for the finalisation of Service Recruitment Rules (SRRs) for non-gazetted employees is not addressed.

The Coordination Committee representing non-gazetted employees of GMCs Rajouri, Doda, Kathua, Baramulla and Anantnag in a press conference in Jammu, said the protest, which had been deferred earlier following assurances from the authorities, would be resumed in view of the failure to finalise the rules despite nearly seven years of waiting.

The committee, as reported by KNO, expressed serious concern over the prolonged delay, stating that employees had been awaiting a clearly defined service structure, regular Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) proceedings and fair opportunities for career advancement since 2019.

It said successive assur-

ances by the authorities had failed to translate into a concrete decision, leaving the professional future of hundreds of employees uncertain.

The committee said employees had repeatedly been assured that the rules would be finalised by September 30, 2026. The deadline, it said, was communicated through different official channels, including the Information and Public Relations Department, the former Commissioner Secretary of the Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department, the Health Minister and the Chief Minister, who had reportedly indicated that the matter was at the final stage.

However, the deadline passed without the rules being notified, prompting renewed resentment among employees.

The committee questioned why the rules had remained pending despite changes in the department's administrative leadership over the years, adding that repeated changes in the senior officers' positions could not justify the prolonged delay.

It said six IAS officers had reportedly held charge

as Secretary or the corresponding senior administrative head of the H&ME Department since 2019, but the issue continued to remain unresolved.

The employees also highlighted what they described as a disparity in career progression between gazetted and non-gazetted staff.

According to the committee, gazetted employees have received three rounds of promotions or promotional advancements since 2019, while non-gazetted employees of the five new medical colleges continue to face stagnation in the absence of finalised service rules and a clearly defined promotional framework.

The committee further expressed concern over the possible impact of the delay on permanent recruitment in the medical colleges.

"According to information available to employees, the first recruitment advertisement by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for non-gazetted posts in the five new GMCs was issued in 2019, with no subsequent recruitment advertisement for these posts since then," it said. (KNO)

J&K Sees Festive Shopping Surge As Electronics Demand Soars

Tablets record 7X growth, large appliance demand rises eightfold in Srinagar during Amazon festive sale

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Festive shopping across Jammu and Kashmir has gained momentum, with customers opting for premium electronics, household appliances, fashion products and budget-friendly purchases during the Amazon Great Indian Festival 2026.

According to Amazon, consumer electronics demand across the Union Territory has increased threefold compared with a regular business day. Tablets recorded sevenfold growth, followed by speakers at fourfold and laptops at threefold.

Large appliances, including refrigerators, washing machines and air conditioners, witnessed eightfold growth in Srinagar and sevenfold growth in Jammu, reflecting increased demand for household upgrades during the festive season.

Fashion, footwear and personal-care products also recorded strong sales. In Jammu, formal shoes registered 5.5-fold growth, while running shoes and analogue watches recorded fourfold growth. In Srinagar, casual footwear demand rose fourfold, while body-care products and men's jeans registered



threefold growth.

Everyday essentials also witnessed increased demand. Laundry liquids recorded threefold growth in Jammu and fourfold in Srinagar, while demand for oils doubled in Jammu. In Srinagar, cat treats registered a particularly sharp increase, recording 12 times the demand of a regular business day. Paper products and baby lotion each recorded threefold growth.

Home, kitchen and outdoor products registered nearly threefold growth in Jammu and more than double the usual demand in Srinagar. Decorative curtain lights, children's toys, fitness equipment, bathroom storage racks and wardrobe organisers were among the popular purchases.

Amazon Bazaar, the platform's value-focused shopping offering, recorded sixfold growth in Srinagar and 4.5-fold growth in Jammu. In Srinagar, kitchen products registered eightfold growth, while electronic accessories grew sixfold. In Jammu, electronic accessories recorded fivefold growth.

Business purchases in Jammu also increased, with Amazon Business registering more than threefold growth. Computers and accessories, refrigerators, speakers and audio components were among the leading categories.

Amazon said Jammu, Srinagar and Baramulla were key seller hubs in its Jammu and Kashmir network, which includes groceries, kitchen products, home goods and books.

'Will Wipe Their Tears': LoP Sharma Offers Support To NC MLAs

SRINAGAR: Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma on Tuesday said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah should address the disappointment of legislators who were left out of the Cabinet, adding that he would stand by them in their difficult moment.

Congratulating the newly inducted ministers, Sharma, according to KNO, urged them to focus on public issues and work for the welfare of the people rather than get caught up in political disputes.

Speaking to reporters after the swearing-in ceremony, Sharma said the ministers should concentrate on fulfilling their responsibilities towards the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Referring to legislators who failed to secure a berth in the Council of Ministers, Sharma said their concerns could not be ignored.

"I will wipe their tears, but it is Omar Sahib's responsibility to wipe those tears. We will also wipe them," he said.

Asked about reports of differences within the ruling National Conference and speculation over the government's stability following the Cabinet expansion, Sharma urged people not to rush to conclusions. "Have patience, don't be in a hurry," he said.

The Cabinet expansion saw four National Conference legislators, Ali Mohammad Sagar, Shamima Firdous, Mir Saifullah and Altaf Ahmad Kaloo, inducted into the Omar Abdullah-led government.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha administered the oath of office and secrecy at Raj Bhawan in Srinagar—(KNO)

Police Apprehend 6 Drug Peddlers In Anantnag

SRINAGAR: Continuing its sustained crackdown against drug trafficking and substance abuse, Jammu and Kashmir Police in Anantnag apprehended six drug peddlers at different locations across the district and recovered contraband substances from their possession. Cases have been registered under relevant provisions of law, and investigations have been initiated.

In a statement issued, a police spokesperson said that a police party from Police Station Bijbehara, during patrolling at Gadhanipora, apprehended Bilal Ahmad Bader, son of Gh. Rasool Bader, resident of Housing Colony, Gadhanipora, Bijbehara. During his search, approximately 2 kilograms of ganja-like substance were recovered. Accordingly, FIR No. 325/2026 under Sections 8/20 of the NDPS Act has been registered, and investigation has been taken up. In another action, a police party from Police Station Anantnag apprehended Ab Aziz Hajam, son of Bashir Ahmad Hajam, resident of Nazuk Mohalla, near Ganziwarda Bridge, Anantnag. Approximately 114 grams of charas-powder-like substance were recovered from his possession. A case has been registered, and further investigation is underway. (Observer News Service)

SCW Files Charge-Sheet After 12 Residents Duped

SRINAGAR: The Special Crime Wing Kashmir on Tuesday said it had filed a charge-sheet against a Uttar Pradesh resident accused of duping 12 Kashmir residents of rupees 16.78 lakh through an alleged fraudulent investment scheme promising high returns.

In a statement issued, a spokesperson said the Crime Branch Kashmir (Special Crime Wing) had filed the charge-sheet before the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar, in connection with FIR No. 18/2022 registered at Police Station SCW, Kashmir, against Sunil Singh, son of Arjun Singh, a resident of Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

The accused faces alleged offences under Section 420 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 5 read with Section 23 of the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act, 2019.

He said the case originated from a complaint lodged by Abid Hussain Joo and 11 other Srinagar residents, who alleged that the accused had induced them to invest their hard-earned money in a purported Forex investment venture operating under the name "Tronix Power & Capital Investment Programme, Delhi," promising substantial returns within a short period.

The accused allegedly lured the complainants with assurances of lucrative returns and subsequently cheated them, leading to the registration of the case, the spokesperson said. (Observer News Service)

J&K Bank Begins Vigilance Awareness Week

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Bank commenced Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 with an Integrity Pledge ceremony at its Corporate Headquarters in Srinagar, reaffirming its commitment to transparency, accountability and ethical banking practices.

The week is being observed under the theme "Probity for Prosperity".

Executive Director Sudhir Gupta administered the pledge to senior bank officials, including Chief General Managers, General Managers, Deputy General Managers, Assistant General Managers and other officers. Divisional, Zonal and Cluster Heads, along with employees, participated virtually.

Addressing the gathering, Gupta said public trust was fundamental to bank-



ing and that sustainable growth must be backed by transparent processes, fair decisions and accountability at every level.

He stressed that preventive vigilance should be an integral part of daily operations, urging employees to safeguard the bank's resources, protect customers' interests and translate their commitment to integrity into consistent action.

Chief Vigilance Officer Bansil Lal Saini highlighted the importance of cultivating an organisation-wide culture of vigilance through everyday decisions. He urged employ-

ees to remain alert, take responsibility for their actions and speak up against wrongdoing.

The pledge emphasised ethical business practices, zero tolerance for bribery, compliance with laws and regulations, transparent governance, effective grievance redressal and whistleblower mechanisms. It also underscored the need to protect stakeholders' rights and interests.

General Manager (Vigilance) Hafeeza Rahim delivered the vote of thanks, stressing that integrity must guide employees throughout the year.

Zojila Axis to Face Nightly Traffic Restrictions For Three Days

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: District Police Drass on Tuesday issued a public advisory announcing restrictions on vehicular movement along the Zojila Axis from October 28 to 30 due to scheduled maintenance work and blasting operations.

According to the advisory, all types of vehicles will be restricted from travelling on the Zojila Axis between 4 PM and 8 AM the following day during the specified period.

Police have advised motorists and travellers not to proceed towards the Zojila Axis during the restricted hours to avoid inconvenience and ensure public safety.



Email ID: gmdic-srinagar@jk.gov.in
Website: industrieskashmir.nic.m
Phone: 0194-2427478

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE, SRINAGAR
IE BAMK, Mill Stop, Nowshera, Srinagar, Pincode-190011
(DEVELOPMENT SECTION)
PUBLIC NOTICE

M/s Uncle Advertisers, Hazuri Bagh Srinagar is formally registered with this office vide Registration No. 010307994 dated 18.02.2010 for the activity of "Glow Sign boards, Banners, and hoardings" as a proprietorship concern of Mr. Imtiyaz Ahmad Malik. The promoter of the unit now intends to change the location of the unit from Hazuri Bagh to Green Globe Tower, Serive Lane Near S. R Plaza, Hyderpora Chowk Srinagar.

Therefore, any person having any objection(s) or claim(s) with regard to the proposed change of location of the unit may submit the same in writing to the Office of the General Manager, District Industries Centre, Srinagar, within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.

In case no objection is received within the stipulated period, no objection/claim shall be entertained thereafter.

(Abid Iqbal Malik, JKAS)
General-Manager
District Industries Centre, Srinagar

DIPK-7090-26
DT: 27/10/2026



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
JOINT DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION, KASHMIR.
EXCHANGE ROAD, KOTHIBAGH, SRINAGAR, 190001

No.: INF/K/Accts - 2409/2026

NOTICE INVITING DASTI QUOTATIONS

Subject: Invitation of Dasti Quotations for installation of standees and banners in connection with UT Diwas and Run for Unity, 2026.

Dasti quotations are hereby invited from reputed printing/ advertising agencies and other eligible service providers for undertaking the installation and fixing of standees and banners at the designated venues/locations in connection with the observance of UT Diwas and Run for Unity on 31st October, 2026.

The scope of work shall include installation and fixing of standees and banners at the venue of Run for Unity, installation of standees at the Central Lobby of SKICC and other locations as may be specified by this office.

The interested agencies/vendors shall quote their lowest rates against the following items:

Schedule of Rates					
S. No.	Description of work	Size	Unit	Approved Rate (₹)	Quoted Rate (₹)
1.	Installation and fixing of Roll up standees at designated locations, including labour, transportation, necessary accessories and support system.	6ft*3ft	Per Piece	2150	
		6ft*4ft	Per Piece	2350	
2.	Installation and fixing of Hoardings/banners at the Run for Unity venue, including labour, transportation, necessary accessories and support system. (Without Frame).	Any	Per Sqft	20	
3	Installation and fixing of Hoardings/banners at the Run for Unity venue, including labour, transportation, necessary accessories and support system. (With Frame).	Any	Per Sqft	52	

Terms and Conditions

- The rates quoted shall be inclusive of all charges towards labour, transportation, fixing materials and other incidental expenses required for execution of the work.
- The rates quoted by the agency shall be equal or less then the approved rates of the department.
- The actual quantities and locations shall be as specified by the department, depending upon the requirements of the event.
- The selected agency shall ensure proper and secure installation of all standees and banners at the designated locations to the satisfaction of the officer-in-charge.
- The entire work shall be completed by 30th October, 2026, without fail, so that all arrangements are in place before the event scheduled for 31st October, 2026.
- Payment shall be made on completion and verification of the work, subject to submission of the requisite bill and observance of applicable rules and procedures.
- The department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations, as per the applicable rules and in the interest of the department.

Submission Schedule

The sealed quotations, duly signed by the agency/vendor and bearing complete contact details, shall be submitted in person to the Office of the Joint Director Information, Srinagar, by or before 03:00 PM on 28th October, 2026. The quotations shall be examined and the work allotted to the selected agency, subject to approval of the competent authority and completion of the requisite formalities, on 28th October, 2026.

The selected agency shall mobilise resources immediately upon allotment and complete the assigned work within the stipulated timeline.

DIPK-7094-26
DT: 27/10/2026

Joint Director Information
Srinagar

Bound To Be 'Tamasha' When My Book Comes Out: Sonia

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Others have spent decades telling her story and now it's her turn, Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi said on Tuesday, adding with a smile that there is bound to be some "tamasha" when her memoir comes out next month.

In her second post on X after she joined the social media platform last week, Gandhi put out another sneak peek video on her upcoming memoir "Belonging: A Journey of Love" that is releasing on November 10.

"There's bound to be some tamasha when this book comes out. After all, others have spent decades telling my 'story', now it's my turn," the former Congress president said in her post.

In the 1.28 minute video, Gandhi is seen sifting through the pages of her memoir and thinking aloud, "I don't know if I should tell the whole story."

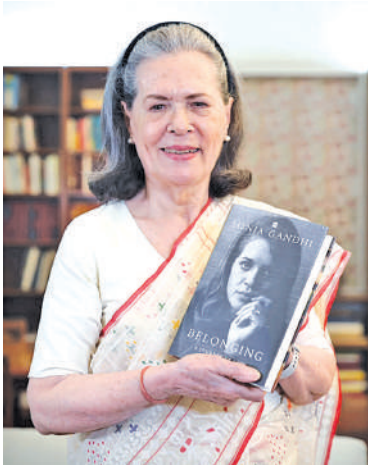
"When my husband was asked to

become the prime minister, which I was totally against....," she says and drifts away.

Gandhi says she felt that a lot had been written about her and a lot of it was not quite correct, as it was either "invented or exaggerated", and she wanted to now put down her story and describe facts and things as they were.

"People have different views, some people may change their view about me. Some people's view may become worse but that is what it is, that is what happens when you write a book, or when you are in public life. There is bound to be a 'tamasha' as you say it here," Gandhi says.

Her remarks in the video were interspersed with footage of key moments from her life -- her marriage to Rajiv to his assassination. There were also glimpses of Sonia Gandhi attending AICC meetings as well as her photographs with Rajiv and her two children -- Rahul and Priyanka.



In her debut post on X on Saturday, Gandhi described her late husband and former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi as a very good-looking and gentle person. She had shared her memories of their life together as she made her

debut on social media platform X.

Gandhi made her Instagram debut last Thursday with posts on her upcoming book, which she described as a "story of love, duty, loss and finding a place to belong".

This was Gandhi's first foray into social media. Over the years, she has been using the Congress' X handle to release her video statements or other messages and letters that she wished to make public.

Last month, HarperCollins India said it will publish Gandhi's 544-page memoir "Belonging: A Journey of Love" in India on November 10, ending the uncertainty over the book's domestic publication following an "impasse" between the author's representatives and Penguin Random House India (PRHI).

HarperCollins India's announcement followed a controversy involving PRHI, which was initially keen to publish the memoir but subsequently said it would

not be the Indian publisher.

The controversy began amid reports of differences between the publisher and the author's representatives over editorial changes to the manuscript.

Several Congress leaders had raised issues of governmental pressure and freedom of expression with some alleging that there was pressure on Penguin India to remove sections relating to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the RSS and China's occupation of Indian territory during the Modi regime.

PRHI clarified that they were "really keen" to publish the book, describing it as a "hard-won acquisition", but ultimately decided to step away due to a "stalemate over a particular issue".

While maintaining there was no external pressure whatsoever, PRHI declined to disclose the exact nature of the impasse, citing confidentiality clauses and their agreement with the

author.

"Belonging" begins with Gandhi's childhood in post-war Veneto, Italy and traces her journey to Cambridge, where in 1965 she met Rajiv Gandhi.

The memoir recounts her marriage to Rajiv Gandhi and her introduction to her mother-in-law, former prime minister Indira Gandhi, as well as her efforts to adjust to life in India, including learning Hindi, wearing saris and adapting to Indian food and culture.

It covers the major tragedies that transformed the Gandhi family, including the death of Sanjay Gandhi in a plane crash, Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984 and Rajiv Gandhi's assassination in 1991.

The memoir also delves into political events surrounding the Congress-led alliance's victory in the 2004 elections, when Sonia Gandhi declined to become prime minister and instead led the party and its alliance, which governed India for a decade.

Oman FM Calls for Gulf-Iran-Iraq Security Pact Without US

Agencies

MUSCAT: Oman's Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi has called for the formation of a non-aggression security pact involving six Persian Gulf states plus Iran and Iraq, slamming US attempts to demonize the Islamic Republic as a threat.

Speaking at Girton College, Cambridge, on Monday, Albusaidi stressed that Washington has promoted for almost half a century the false image of Tehran as a threat to the Persian Gulf states, holding back West Asia's ability to solve its own problems.

The Omani foreign minister, speaking to break the deadlock over the region's future, stressed that the US would no longer be the region's primary security provider.

"Issues such as the Strait of Hormuz have become impossible to resolve because external powers continue to define the terms of engagement, while regional powers are unable to take collective responsibility for



making their own security arrangements and reach a consensus on them," Albusaidi noted.

Iran has so far refused to ease its restrictions on transit through the strategic Strait of Hormuz, saying the key international energy waterway will be fully reopened once the US permanently ends its aggression and lifts its maritime blockade and sanctions against Iran.

Iranian authorities have also indicated that the country would not back down from its conditions and would respond decisively to any new act of aggression against its territory.

"What holds us back is that issues which ought to be handled at a regional level by the states of the [Persian] Gulf themselves, are made more complex, more intractable and sometimes simply impossible to resolve because the region's security arrangements are insufficiently developed," Albusaidi further stressed.

"And they are insufficiently developed because they have relied for too long on the involvement of external powers," he added.

Oman's top diplomat noted that the Islamic Republic "had been systematically excluded from playing any meaningful role in the security arrangements of

the region.

Albusaidi also stressed that such exclusion had led to "profoundly negative consequences, not just for Iran, but for the region as a whole", including the imposition of priorities on the region by external powers such as "the entirely false perception that there is a fundamental regional antagonism between Iran and the Arab states of the [Persian] Gulf."

According to the Omani foreign minister, the most "damaging" of the priorities imposed on the Persian Gulf region from the outside has been the requirement that the Islamic Republic be excluded.

"Not just excluded. Worse. Positioned as the threat against which regional security had to be organized," Albusaidi stressed, speaking on the day high-level defense and intelligence officials from Turkey, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia gathered in Tehran in an attempt to prevent a renewed act of aggression by the US against Iran.

England Hopes Dashed as Sri Lanka Thumps Pakistan to Reach Final

AP

LAHORE (PAKISTAN): A rejuvenated Sri Lanka routed Pakistan by eight wickets on Tuesday to end England's hopes of reaching the ODI tri-series cricket final.

Fast bowler Dilshan Madushanka grabbed a career-best 5-34 as Pakistan was skittled for 110 after captain Kusal Mendis had won the toss and elected to field.

It was Pakistan's second-lowest ODI total at home, after its 75 all out against Sri Lanka in Lahore in 2009.

Sri Lanka, which chased down the second-highest target in ODI history of 430 against England in Rawalpindi, then made 114-2 in 18.1 overs before the floodlight towers were fully switched on at the Gaddafi Stadium for the day-night game.

Pakistan had already qualified for the final after beating England twice, including an epic one-wicket win on Sunday, and handing Sri Lanka a 37-run defeat in the opening game of the tournament.

Pakistan rounded off



the league stage with six points from three wins while Sri Lanka, which has four points, will tune up for Saturday's final by playing England on Thursday.

England needed Pakistan to win on Tuesday to have a chance of making the final.

Pakistan top-order struggle continues

Pakistan's struggle in the top-order continued with four of the leading five batters falling for single digits.

Left-handed opener Maaz Sadaqat was drafted in for Saim Ayub, who had made a run of poor scores.

Fakhar Zaman continued his lean patch when he offered a tame catch at point

off Madushanka's short-pitched delivery.

Sadaqat fell lbw to Asitha Fernando's yorker and wicketkeeper-batter Saad Baig chipped an easy catch to short cover off Madushanka as Pakistan slipped to 46-3.

Babar Azam (29) again failed to capitalize on a good start, burning a review when he was plumb lbw to Eshan Malinga's perfect inswinger.

Pakistan's Sunday hero Shadab Khan, whose unbeaten 113 earned the astonishing victory over England, lasted five balls as he tried to sweep Sahan Arachige and gloved an easy

catch to Mendis behind the wicket.

Then, the re-introduction of Madushanka saw the left-arm paceman take three more wickets as Pakistan was bowled out in 25.3 overs.

"Unfortunately, for the last three or four games we are collapsing at the top order," captain Shaheen Shah Afridi said. "We have three days now and we can practice. We will come back in the final and bat stronger. We need to forget this game quickly and take the positives from the previous games."

Mendis leads run chase

Kamindu Mendis hit an unbeaten 62 off 60 balls for Sri Lanka after being dropped by the wicketkeeper before he had scored. Also, on 44, he successfully overturned an lbw ruling on review.

The left-handed batter, who hit eight fours and two sixes, reached his half century following a pull for six after substitute fielder Ghazi Ghori had touched the boundary with his foot while completing a catch.

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