29th year OF PUBLICATION

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J&K Begins Budget Exercise For 2027-28

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government has initiated the budget formulation process for 2027-28, with discussions on budget proposals scheduled to commence from November 16.

According to an itinerary issued by the department, budget discussions on the Revised Estimates (RE) for 2026-27 and Budget Estimates (BE) for 2027-28 will commence on November 16 and continue till December 2.

The Finance Department will hold detailed deliberations with 36 administrative departments as part of the annual budget preparation exercise.

In directions issued to the departments, the Finance Department has asked them to furnish Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on budget announcements, wherever applicable, well before their scheduled discussion dates. They have also been asked to provide complete details relating to establishment budget and Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) requirements.

Besides, all departments have been directed to submit PowerPoint presentations in both hard and soft copies covering sanctioned and in-position staff | More on P6

Wedding Bells Amid Political Rumble In Omar's Camp

Omar Weds Nidhi: CM's Latest Alliance Is A Personal Affair

Farzana Nisar

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday announced his marriage to journalist Nidhi Razdan, sharing photographs of the couple on social media a day after their wedding, at a time when the ruling National Conference is grappling with growing internal dissent over the recent Cabinet reshuffle.

Abdullah shared photographs with Razdan on Instagram, writing, "A new journey began yesterday," while tagging her in the post.

Razdan also confirmed the marriage through a post on X, writing, "It's done bro", alongside photographs of the couple.

The personal milestone comes at a politically eventful moment for Abdullah, whose government is facing growing discontent within the ruling National Conference following its recent Cabinet expansion. While the Chief Minister has embarked on a new chapter in his personal life, a section of his party legislators are seeking changes in the very ministry he

heads.

Wedding bells as political discontent brews

The marriage took place on Friday, October 30, and was preceded by | More on P6

NC's Internal Churning Continues Amid Leadership Denials

Gul announces November 4 press conference amid General Secretary row

MLAs seek Cabinet rejig, statehood restoration and manifesto implementation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Conference (NC) on Saturday sought to play down reports of growing discontent within its ranks following the recent Cabinet expansion, with senior party leaders asserting that the organisation remained united even as differences over government functioning and organisational affairs continued to surface.

Kashmir Provincial President Showkat Ahmad Mir and Minister Javed Ahmed Dar dismissed reports of rebellion and factionalism, maintaining that legislators were free to express their concerns and that any differences would be resolved internally.

The developments come amid reports of dissatisfaction among a section of NC legislators over the recent Cabinet reshuffle-cum-expansion, with 18 MLAs reportedly preparing a memorandum seeking changes in the Council of Ministers, intensified efforts for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and Article 370, and time-bound implementation of the party's | More on P6

HC Quashes PSA Detention Order

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has quashed the detention order under Public Safety Act (PSA) against a Srinagar man, underlining that the unexplained delay in issuing the order and reliance on vague and contradictory police reports rendered the detention illegal.

A bench of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, while allowing a petition filed by Umer Hamid Sheikh through his mother, directed the authorities to release him from preventive custody forthwith, provided he was not required in connection with any other case.

Sheikh had challenged the detention order dated June 2, 2025, issued by the District Magistrate, Srinagar, under Section 8 of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act.

The court observed that the sponsoring agency had approached the detaining authority on May 7, 2025, seeking the petitioner's detention, but the order was passed only on June 2, leaving a gap of more than 25 days.

"The absence of plausible explanation by the respondents for the delay of 25 days between the proposal for detaining the petitioner (Sheikh) and the order of detention is indicative of the fact that there | More on P6

Cybercrime Among Biggest Challenges Facing J&K: IGP

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Sujit Kumar Singh on Saturday described cybercrime as one of the biggest challenges facing Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that the police were prepared to tackle emerging threats and safeguard the country's unity and integrity.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of National Unity Day celebrations at historic Lal Chowk in Srinagar, Singh said the Prime Minister had called upon security forces and citizens to protect national unity and integrity.

"The Prime Minister has given us a task to save the unity and integrity of the country. We are ready to face any challenges in the coming days," he said.

Referring to the evolving security scenario, the IGP said cybercrime had emerged as a major challenge at both the national and regional levels.

He said the police were also examining activities that posed threats to the country from a new perspective.

"Alongside cybercrime, J&K Police are examining activities being carried out against the country from a new perspective," he said.

The IGP said National Unity Day was celebrated at Lal Chowk in the presence of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, senior police officers, personnel of Jammu and Kashmir Police and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), local youth and schoolchildren.

Participants also witnessed the live telecast of the Ekta Diwas parade from Kevadia in Gujarat and listened to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation. | More on P6

We Did Not Buy Peace, We Established It: LG Sinha

» Says 780 Terrorists Eliminated Since 2020; Art 370 Abrogation Freed People From Fear

» Addresses J&K UT Foundation Day; Calls For Harmony, Social Trust And National Integration

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said Jammu and Kashmir had witnessed a major transformation in its security situation since the abrogation of Article 370, asserting that terrorism, separatism and stone-pelting had given way to democracy, development and public participation.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion of the 8th Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory

Foundation Day, Sinha said the administration had established peace through a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism.

"We did not buy peace, we established peace. Zero-tolerance policy crippled terror networks and restored normal life across Jammu Kashmir," he said.

Claiming that more than 780 terrorists had been eliminated since 2020, the Lieutenant Governor said local recruitment into militant groups had ended and stone-pelting had been eradicated.

"Now Jammu Kashmir is witnessing a historic security transformation," he said.

Sinha said | More on P6

LG Flags Off 'Run for Unity'; Administers Unity Pledge

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday flagged off the 'Run for Unity' from the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar to mark National Unity Day and the eighth Foundation Day of Jammu and Kashmir as a Union Territory.

The run, which concluded at the Botanical Garden, witnessed participation from | More on P6

Every Accusation Not Criminal Defamation: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh affirmed on Saturday that adverse allegations do not automatically constitute criminal defamation.

Rather, a Bench of Wasim Sadiq Nargal emphasized that any accusation must be strictly evaluated against statutory requirements and legislative exceptions before criminal liability can be attached.

While allowing a plea filed by Kamal Saini, a retired police officer, the court also observed that a person cannot be prosecuted merely for approaching a competent statutory authority with a grievance, particularly when the law protects accusations made in good faith.

Kamal Saini had challenged a criminal complaint filed by Pritam Singh Saini, a retired Information Department employee who subsequently started publishing a newspaper.

The complaint, filed under Section 500 of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC), alleged that Kamal Saini had made defamatory imputations against him in an application submitted before the State Information Commission (SIC) in November 2017.

Kamal Saini had allegedly accused the newspaper publisher of misusing the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, to exert pressure on government departments and withdrawing applications after obtaining illegal gratification.

The complainant had further alleged that copies of the application were circulated among his relatives and friends, damaging his reputation.

However, | More on P6

Ashutosh Dixit Takes Over As 29th IAF Chief

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit on Saturday took over as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff, succeeding Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, who retired after 42 years of service in the Indian Air Force (IAF).

AP Singh superannuated on October 31, concluding a career marked by several key operational and leadership assignments. He served as the IAF chief during a period focused on operational readiness, indigenisation and modernisation, including during Operation Sindoor.

During his tenure, Singh emphasised innovation and the adoption of emerging technologies | More on P6

Article 370 Abrogation Integrated Kashmir With India: Shah

Agencies

Srinagar: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the abrogation of Article 370 had integrated Kashmir with the rest of the country, describing it as one of the major achievements of the Narendra Modi government.

Addressing a gathering ahead of flagging off the 'Run for Unity' in New Delhi on the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, marking the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Shah said several significant decisions had been taken during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure, including the abrogation of Article 370, elimination of Naxalism and implementation of the One Nation, One Tax system.

"When we succeed in building a drug-free India, it will be the most significant achievement among all these initiatives for the country's youth and its future," he said.

Shah set December 31, 2029, as the target for making India completely drug-free, saying the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' begins with the creation of a 'Nasha-Mukt Bharat'.

He said India's linguistic, cultural, traditional and religious diversity | More on P6

12 IAS, IPS, JKAS Officers Transfered

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Saturday ordered the transfers and postings of 12 officers, including five IAS, one IPS and six JKAS officers, as part of an administrative reshuffle.

According to two separate orders issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), the changes have been made in the interest of administration and will take immediate effect.

As per Government Order No. 1718-JK(GAD) of 2026, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance Department, Shailendra Kumar, IAS (AGMUT: 1995), | More on P6

Jammu Readies For Durbar, Move Begins from Srinagar

Employee convoys leave Srinagar as winter capital gets facelift; traffic curbs imposed on NH-44

Observer News Service

Jammu: The biannual Durbar Move from Srinagar to Jammu began on Saturday, with convoys of government employees leaving the summer capital as the winter capital geared up to host the administration for the next six months from November 2.

The offices of the Chief Minister, ministers and various government departments are scheduled to resume functioning at the Civil Secretariat in Jammu on Monday, marking the beginning of the winter secretariat session for 2026-27.

Ahead of the government's

return, Jammu is undergoing a major facelift, with beautification, road macadamisation, painting and repair works being carried out across the city.

Officials said | More on P6

Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: Indic AI Scholarship Program 2026-27

Description: The Indic AI Scholarship Program 2026-27 supports Students with Disabilities by providing 100% scholarships for competitive exam preparation, including CUET,

JEE, CAT, and CLAT. The program offers access to quality coaching, structured learning resources, study materials, mock tests, and guidance to help eligible students pursue their higher education and career goals.

Eligibility: Students with Disabilities who meet the following criteria can apply:
For CUET: Class 12 students aspiring to pursue undergraduate studies through CUET.
For JEE: Class 11 or 12 students from the Science stream aspiring to pursue engineering or technical education.
For CAT: Undergraduate students, particularly those in their third or final year, planning to pursue an MBA and prepare for CAT.
For CLAT: Class 11 or 12 students aspiring to pursue undergraduate law programmes through CLAT.
For all programmes: Applicants must have a valid UDID (Unique Disability ID) card.
Prizes & Rewards:
Get a 100% scholarship for competitive exam preparation, including coaching, study materials, mock tests, and structured learning support.
Last Date to Apply: 30-11-2026
Application mode: Online Application Only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/IASP3
QR Code: https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/indic-ai- scholarship-program- 2026-271793065702.png

Scholarship Name 2: Sitaram Jindal Foundation Scholarship Scheme 2026

Description: The Sitaram Jindal Foundation Scholarship Scheme 2026 is being offered by the Sitaram Jindal Foundation (NGO) for students from Class 11 to the postgraduate level. It aims to provide financial assistance to underprivileged students pursuing various degree and diploma courses.

Eligibility:
Applications are open to students of Class 11, 12, ITI, Diploma, graduation, or postgraduation (in General Fields, Medical, and Engineering) below the age of 30 years. Applicants must have an income up to 4,00,000 (for salaried employees) and up to 2,50,000 (for others).

Prizes & Rewards:
An award that covers their tuition fees and other benefits.

Last Date to Apply:
Round The Year
Application mode:
Online Applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SJFSE2

QR Code: https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/sitaram-jindal-foundation- scholarship-scheme- 20261793065662.png

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

IN THE COURT OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER
THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, SINDH FOREST DIVISION, GANDERBAL.

Tel.: 0194-2416-462, Fax 0194-2416462

Extract of order passed by the Authorized Officer-cum-Divisional Forest Officer, Sindh Forest Division, Ganderbal dated: 28-10-2026 in Confiscation Case arising out of FIR No. 20/2025, P/S Kangan of Manasbal Range.

In proceedings under Section 52 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 arising out of seizure of illicit forest produce (FIR No. 20/2025 of P/S Kanagn) comprising 09 Deodar logs measuring 48 Cft, seized on 21-03-2025 at New Colony Barwalla, Kangan, and after completion of confiscation proceedings, recording of evidence, consideration of the material on record and findings returned in the confiscation order, it has been held that a forest offence has been committed in respect of the seized timber and that the said forest produce is liable to confiscation under Section 52(3) of the Indian ForestAct, 1927.
Accordingly, vide final order dated 28-10-2026 passed by the undersigned in exercise of powers conferred under Section 52(3) of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the seized forest produce comprising 09 Deodar logs measuring 48 Cft, valued at Rs.96,000/- (Rupees Ninety-Six Thousand only) presently lying at Seizure Depot Beehama, has been confiscated in favour of the Government.
It is further ordered that, upon expiry of the statutory period prescribed for filing revision and subject to no revision petition having been preferred or any stay having been granted by the competent authority, the confiscated timber shall be handed over to the Divisional Manager, FDCL, Ganderbal, under proper acknowledgement and inventory. The Range Officer, Haran-Shallabugh Range, Incharge Seizure Depot Beehama, shall make necessary entries in the relevant depot records, effect transfer of custody accordingly and furnish acknowledgement along with a compliance report.
Issued for information and necessary action.

Authorized Officer
Divisianal Forest Officer,
Sindh Forest Division, Ganderbal

No. DFO/Sindh/Lease /A.0 /3361-73
DIPK-7266/26
dated: 31-10-2026

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION BIJBEHARA

www.jkpdd.gov.in Tel No: - 09132-233002 Fax No:- 09132-234397
e-mail: xen-stdbijbehara@jk.gov.in,

NOTICE INVITINGTENDER

e-NIT NO.STB/40 of 2026-27, Dated: 30/10/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt Governor, Jammu and Kashmir State, e-Tenders (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from "A" Class Electrical Contractors issued by the Electrical inspectorate of Govt of Central Inspectorial organization of Govt. of India/ other state Govt. In case bid submitted joint venture firm, any of partner should possess "A" class electrical license for **"Stage Contract for Supply, Installation,Testing and Commissioning of Key materials required for maintenance of 33 by 11KV receiving stations along with their Lines under the jurisdiction of STD Bijbehara during the year 2026-27"**, as per terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules forming part of this tender document. Intending bidders are requested to submit their offer along with terms, conditions, technical specifications and annexure forming part of this tender document.The details are as under:

#	Name of Work	Adv. Cost. (IN Rs.)	Cost of e-Bid/ tender document (Rs)	EMD (Rs)
1.	**Stage Contract for Supply, Installation,Testing & Commissioning of Key materials required for maintenance of 33/11KV receiving stations along with their Lines under the jurisdiction of STD Bijbehara during the year 2026-27**	**4000000**	1000	80000
2	**Publishing Date & Time**	**30.10.2026 (1700 Hrs)**		
3	**Document Download / Sale Start Date & Time**	**30.10.2026 (1700 Hrs)**		
4	**Seek Clarification Start Date & Time**	**30.10.2026 (1700 Hrs)**		
5	**Seek Clarification End Date & Time**	**16.11.2026 (1700 Hrs)**		
6	**Bid Submission Start Date & Time**	**30.10.2026 (1700 Hrs)**		
7	**Bid Submission End Date & Time**	**16.11.2026 (1500 Hrs)**		
8	**Bid opening date & Time**	**17.11.2026 (1500 Hrs)**		
9	**Venue of opening Bids**	**STD Bijbehara**		
	Please Read Standard Bidding Document Carefully			

1. The tender document is available at website http://jktenders.gov.in. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification if required and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:.
2. There is no need of furnishing of hard copies of bids after submission of e-tenders. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial bid as per the instructions of Finance Department issued vide O.M No. A/24(2017)-651; Dated: 07-06-2018
3. All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of cost of tender document. The cost of tender document should be paid through e- challan/ treasury challan /receipt only.
4. All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee only, pledged to the Executive Engineer Sub transmission Division Bijbehara. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department. However the bidder who is declared L1 after opening of financial bid has to submit the original EMD to the office of the Executive Engineer Sub transmission Division Bijbehara through speed post, Courier or by hand.
5. The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the venue, date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder's/OEM representative will be required to be produced.
6. The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.
7. In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.
8. All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.
9. To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' class III(b) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.
10. The rates shall include costs, if any attracted towards mandatory inspections / testing by the designated agencies and the department will not be required to pay / reimburse anything over and above the price quoted. All the bids must be supported by the Instrument of EMD of the exact amount as mentioned in the above table and shall have been issued post tender publication date. Moreover, any deviation in the EMD amount is liable for rejection.
11. The tender document is available on website. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table above. The Quoted rates shall be Firm, inclusive of all taxes and duties, WCT, freight, transportation up to working sites. The rates shall include costs, if any attracted towards mandatory inspections / testing by the designated agencies and the department will not be required to pay / reimburse anything over and above the price quoted. All the bids must be supported by the Instrument of EMD of the exact amount as mentioned in the above table and shall have been issued post tender publication date. Moreover, any deviation in the EMD amount is liable for rejection.
12. **Quoting a zero rate** against any individual item in an item-wise BOQ is not permitted. The bidder shall mandatorily quote a valid rate against every item of the BOQ. Failure to quote rates for all BOQ items shall render the bid liable for rejection as non-responsive.
13. **93% of the offered rate for each item of work shall be treated as supply cost and 7% of the offered rate shall be treated as Installation, testing and Commissioning Cost.**

Sd/=
Executive Engineer
Sub Transmission Division
Bijbehara

DIPK-NB-1988/26
DATED: 31-10-2026

NO:STB/Ts/etender/6122-25
Dated: 30.10.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the name "Showkat Ahmad Bhat" S/o Gh Mohi Ud Din Bhat mentioned in the Driving Licence records is incorrect.
The correct name is: Showket Ahmad Bhat S/o Gh Mohi Din Bhat .
Driving license No.: JK-0119970010615.
I am going for renewal of my Driving Licence with the above correction in the official records. If anyone has any objection to the same, they may file the same with the RTO Office, Srinagar, within 7 days of publication of this notice. After that, no objection will be entertained.

media line advt

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, am applying for the Seed and Fertilizer Licence, if anybody have any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same at Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla within 07 days from the publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Shakeel Ahmad Malik
S/o Mohd Afzal Malik fko
R/o Magraypora Pattan.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, am applying for the Pesticides Licence, if anybody have any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same at Plant Protection Officer Lal Mandi within 07 days from the publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Shakeel Ahmad Malik
S/o Mohd Afzal Malik R/o Magraypora Pattan. fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my daughter namely Faiqa Jan who was born on 19-10-2023. If anybody has any objection in in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objectioin shall be entertained.
Asmat Begum
W/o Shabir Ahmad Shah fko
R/o Magraypora Pattan

NOTICE

It is information to the general public that my name in my **Aadhaar Card bearing No:-5293-0271-9294 has been wrongly entered as Umar Ayoub which is incorrect.** while my correct and actual Name is **Umar Ayoob Mir.** Now I want the same to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/ she may file his/her objection in the Concerned Authority, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Umar Ayoob Mir
S/o Mohammad Ayoob Mir
R/o Gund Karim Khan
Tehsil Dangiwacha
District Baramulla

NOTICE

It is information to the general public that my name in my **Aadhaar Card bearing No:-5275-0856-6599 has been wrongly entered as Naseema Begum which is incorrect.** while my correct and actual Name is **Naseema Nabi.** Now I want the same to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/ she may file his/her objection in the Concerned Authority, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naseema Nabi
W/o Manzoor Ahmad Tantrey
R/o Sheerbugh Sultanpora
Tehsil Pattan.
District Baramulla.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my name has been wrongly recorded in the school records of Springdales Public School, Palhallan, Pattan, as Sheikh Yamin, S/o Tariq Ahmad Sheikh, R/o Palhallan Tantrypora, whereas my correct name is Sheikh Aazim, S/o Tariq Ahmad Sheikh, R/o Palhallan Tantrypora.
I have applied for correction of the same in the school records. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same to the office of Springdales Public School, Palhallan, Pattan, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.

Sheikh Aazim,
S/o Tariq Ahmad Sheikh, fko
R/o Palhallan Tantrypora

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Arif Ahmad Lone, hereby inform the general public that my correct name is Arif Ahmad Lone, whereas it has been wrongly recorded as Aarif Ahmad Lone in the records of Government Girls Middle School, Palhallan.
I have applied for correction of the spelling of my name from Aarif Ahmad Lone to Arif Ahmad Lone in the school records. Any person having any objection regarding the said correction may submit the same to the office of Government Girls Middle School, Palhallan, or the Zonal Education Office (ZEO), Pattan, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.
Arif Ahmad Lone
S/o Gh Mohmad Lone
R/o Palhallan pattan

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sarwa Begum, W/o Mohammad Ramzan, R/o Dargam, Pattan, District Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir – 193121, hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Sara Begum in my Passport bearing No. R1197206, whereas my correct and actual name is Sarwa Begum.
I have applied for correction of my name in the passport records. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same to the concerned authority within the stipulated period. This notice is being published for general information and necessary action.
Deponent: Sarwa Begum
W/o Mohammad Ramzan
R/o Dargam, Pattan, District Baramulla, J&K fko
Contact No.: 7006446686

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of Pesticides Licence under the name and style Dasgari Agro Care & Pesticides situated at Waripora Bangil Kwarhama. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Plant Protection Officer Lal Mandi Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Faizan Rashid
S/o Ab Rashid Bhat bmg
R/o Waripora Bangil

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of Fertilizer Licence under the name and style Dasgari Agro Care & Pesticides situated at Waripora Bangil Kwarhama. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Faizan Rashid
S/o Ab Rashid Bhat bmg
R/o Waripora Bangil

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as AMINA BEGUM While as my actual name is AMINA BANO C/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD PEER R/O TRHGAM GUNGLOOSA KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193224 Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.
AMINA BANO
C/O :- MUSHTAQ AHMAD PEER
R/O :- TRHGAM GUNGLOOSA , KUPWARA fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as RIFAT BEGUM While as my actual name is RIFATH SHABAN C/O KISAR SULTAN NAJAR R/O SAGIPORA BARAMULLA District BARAMULLA 193201 Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.
RIFATH SHABAN
C/O :- KISAR SULTAN NAJAR
R/O :- SAGIPORA BARAMULLA fko

NOTICE

It is information to the general public that my name in my **Aadhaar Card bearing No:-6165-0459-8868 has been wrongly entered as Urfana Kawoosa which is incorrect.** while my correct and actual Name is **Urfan Sidiq.** Now I want the same to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/ she may file his/her objection in the Concerned Authority, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Urfan Sidiq
W/o Khursheed Ahmad Kawoosa
R/o Umer Abad HMT Zainakote
Tehsil Central Shalteng
District Srinagar.

DC Inaugurates Blood Donation Camp

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, who is also Chairman of the District Red Cross Society, on Saturday inaugurated a Blood Donation Camp at the premises of DC Office Complex, with the objective of encouraging voluntary blood donation and creating greater awareness about its importance in saving precious human lives.

The camp was organised by the District Red Cross Society, Srinagar, in collaboration with SMHS Hospital, Government Medical College (GMC), Srinagar, aimed at promoting voluntary blood donation and strengthening humanitarian services in the District.

The event was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, IAS Probationer, Aakash Garg, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Accounts Officer, Mohammad Iqbal, Officials of DC Office and members of District Red Cross Society.

During the camp, around 60 participants, including Officials of the DC Office Srinagar, Red Cross volunteers and local residents, voluntarily donated blood, reflecting a commendable spirit of social responsibil-

ity, compassion and community participation.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the enthusiasm and selfless spirit of the blood donors, stating that voluntary blood donation is one of the noblest forms of community service, as a single act of donation can help save precious human lives.

The DC underscored that such initiatives play a vital role in promoting public welfare, strengthening humanitarian assistance and fostering greater community participation. He emphasised the need to develop a culture of regular and voluntary blood donation, urging people, particularly the youth, to come forward and actively participate in such humanitarian initiatives.

LGManoj Sinha on Saturday flagged off the 'Run for Unity' from the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar on Saturday. KO Photo Abid Bhat

EOW Kashmir Files Chargesheet Against Two In Overseas Job Fraud Case

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of Crime Branch J&K has filed a chargesheet against two individuals accused of allegedly collecting more than Rs 15 lakh from people on the promise of overseas employment that was never provided.

The chargesheet in FIR No. 32/2026 under Sections 420 and 120-B IPC and Sections 10/24 of the Emigration Act was filed before the Court of PT&E, Srinagar, against Sajad Abdullah Sheikh of Hamdaniya Colony, Bemina, and Jahangir Ahmad Tanky of Sheshgari Mohalla, Khanyar, according to the EOW.

The case was registered following complaints alleging that the accused, proprietors of M/s Al-Aqsa Global Services Pvt. Ltd., located at Moomin-Abad, Lane-04, Batamaloo, had promised complainants lucrative jobs with reputed foreign companies and collected advance payments exceeding Rs 15 lakh. The promised employment was allegedly not arranged, while cheques issued for refunds were dishonoured due to insufficient funds.

> **The case was registered following complaints alleging that the accused, proprietors of M/s Al-Aqsa Global Services Pvt. Ltd., located at Moomin-Abad, Lane-04, Batamaloo, had promised complainants lucrative jobs with reputed foreign companies and collected advance payments exceeding Rs 15 lakh**

According to the investigation, the consultancy was registered as an excursion agent for tour and travel services and not as a recruiting agent for overseas employment. The EOW said it was operating without the requisite registration for overseas recruitment and that payments had been deposited into the personal bank accounts of both accused.

The agency further stated that Jahangir Ahmad Tanky could not be traced despite sustained efforts and had been absconding since 2025. The investigation was concluded as proved, and the chargesheet has been submitted for judicial determination.

The SSP EOW Kashmir has advised job seekers to verify the credentials of recruitment agencies and avoid paying advance fees to unauthorised agencies.

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR

20 Jumada al-Awwal 1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 25
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	4: 01
Magrib	5: 42
ISHA	7: 03

This Day In History

- 835 - All Saints Day made compulsory by Pope Gregory IV throughout Frankish Kingdom
- 996 - First recorded use of modern name for Austria in the 'Ostarrîchi Document'
- 1570 - All Saints Flood, tidal wave in the North Sea devastates the coast from Holland to Jutland; killing more than 1,000 people.
- 1721 - Prince Eugenius of Savoye unveals statue of himself
- 1755 - Lisbon earthquake kills more than 50,000 in Portugal
- 1834 First published reference to poker (as Mississippi riverboat game)
- 1894 - Vaccine for diphtheria announced by Dr Roux of Paris
- 1894 - Nicholas II becomes the new Tsar of Russia after his father, Alexander III, dies.
- 1897 - Italian football club Juventus F.C. is founded by students in Turin as Sport-Club Juventus
- 1902 - France and Italy sign an Entente under which Italy agrees to remain neutral if France is attacked; this is France's attempt to neutralize the Triple Entente

SWD Srinagar Concludes Series Of Career Counselling Programmes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Social Welfare Department, Srinagar, through SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), Mission Shakti, today successfully concluded a series of Career Counselling Programmes organised across various colleges of District Srinagar under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative.

The programmes were aimed at guiding students towards informed career choices, broadening their awareness of emerging employment opportunities and encouraging skill development, higher education and entrepreneurship.

The initiative was designed to empower students with the necessary knowledge, guidance and exposure to explore diverse career pathways, professional courses, higher education opportunities, vocational training and self-employment avenues. It also sought to bridge the gap between academic learning and the evolving requirements of the employment sector, while enabling students to identify their interests, recognise their potential and make informed decisions in alignment with their abilities and aspirations.

The colleges covered under this series included Government Polytechnic for Women, Bemina; Hamid-I-Kashmiri Memorial Degree College, Eidgah; Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Hawal; Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial Degree College, Bemina; Amar Singh College, Gogji Bagh; and Government College for Women, M.A. Road, Srinagar.

During the interactive sessions, eminent resource persons from various departments of the University of Kashmir, sensitised students on the importance of setting realistic career goals, identifying individual strengths and making informed choices concerning their academic and professional journeys.

The resource persons deliberated upon a wide range of career opportunities across emerging employment sectors, competitive examinations, professional and skill-based courses, vocational training and entrepreneurship. Particular emphasis was laid on developing practical competencies, strengthening communication and interpersonal skills, enhancing self-confidence and continuously upgrading knowledge to remain equipped for the dynamic demands of the contemporary job market.

Students were also apprised of various scholarship opportunities, government-sponsored skill development programmes and other educational and employment-oriented initiatives, enabling them to make better use of the available resources and institutional support mechanisms.

IRCS J&K Organises Awareness Programme To Mark National Unity Day

Observer News Service

Srinagar:: The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Jammu & Kashmir, organised orientation-cum-awareness programme to mark National Unity Day 2026, to celebrate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai patel, reaffirming the importance of national unity, integrity, brotherhood, peace and social harmony.

In Kashmir Division, the programme was organised at EMM'S Tiny Tots Teaching Institute, Hazari Bazar, Rainawari, where the occasion was marked with enthusiasm and active participation from the institution's faculty members, students and Red Cross Volunteers and staffers.

On the occasion, G. A. Qureshi, Honorary Treasurer, Indian Red Cross Society, J&K, delivered an insightful speech highlighting the significance of National Unity Day and the importance of maintaining unity, peace and harmony among citizens. He also emphasised the growing concern of drug addiction, Drug-trafficking which is posing a threat to national integrity in society and stressed the need for collective efforts towards drug de-addiction, awareness and rehabilitation, particularly among the younger generation.

Junaid-ul-Islam motivational speaker also addressed the gathering and spoke about the significance of National Unity Day 2026, highlighting the values of solidarity, humanity, compassion and collective responsibility in building a stronger and healthier society.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Tender No:- 174,175-2026-27-ADEN-2-FZR & 176,177,178,187-2026-27-ADEN-1-FZR Date: 30.10.2026 DEN/HQ/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on **www.ireps.gov.in** with **closing date- 20.11.2026** up to **15:00 Hrs.** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments towards the tender document cost and Earnest money only through the payment modes available on **www.ireps.gov.in** portal like Net Banking. Debit Card, Credit Card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to **www.ireps.gov.in**

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Packet System
Open	Works	Single Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	**Bid Starting Date**	**Tender Closing Date/Time**
28.10.2026	06.11.2026	20.11.2026 & 15:00 Hrs

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
1.	174-2026-27-ADEN-2-FZR	Ordinary repair and maintenance as well as new works, additions and alternations to existing structures & emergent Works at Station Building and other service buildings from FZP to FKA & ABS to FKA (excl.) to FZP section (Zone-1) in the section of SSE/Works/JBD under ADEN-II/FZR (2026-27).

Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
8998531.26	180000.00	60 Days	12 Months

Similar Nature Work :- "Any civil work other than track work".

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
2.	175-2026-27-ADEN-2-FZR	Ordinary repair and maintenance as well as new works, additions and alternations to existing structures & emergent Works at station building and other service buildings from FZR (excl.) - JUC (excl.) section (Zone No-2) in the section of SSE/W/LNK in the jurisdiction of ADEN-II/FZR (2026-27).

Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
4999150.39	100000.00	60 Days	12 Months

Similar nature of work :- "NIL ".

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
3.	176-2026-27-ADEN-1-FZR	Ordinary repair and maintenance as well as new works, additions and alternations to existing structures & emergent Works in FZR (excl.)-BTI (excl.) and KKP-FKA (excl.) section (Zone No-4) in the section of SSE/Works/KKP under ADEN-I/FZR (2026-27).

Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
8999356.59	180000.00	60 Days	12 Months

Similar Nature Work :- "Any civil work other than track work ".

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
4.	177-2026-27-ADEN-1-FZR	Ordinary repair and maintenance as well as new works, additions and alternations to existing structures & emergent Works in TWB (excl.)-LDH (excl.) section (Zone No-5) in the section of SSE/Works/JGN under ADEN-I/FZR (2026-2027).

Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
8999111.36	180000.00	60 Days	12 Months

Similar Nature Work :- "Any civil work other than track work".

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
5.	178-2026-27-ADEN-1-FZR	Ordinary repair and maintenance as well as new works, additions and alterations to existing structure & emergent works in Colony No.1 & 2 at FZR (Zone No-1) in the section of SSE/W/FZR under ADEN-I/FZR (2026-2027).

Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
8998367.70	180000.00	60 Days	12 Months

Similar Nature Work :- "Any civil work other than track work ".

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
6.	187-2026-27-ADEN-1-FZR	Ordinary repair and maintenance as well as new works, additions and alterations to existing structure & emergent works in Colony No.3 & 4 at FZR (Zone No-2) in the section of SSE/W/FZR under ADEN-I/FZR (2026-2027).

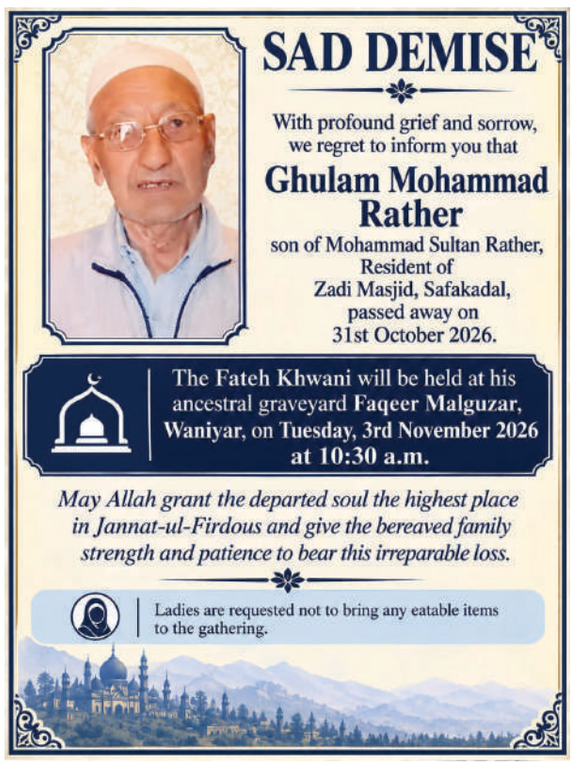
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
8995514.01	179900.00	60 Days	12 Months

Similar Nature Work :- "Any civil work other than track work".

Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.

No:- 770-W/169/WA/FZR/2026-27 Dated: 30.10.2026 **3821/2026**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Tawseef Ahmad Ganie, S/o Mohd. Jabbar Ganie, R/o Darigund, hereby inform the general public that I have lost my passport bearing Passport No. R4516712, while travelling from Bijbehara to my home village Darigund, which could not be traced despite my best efforts.

I intend to apply for the issuance of a duplicate passport. Any person having any objection may submit the same to the Regional Passport Office, Srinagar, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice.

No objection after the stipulated period shall be entertained.

Sd/-
Tawseef Ahmad Ganie
S/o Mohd. Jabbar Ganie
R/o Darigund SRIGUFWARA
Dlistrict: ANANTNAG - 192401 inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sona Ullah Lone, S/o Mohd Subhan Lone, R/o Reram, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 3567 7129 5189 as "Sunallah Lone" instead of my correct name "Sona Ullah Lone."

My correct name, Sona Ullah Lone, is duly recorded in my Domicile Certificate, which shall serve as supporting documentary evidence. I hereby request the concerned authorities to correct my name in the Aadhaar Card accordingly.

All concerned are hereby informed to take note of the above correction.

fko

Dissent Within the Ranks

The NC must confront growing dissatisfaction within its ranks and account for the promises it made to voters.

Muhammad Arbaaz Niazi

Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi's decision to leave the National Conference on November 3 brings an uncomfortable question to Kashmir's politics: who owns an electoral mandate after the votes have been counted?

The party that wins an election gains the authority to govern, but it does not acquire permanent ownership of the public trust.

That trust rests on promises, performance and the willingness of elected leaders to answer for their choices.

Ruhullah intends to surrender both his party membership and his Srinagar parliamentary seat, which he won in 2024. The date coincides with the death anniversary of his father, Aga Syed Mehdi.

His departure follows months of disagreement with the Omar Abdullah government over Article 370, reservation policy and other contentious public issues.

The decision has consequences beyond the relationship between an MP and his party. It exposes a political difficulty the National Conference has struggled to confront since returning to power: the distance between the commitments that won votes and the choices made in office.

Restoration of special status was central to the NC's 2024 campaign, alongside the demand for statehood. Since forming the government, its leadership has spoken extensively about statehood and the constitutional limits imposed on Jammu and Kashmir as a Union Territory.

Those constraints are real.

The Assembly cannot reverse the constitutional changes of August 2019, and the chief minister lacks the authority enjoyed by a government of a full-fledged state.

But constitutional limitations cannot become a permanent substitute for political accountability.

The NC knew the constitutional position before asking voters for their support. The electorate knew it too. People still chose a party that made specific commitments about the future of Jammu and Kashmir.

The government owes them a clear account of what it has done to pursue those commitments, what it has taken up with the Centre and what it intends to do next.

Statehood is an important democratic demand, but its restoration would not be equivalent to restoring Article 370. For people who regard August 5, 2019, as a political rupture, that difference is fundamental. They are entitled to ask whether their elected representatives continue to pursue the objectives on which they sought a mandate.

Ruhullah brought these questions into sharper focus through his intervention in the reservation controversy.

When students gathered outside Omar Abdullah's residence to protest the policy, the Srinagar MP stood with them, placing himself alongside young people protesting against a government led by his own party. His presence exposed a contradiction the NC leadership would have preferred to contain within its organisation.

The students were concerned about the distribution of opportunities and the prospects of Open Merit candidates competing for a limited number of government jobs. For young Kashmiris who spend years preparing for competitive examinations, the rules governing recruitment are not an abstract administrative issue. They influence decisions about education, employment and the future they can reasonably expect to build.

Reservation policy also concerns communities whose historical disadvantages call for representation and corrective action. Their claims cannot be dismissed to accommodate the anxieties of other candidates.

The government has a responsibility to explain how the present arrangement affects different categories, publish the relevant figures and clarify what changes it is considering. Transparency would allow the public to assess competing claims on evidence rather than suspicion.

Instead, the controversy became a test of whether the government could listen to criticism from young people and respond with clarity.

Ruhullah's intervention gave their concerns a prominent political voice, but those concerns existed independently of him. His departure will not settle them.

The confrontation with NC president Farooq Abdullah made the dispute harder to contain.

Farooq challenged Ruhullah to resign and seek a fresh mandate without the party's support. The challenge raised a legitimate question about the source of an elected representative's political strength.

Ruhullah won his seat with the benefit of the NC's organisation, workers, electoral symbol and political history. His victory cannot be separated from those advantages.

But the party cannot claim permanent ownership of the judgment voters exercised when they elected him.

An electoral victory belongs to a relationship between candidates, political organisations and the people who choose them.

That relationship creates obligations on both sides.

A representative must answer to voters, while a party must explain why its actions remain consistent with the promises that brought it to power.

Ruhullah will now face his own test. Public support for his criticism does not automatically establish a political base outside the NC. He will have to explain whether he intends to form a party, work with other political groups or remain outside established formations.

He will also need clear positions on employment, economic policy, governance and reservation. Leaving the organisation is a consequential decision, but it does not by itself establish what should replace it.

But for now, the NC's problems go beyond Ruhullah.

The cabinet expansion on October 27, which ended months of speculation about ministerial representation, inducted old guards, including Ali Mohammad Sagar, Mir Saifullah, Shamima Firdous and Altaf Ahmad Wani, while Satish Sharma was dropped.

The Council of Ministers reached its permitted strength, leaving several aspirants outside the government.

The new cabinet settled who would hold ministerial office. It did little to settle dissatisfaction within the party.

Supporters of Mubarak Gul protested outside the NC headquarters, Abdul Majeed Larmi expressed disappointment, and Nazir Ahmad Gurezi's absence from the swearing-in ceremony attracted attention.

Reports of a meeting of NC legislators on October 30 fuelled speculation, although Gurezi described it as a friendly lunch.

The available information does not establish that these legislators are preparing to rebel or join Ruhullah.

Their grievances also differ from his.

Being denied a ministerial position concerns the distribution of office and influence. Questioning the party's commitment to its political programme concerns its direction.

Treating these disputes as interchangeable would obscure what is happening inside the NC.

Still, both expose the difficulty of managing expectations after an election victory. The leadership cannot accommodate all its aspirants in the Cabinet, but it can improve consultation and explain its decisions before disappointment spills into public view.

Omar Abdullah must govern within constitutional and administrative limits, while dealing with financial difficulties and the Centre's control over important areas.

> **Kashmir's political history** has given voters ample reason to examine declarations of dissent with caution. A leader's departure may express genuine disagreement, but the public must also judge what follows.

Those constraints need recognition, but they do not absolve his government of the responsibility to use its existing authority, establish clear priorities and pursue the promises it can realistically advance.

Kashmir's political history has given voters ample reason to examine declarations of dissent with caution. A leader's departure may express genuine disagreement, but the public must also judge what follows.

Ruhullah should explain why surrendering his parliamentary seat serves the people who elected him. The NC, meanwhile, must account for the distance between its campaign commitments and its conduct in office.

November 3 will mark the end of Ruhullah's formal association with the National Conference. The more difficult reckoning will continue after he leaves.

Students will still seek clarity on reservation, legislators will still question their place within the party, and voters will still want answers about special status.

Kashmiris should not have to defend a party's history at the expense of questioning its present leadership. Nor should they have to accept dissent as proof of political courage without examining what the dissenter intends to do next.

A mandate gives politicians the authority to govern. It also gives the public the right to judge them.

Neither a party's electoral victory nor a leader's resignation can extinguish that right.

The author is a student examining the links between socio-economics, environmental issues, public policy, and education. He can be reached at arbazniyaz011@gmail.com.

A Dream Diminished

Kashmir's constitutional house has been repeatedly redesigned by its political leaders, while the people who believed in its original architecture have been left asking what remains.

Farooq Ahmad Khan

A primary school teacher once asked her pupils to draw their dream houses. One boy took an extra day to finish his drawing, which showed a spacious bungalow surrounded by an orchard, a vegetable garden and flower beds. It had a tennis court, a stable, a cowshed and a helipad. Separate garages held ordinary cars and vintage models.

The teacher admired the drawing but considered it impractical. She asked him to remove some features and submit a more realistic version for a better grade. The boy looked at his work and replied, "Madam, let me have my dream. You may keep the grade."

Jammu and Kashmir's political history reads like a long argument between that boy and his teacher. Generations of Kashmiris were asked to believe in a political future built around autonomy, distinct institutions and promises of self-government. Their leaders defended this vision, sometimes at enormous personal and public cost.

Then the terms changed, the original commitments weakened and the people were asked to accept another drawing.

The Delhi Agreement of July 1952 was one of the clearest expressions of that original vision. Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and his colleagues, including Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad, Mirza Mohammad Afzal Beg and Ghulam Mohammad Sadiq, negotiated the terms governing Jammu and Kashmir's relationship with the Indian Union. Accession covered defence, external affairs and communications, alongside specified ancillary matters. The discussions addressed citizenship, institutions and constitutional authority.

Jammu and Kashmir retained the designation of Prime Minister for its head of government, while its head of State became the elected Sadr-e-Riyasat, recognised by the President of India. These arrangements gave the region a distinct constitutional identity. They formed part of the political house that its leaders asked the public to defend.

The first major alteration came in August 1953, when Sheikh Abdullah was dismissed and arrested. Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad took over as Prime Minister. During his tenure, the Presidential Order of 1954 substantially extended the application of the Indian Constitution to Jammu and Kashmir. Article 370 remained in force, but the constitutional relationship it governed changed considerably.

Bakshi was succeeded briefly by Khwaja Shamsuddin and then by Ghulam Mohammad Sadiq. Under Sadiq, a constitutional amendment in 1965 replaced Prime Minister with Chief Minister and Sadr-e-Riyasat with Governor. Syed Mir Qasim subsequently headed the government. The original drawing had undergone another revision, with the region's distinctive institutions giving way to a closer administrative alignment with the Union.

Sheikh Abdullah and Afzal Beg resisted this political settlement for years. Their opposition kept alive the belief that the earlier constitutional arrangement could be recovered. The 1975 settlement, however, brought Sheikh Abdullah back to power as Chief Minister within a substantially altered framework.

Negotiated by Afzal Beg and G. Parthasarathi, the agreement retained Article 370 while limiting the scope for reviewing certain changes introduced since 1953. It did not restore the earlier position. Sheikh Abdullah accepted office within the revised arrangement, bringing an extraordinary political journey to a settlement far removed from the original vision.

I recall a cartoon by Bashir Ahmad Bashir in the Srinagar Times around that turning point. It showed the deceased Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad raising his head from his grave. The satire, as I understood it, questioned why Sheikh Abdullah had eventually accepted an accommodation resembling the political arrangement for which his predecessors had faced condemnation.

The cartoon captured a question that Kashmir's political leadership has repeatedly struggled to answer. When a compromise becomes acceptable after years of opposition, leaders owe the public a clear account of what changed. Circumstances can compel difficult decisions, and political settlements can prevent further suffering. But the people who endured confrontation and uncertainty have a right to know what their sacrifices achieved and what was surrendered in return.

The succession within the Abdullah family adds another dimension to this problem. Sheikh Abdullah was followed by his son Farooq Abdullah, and his grandson Omar Abdullah later became Chief Minister. A movement sustained by collective political aspirations must remain open to scrutiny when leadership passes through generations of the same family.

Dynastic politics, however, does not explain the whole history. Ghulam Mohammad Shah, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, Ghulam Nabi Azad and Mehbooba Mufti also headed governments. Periods of direct central rule further interrupted elected government. Accountability must therefore extend to the wider political class, including those who governed under arrangements they had previously opposed.

The greatest alteration came in 2019. The Union government dismantled Jammu and Kashmir's special constitutional arrangement under Article 370, ended the operation of Article 35A and divided the former State into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The region lost statehood, along with the constitutional position that had distinguished it from other States.

The responsibility for those decisions rests with the Union government. Regional leaders, however, remain answerable for their own promises and choices in the years that followed.

Omar Abdullah initially declared that he would not contest Assembly elections while Jammu and Kashmir remained a Union Territory. He subsequently contested and became Chief Minister under that very arrangement. His argument that participation could help secure the restoration of statehood merits consideration. The reversal also invites public scrutiny, particularly when the office he accepted holds fewer constitutional powers than the one Kashmir once possessed.

The test lies in what such participation achieves. Does it help recover statehood and strengthen elected government, or does the administration of a diminished arrangement gradually become an end in itself? Political office can provide a platform for change, but the public needs evidence of progress rather than another promise of a better drawing.

The schoolboy was willing to surrender his grade to preserve his dream. Kashmiri people have spent decades watching their political house change hands, lose rooms and acquire new boundaries. Leaders have the freedom to revise their strategies, but they cannot treat public faith as an inexhaustible resource.

A political dream belongs to the people who invest their hopes in it. Its architects may change their plans, but they owe an honest account of the changes. Kashmiris have heard successive explanations for why the original design could not survive. They are entitled to judge the results.

The boy understood what the teacher had missed. A realistic drawing has little value if it leaves its owner with a future he never chose.

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

Kashmir Must Remember Itself

As the valley changes, its language, literature, crafts and local histories need a place in the lives of younger generations. Preserving them begins with what families and communities do today.

Mohammad Arfat Wani

Kashmir is changing. New buildings are coming up, young people are pursuing higher education, and technology has changed how we live.

These changes are natural. People want better opportunities and a different future. But as we move ahead, we should also pay attention to what we are leaving behind.

Much of Kashmir's heritage lives in the language spoken at home, the stories told by grandparents, the books written by local poets and the skills of artisans who have spent years perfecting their craft. We may take these things for granted today, but future generations may know them only through photographs and old accounts.

Our elders have a great deal to tell us about the Kashmir they grew up in. They remember what people ate, how families spent their time, how festivals and weddings were celebrated and how communities lived.

These stories give us a glimpse of a past we never experienced. We should make time to listen, ask questions and learn from their memories while they are still here to share them.

Language is a good place to begin.

Many families still speak Kashmiri at home, but some young people feel more comfortable using English or Urdu. There is nothing wrong with learning other languages. They help us in education and work. But our mother tongue also needs attention.

We should feel comfortable speaking Kashmiri with friends, in public and at home. Some older words and expressions are already unfamiliar to younger people. Rather than dismissing them, we can ask elders what they mean and learn the stories behind them.

Such words tell us how previous generations understood their surroundings, relationships and everyday lives.

Our traditional crafts need similar attention.

Kashmir is known for its carpets, papier-mâché products and beautiful woodwork. Behind these products are artisans who spend years learning and perfecting their skills. We often admire their finished work without thinking about the time and effort involved.

These crafts also provide livelihoods.

Artisans have families to support, and their children want good education and better employment opportunities. When they see little financial future in traditional work, they may choose other careers. Their decision is understandable.

We cannot expect young people to continue these skills simply because they are part of our heritage. Supporting local artisans, buying their products and helping their work find customers can give these crafts a better chance of surviving.

Kashmir's literature also needs a place in the lives of young people. We have a rich tradition of poetry and writing, but how many students regularly read books in Kashmiri?

Some may be interested but have no idea which writers to begin with. Schools and colleges can help by introducing students to Kashmiri books, organising reading activities and discussing local writers. A little exposure can encourage a student to explore a language and its literature.

The history of our own neighbourhoods needs attention too.

We study different subjects in schools and colleges, but often know very little about the places where we live. Old buildings, local stories and people who remember earlier times can teach us about our surroundings.

Students can speak to elders, document their accounts and learn about the history of their villages and towns.

Such learning need not remain confined to textbooks.

Social media has made this work easier. A young person can share a Kashmiri poem, explain an old word, introduce a local writer or show how a traditional product is made.

These posts can reach people who have never had the chance to learn about such things. The important part is to understand the subject before sharing information about it. Cultural knowledge should be presented with care and accuracy.

At the same time, preserving our heritage should never mean asking young people to live like their grandparents. Their circumstances are different.

Students want to complete their education, find good jobs and build independent lives. They should have the freedom to pursue those goals. Culture must grow with society, and people should be able to embrace new ideas without losing their connection to their roots.

Keeping Kashmir's heritage alive does not depend on one person or organisation. Families can speak Kashmiri at home. Teachers can introduce students to local literature and history. Young people can ask questions, read books and document old traditions. Consumers can support artisans by buying locally made products.

Many of these steps cost little and can begin immediately.

We may lose some customs as society changes. That is natural. But losing a language, forgetting our writers or allowing traditional skills to disappear because we never took an interest in them would be a different kind of loss.

Kashmir's future generations should know more about their homeland than its mountains, gardens and lakes. They should know its people, the words they speak, the stories they tell, the books they write and the skills they pass down.

That knowledge begins at home, in classrooms and in the communities where we live.

The Kashmir we leave behind will depend partly on what we choose to teach our children today.

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The X-Ray That Changed Kashmir

From the Neve brothers' missionary hospitals to National Hospital's landmark installation in 1948, local medical history holds the story of an extraordinary transition.

Syed Nissar H. Gilani

In 1948, a new X-ray machine was inaugurated at National Hospital in Srinagar.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's Prime Minister, and Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, then Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, attended the occasion alongside the doctors who had established the hospital.

The machine was a modest piece of equipment by today's standards, but its arrival marked an important moment in the history of medical care in the valley.

For the first time, a new generation of Kashmiri physicians was helping build private healthcare around a technology that allowed doctors to examine the human body without surgery.

A photograph from that day frames the gathering.

Among the people standing alongside the two political leaders and the pioneering doctors was my father, Dr. S. M. Amin Gilani. His presence in the photograph connects a family history of medical service with a larger chapter in Kashmir's healthcare history.

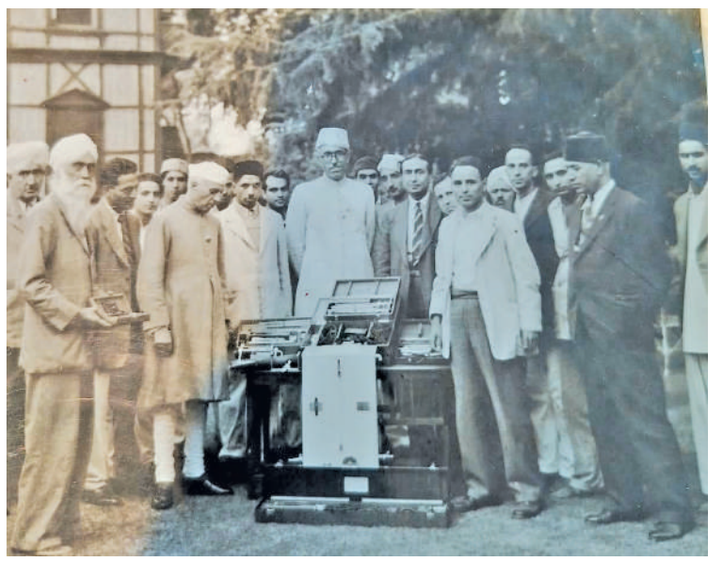
Decades later, when I shared this rare photograph with a concerned agency of the Government of India, its historical significance was acknowledged through a certificate of honour and a cash award.

The story behind that machine, however, began much earlier and far beyond Kashmir.

On a November evening in 1895, German physicist Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen discovered a previously unknown form of radiation that could pass through solid objects. He demonstrated its extraordinary potential by producing an image of his wife's hand on a photographic plate, revealing the bones beneath her skin.

Medical science had acquired an entirely new way of examining the human body. Doctors could now investigate internal injuries without making an incision.

India was among the early adopters.



Within two years of Röntgen's announcement, portable X-ray equipment had been deployed during military operations along the North-West Frontier.

By 1900, the Government General Hospital in Madras, now Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital in Chennai, had installed the country's first formal civilian hospital X-ray plant.

The facility began in two rooms in the surgical wing, introducing a technology that would gradually change medical practice throughout the subcontinent.

Kashmir's introduction to modern diagnostic medicine followed a different path.

During the late nineteenth century, organised medical infrastructure in the valley remained limited, and generations of residents had relied on traditional systems of healing.

The arrival of Christian medical missionaries began changing this situation, particularly through the work of the Church Missionary Society and two physicians whose names became closely associated with the development of modern healthcare in Kashmir: Dr. Arthur Neve and his brother, Dr. Ernest F. Neve.

The brothers came to Kashmir in the 1880s, facing geographical isolation, difficult working conditions and considerable social scepticism.

Their first medical centre was established in Rainawari, in downtown Srinagar. The facility treated thousands of poor patients suffering from cholera, tuberculosis and severe infections. Its importance extended beyond the treatment rooms.

At a time when access to organised medical care remained limited, the centre brought clinical medicine closer to people who had few alternatives.

The Neve brothers subsequently established the CMS Mission Hospital at the foot of Rustum Gaddi hill in Drugjan, Srinagar.

By 1919, the hospital had acquired Kashmir's first diagnostic X-ray apparatus. The development brought a new dimension to medical examination in the valley, allowing physicians to investigate injuries and internal conditions through imaging.

North Kashmir had its own missionary institution. St. Joseph's Mission Hospital in Baramulla, guided by the Mill Hill Missionaries, provided surgical treatment and diagnostic imaging to residents of the region.

Together, these hospitals helped establish scientific medicine in parts of Kashmir where organised healthcare had previously been scarce. They also trained local health workers and encouraged Kashmiri young people to enter the medical profession.

The next chapter belonged increasingly to local physicians.

After 1947, Kashmiri doctors began building private medical institutions that could meet the needs of a growing population.

National Hospital, established in Srinagar in 1948 by a group of experienced physicians, including Dr. Balwant Singh and Dr. Peshin, became an important expression of this ambition.

Its X-ray machine signalled that local doctors were prepared to introduce modern diagnostic facilities within Kashmir rather than leave patients dependent on distant institutions.

The presence of Nehru and Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah at its inauguration gave the occasion added historical significance, while the photograph from that day captured the contribution of the physicians who had made the institution possible.

The technology itself has changed almost beyond recognition since then. Early X-ray examinations depended on photographic film plates, which technicians processed manually in darkrooms. Digital Radiography later made imaging faster and more efficient.

Specialised fluoroscopy suites expanded the range of diagnostic procedures, while ultrasound and computed tomography introduced new ways of examining internal organs and tissues.

Today, Kashmir has access to diagnostic technologies that would have been difficult to imagine when National Hospital installed its first X-ray machine. Advanced Positron Emission Tomography and CT facilities, ultra-fast multi-slice CT scanners and high-field Magnetic Resonance Imaging systems are available at institutions such as SKIMS and SMHS Hospital, as well as at modern private diagnostic centres.

The change has practical consequences for patients and their families.

People who once had to travel to Delhi or Mumbai for specialised diagnostic examinations can now access sophisticated imaging within the valley.

Such journeys involved additional expense, time away from home and the difficulties of seeking medical attention far from familiar surroundings. Local access has brought advanced diagnostic services closer to patients and their doctors.

The distance between the two-room X-ray installation in Madras in 1900, the missionary hospitals of Srinagar and Baramulla, and the imaging centres of present-day Kashmir is considerable. But the history connecting them is also a history of people who recognised the value of scientific medicine and worked to make it accessible.

That photograph from National Hospital in 1948 remains especially significant to me because it captures a moment when global scientific discovery, missionary medical work and local professional initiative met in Srinagar.

The machine inaugurated that day belonged to an earlier age of diagnostic medicine, but its legacy lives on in the scanners and imaging systems now used to examine patients throughout Kashmir.

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THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE TWO-ROOM X-RAY INSTALLATION IN MADRAS IN 1900, THE MISSIONARY HOSPITALS OF SRINAGAR AND BARAMULLA, and the imaging centres of present-day Kashmir is considerable. But the history connecting them is also a history of people who recognised the value of scientific medicine and worked to make it accessible.

What the Stones Remember

Ancient tools, burials and cave paintings reveal the social lives, shared knowledge and cultural imagination of prehistoric communities in South Asia.

Muskan Shafi Malik

The first evidence of human society in South Asia comes from broken stones, animal bones, ash deposits and ornaments fashioned from shells.

These objects have survived thousands of generations, while the people who made them have disappeared without leaving their names.

Their homes, beliefs, family relationships and spoken languages remain largely beyond our reach.

Still, the material they left behind tells us something important: prehistoric life was built around cooperation, shared knowledge and an emerging sense of community.

A stone flake can reveal more than the sharp edge of a tool. Its shape, the marks left by its maker and its position among other objects can help archaeologists reconstruct how people worked, learned and organised their lives.

Refitted flakes, for instance, reveal the sequence through which a stone core was reduced. They can also show how an experienced knapper demonstrated the process to someone still learning.

The evidence becomes stronger when read alongside animal bones, hearths and the arrangement of domestic spaces.

Large animal carcasses found at prehistoric camps suggest that hunters sometimes brought substantial portions of their kills back to shared living spaces. Moving such heavy remains involved collective labour. Their distribution also points to food sharing and delayed consumption.

Archaeology can establish these practices with reasonable confidence, although it cannot tell us precisely which family members received particular portions or what rules governed distribution.

The difference becomes clearer during the Mesolithic Age, when communities in parts of the subcontinent began returning repeatedly to resource-rich locations.

At Bagor in Rajasthan, concentrations of microliths, charred animal remains and stone-paved living floors indicate organised domestic spaces and sustained communal activity.

The site suggests a form of settlement life that differed from the wider movements associated with earlier Paleolithic groups.

At Sarai Nahar Rai in the Ganga plains, deliberate burials reveal another dimension of this social change.

People were placed in shallow graves with animal bones and microlithic objects.

Such arrangements suggest that the dead retained a place within the social world of the living.

Burial practices also point towards shared customs, emerging group identities and a stronger attachment to particular territories.

The presence of grave offerings indicates deliberate choices about how individuals were remembered, even if the beliefs behind those choices remain unknown.

The persistence of stoneworking traditions provides another window into prehistoric social organisation.

Acheulean biface production and prepared-core Levallois techniques continued through numerous generations. Their survival depended on people preserving and transmitting technical knowledge.

Similar reduction sequences, consistent workmanship and the movement of high-quality raw materials over dozens of kilometres indicate established networks of learning and exchange.

The stones reveal the continuity of instruction, although they cannot establish how people communicated it. An apprentice might have learned through watching, imitation, gestures or spoken language. The archaeological record cannot settle that question.

Cultural theorists, including V. Gordon Childe in Man Makes Himself

and later scholars Robert Boyd and Peter Richerson, have emphasised the importance of cumulative culture in human evolution.

Humans adapted by learning from earlier discoveries and passing that knowledge on to future generations. As a result, people could continue making and using tools even after their inventors had died.

This ability to share knowledge went beyond the needs of survival. Prehistoric people also began changing natural materials to express ideas and create objects that served purposes beyond everyday use.

At Blombos Cave in South Africa, archaeologists discovered cross-hatched ochre plaques and pierced Nassarius kraussianus shells dating to roughly 75,000 to 100,000 years ago. Investigators Christopher Henshilwood and Francesco d'Errico have argued that these objects provide important evidence of symbolic behaviour. They suggest that people could attach shared meanings to physical objects and preserve those meanings beyond the immediate moment of creation.

South Asia, too, has evidence of this early symbolic culture.

At Patne in Maharashtra, fragments of ostrich eggshells with holes and geometric patterns show careful craftsmanship. Ochre-stained tools and shell beads found at sites such as Jwalapuram and Kurnool provide further signs that prehistoric people were beginning to use objects for purposes beyond everyday needs.

A pierced bead might have indicated group membership, personal preference, gender or ritual protection. Its precise meaning remains beyond archaeological certainty.

What survives is the evidence of deliberate design, specialised workmanship and the use of objects whose value extended beyond their practical function.

Rock art takes this expression further.

At Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh, hundreds of sandstone shelters preserve paintings from the Upper Paleolithic, Mesolithic and historic periods. Artists used mineral pigments, including haematite for red and kaolin for white, mixed with organic binding materials. Some paintings overlap, revealing repeated visits and changing artistic practices.

Mesolithic scenes depict group dances, pregnant animals and human figures engaged in energetic activities.

These images provide an extraordinary record of prehistoric imagination and social life. However, a painted animal cannot automatically be interpreted as evidence of a successful hunt, just as a masked human figure does not independently establish a shamanic ceremony. Their meanings remain open to interpretation.

Children were also part of this world of shared knowledge.

Juvenile burials at Mesolithic sites in the Ganga plains, sometimes accompanied by grave offerings, indicate that young members of the community occupied a recognised place within social life.

Differences in the workmanship of stone tools provide further clues about learning.

Clumsily struck cores found alongside carefully finished blades suggest that people acquired technical skills through observation, imitation and repeated practice.

Small tools, however, cannot automatically be identified as children's toys or products. Some may have served specialised functions or been made by adults.

The broader evidence still points towards an intergenerational system in which practical knowledge passed between experienced and inexperienced members of a community.

Environmental change tested these social arrangements.

The Toba super-eruption around 74,000 years ago produced widespread volcanic ash and raised questions about its effects on prehistoric populations.

At Dhaba in the Middle Son Valley, continuous stone-tool sequences indicate that human groups persisted through the ash horizon without a major technological disruption.

That evidence does not establish a uniform experience throughout South Asia. River valleys such as the Son could provide favourable conditions, while exposed coastal areas and arid margins faced different pressures on food and other resources.

Some communities adapted, others experienced population changes, and some may have moved elsewhere. The subcontinent's prehistoric populations followed different paths according to their local environments.

The warmer and more humid conditions that followed the Last Glacial Maximum brought further changes.

Communities developed versatile microlithic technologies, fixing small geometric blades into composite tools such as sickles, harpoons and projectile weapons. Animal remains indicate wider use of small game, waterfowl and aquatic resources. Stone querns and grinding slabs point towards systematic processing of wild plants and seeds.

Settlement also changed, as groups began returning more frequently to lakes, river terraces and oxbow environments where food resources were concentrated. Burials, personal ornaments and animal offerings appeared within these occupied landscapes, suggesting stronger territorial attachments and shared identities.

The chronology, however, remains disputed.

Microlithic production at Dhaba dates to roughly 48,000 years ago, much earlier than the conventional beginning of the Mesolithic. The presence of small stone tools alone, therefore, cannot define the period.

Sites such as Bagor, Chopani Mando and Sarai Nahar Rai demonstrate that the transition involved changes in technology, food gathering, settlement and burial practices.

Prehistoric South Asia had no single path towards settled life. Older techniques survived alongside new inventions, while communities adapted to different landscapes at different times.

The broken stone, the painted shelter and the carefully prepared grave reveal a past in which human survival depended on learning from others, maintaining social bonds and finding new ways to live with a changing environment.

The most revealing evidence may lie in the space between the objects themselves.

A stone tool records the work of a hand, but its continued use records the knowledge of a community. A burial preserves the position of a body, but its arrangement hints at the relationships that outlasted it.

Long before written history gave people a voice, their material world had begun to record how they lived together.

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SRINAGAR | SUNDAY | 01.11.2026

Wedding Bells

a small family gathering in Srinagar. The celebrations were attended by Abdullah's parents, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and Mollie Abdullah, along with his three sisters and other close relatives.

Razdan's parents, veteran journalist M K Razdan and Sarla Razdan, were also present, according to topeople familiar with the development. The couple shared photographs from the celebrations on social media on Saturday.

At least 18 NC legislators, along with an Independent legislator supporting the government, reportedly held a closed-door meeting at the Srinagar residence of Lolab MLA Qaiser Jamsheed Lone on Friday to discuss the reshuffle and the functioning of the government.

Other reports put the number of legislators involved at 19, with some participants joining the deliberations remotely. The meeting reportedly lasted several hours and resulted in the preparation of a memorandum outlining their demands.

The legislators reportedly sought a comprehensive restructuring of the Cabinet, including the replacement of ministers who have completed two years in office. They also demanded the removal of Chief Minister's Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani and raised concerns over alleged interference in party affairs and administrative decision-making.

The memorandum reportedly called for greater internal democracy, empowerment of legislators, balanced regional representation and time-bound implementation of the party's 2024 Assembly election manifesto.

The legislators also sought renewed efforts towards restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and Article 370.

A second marriage for both

For both Abdullah and Razdan, the marriage marks a new chapter following the end of their previous marriages.

Abdullah married Payal Nath in 1994. The couple have two sons, Zahir and Zamir, and have been living separately since 2009. Abdullah had announced their separation in 2011.

On July 31, 2026, the Supreme Court agreed to dissolve their marriage after both parties informed the court that they had reached a mutual settlement and agreed to withdraw pending cases against each other.

The matter had reached the apex court after Abdullah challenged a Delhi High Court decision refusing to grant him a divorce. During the proceedings, the couple jointly sought dissolution of their marriage by mutual consent under Article 142 of the Constitution. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Abdullah, informed the court that the differences had been settled.

Razdan was previously married to journalist and author Neelesh Misra. They married in 2005, and their marriage subsequently ended in divorce, according to media reports.

Razdan is a senior journalist and former NDTV news anchor known for her coverage of national politics and current affairs.

NC's Internal

2024 election manifesto.

Party Leadership Dismisses Reports Of Rebellion

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters in Srinagar, Mir said a recent gathering of NC legislators at the residence of Lolab MLA Qaiser Jamsheed Lone was merely a friendly meeting ahead of the Darbar Move and had been wrongly portrayed as an attempt to challenge the party leadership.

He said some legislators had gathered over lunch and discussed the prevailing political situation before deciding to nominate senior colleagues to convey their concerns to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

"One of our legislators invited colleagues to his residence for lunch and discussions on the prevailing situation. Some MLAs attended and exchanged views before deciding to nominate senior colleagues to convey their concerns to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. There was no rebellion," Mir said.

Dismissing reports about the number of legislators who attended the meeting, he said figures being circulated on social media were speculative.

Mir maintained that legislators had the right to discuss party matters and raise concerns before the leadership, adding that differences of opinion were natural in a democratic organisation.

"The National Conference is a disciplined organisation, and whatever concerns exist will be resolved internally," he said.

He also rejected reports that MLAs were planning to pass a resolution against party decisions, asserting that there was no rift, fighting or dispute within the organisation.

Minister Says NC Leadership, Legislators United

Separately, Minister Javed Ahmed Dar also dismissed reports of internal divisions, saying the party leadership and legislators remained united.

Speaking to reporters in Jammu, Dar said recent gatherings at the residences of party colleagues had been unnecessarily portrayed as secret meetings aimed at splitting the organisation.

"Before the Cabinet expansion, some colleagues visited my residence for tea and discussions on party matters. However, reports later emerged claiming that a secret meeting was taking place. Similarly, a gathering at Nasir Sahib's residence was portrayed as an attempt to break the party. There is absolutely no truth in these claims," he said.

Dar said he had personally spoken to several MLAs and senior party colleagues and maintained that no move to divide the party was underway.

"Differences of opinion can exist in a large democratic party, but such matters are discussed with the leadership and resolved through consensus," he said.

On the Cabinet expansion, the minister expressed optimism that the induction of additional ministers would improve accessibility, coordination and public outreach.

"Earlier, there were five members, but now the number has increased to nine. This will help improve accessibility and enable us to serve people more effectively," he said.

Dar On Aga Ruhullah's Possible Exit

Commenting on MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi's announcement regarding his possible departure from the party on November 3, Dar said the MP appeared to have made up his mind.

"From day one, he has been criticising the National Conference leadership. If he wanted reconciliation, he could have allowed space for dialogue. His repeated criticism indicates that he has decided to leave," Dar said.

However, he maintained that several party colleagues remained in contact with Ruhullah and efforts were continuing to persuade him.

"The party has made every possible effort. Many of our colleagues are still in touch with him, but when someone has already made up his mind, it becomes difficult to change that decision," he added.

Independent MLA Reaffirms Support For Omar

Meanwhile, Independent MLA from Inderwal Pyare Lal Sharma distanced himself from reports of closed-door meetings involving disgruntled NC legislators and some independent lawmakers, reiterating his support for the National Conference and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Sharma said he had neither participated in any secret meeting nor would he be part of one, adding that he would continue to support the Chief Minister and the party.

His statement comes amid reports of discontent among some NC legislators over their exclusion from the Council of Ministers.

Mubarak Gul To Break Silence On November 4

Adding another dimension to the developments within the party, senior NC leader Mubarak Gul on Saturday announced that he would address a press conference on November 4 and reveal details about what was happening within the organisation.

Speaking to the news agency Kashmir News Trust (KNT), Gul said he had maintained silence so far but would disclose everything when he addressed the media.

His announcement comes amid uncertainty over the post of party General Secretary.

On October 27, NC president Farooq Abdullah appointed Gul as General Secretary after Ali Mohammad Sagar was inducted into the Omar Abdullah-led Council of Ministers.

However, on October 30, the party issued a fresh order directing Sagar to continue as General Secretary until further orders, raising questions about the status of Gul's appointment.

Clarifying the issue, Mir said Sagar's continuation was a temporary arrangement necessitated by the local body elections in Kargil.

He said Farooq Abdullah had earlier nominated Gul for the post, but Gul had sought time to consult party workers. With local body elections announced in Kargil, the party required an authorised signatory for Forms A and B, prompting the leadership to allow Sagar to continue until further orders.

"The decision was taken solely to ensure that nomination-related documents could be issued without delay," Mir said.

He also rejected doubts over the authenticity of Farooq Abdullah's signature on the order, saying the directive had been issued by the party president and transmitted electronically.

Mir added that the NC had reached an understanding with the Islamic School of Kargil for the upcoming local body elections and would contest all 17 seats under the party banner.

Cabinet Expansion And Lingering Discontent

The latest developments follow the Cabinet reshuffle-cum-expansion, which has reportedly triggered dissatisfaction among a section of NC legislators who were left out of the Council of Ministers.

At a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Dachigam on June 3, several legislators had questioned the functioning of Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and ministers Javid Rana and Satish Sharma.

While Satish Sharma was dropped in the recent reshuffle, Javid Rana's role was curtailed after several key portfolios were taken away from him. The Deputy Chief Minister, however, retained the Roads and Buildings and Industries and Commerce departments.

The reported memorandum prepared by 18 legislators also seeks the removal of Chief Minister's Adviser Nasir Aslam Wani and ministers who have completed two years in office, besides demanding a comprehensive restructuring of the Cabinet.

The legislators have also called for intensified political efforts for the restoration of statehood and Article 370, along with time-bound implementation of the National Conference's 2024 election manifesto.

The memorandum was reportedly drafted during a meeting at Qaiser Jamsheed Lone's residence on Friday afternoon and submitted to the party leadership.

While the party leadership has maintained that differences are part of internal democratic functioning and will be addressed through established channels, Mubarak Gul's proposed press conference on November 4 is expected to bring further clarity to the organisational developments.

HC Quashes

was no urgency to detain the petitioner," the court observed.

The petitioner, the court noted, had earlier been detained under the PSA in February 2021, but the detention order was quashed by the High Court on August 4, 2023.

While passing the fresh detention order, the authorities relied upon Patrol Book reports dated September 27, 2024 and March 1, 2025, and a Beat Book report dated April 30, 2025, claiming that the petitioner had again indulged in activities prejudicial to the security of the State.

However, upon examining the reports, the court found them vague and contradictory, observing that such material could not have been relied upon by the detaining authority to justify preventive detention.

The court held that there was, in fact, no material before the detaining authority to record its satisfaction that Sheikh had indulged in activities prejudicial to the maintenance of the security of the State.

Another significant ground that weighed with the court was the delay in deciding the representation submitted by the man's mother seeking revocation of his detention.

"This unexplained slackness on the part of respondents to take a decision on the representation of the petitioner renders the impugned order of detention illegal."

J&K Begins

strength, contractual employees, scheme-wise trends in revenue and capital expenditure, revenue receipts over the last five years, details of major projects, liabilities of ongoing projects and key features of the proposed budget.(KNO)

Every Accusation

the Court observed that submitting an application before a competent statutory authority, by itself, does not constitute criminal defamation. Referring to the Eighth Exception to Section 499 RPC, the Court held that an accusation preferred in good faith before an authority having lawful jurisdiction over the subject matter is protected under the law.

"The law does not equate every adverse allegation with a defamatory offence," the Court observed, emphasising that the nature of the forum approached, the purpose of the accusation and the circumstances in which it was made must be considered.

The Court also noted that Kamal Saini had earlier instituted criminal proceedings against Pritam Singh in March 2017 over alleged defamatory publications in his newspaper and had simultaneously filed a civil suit seeking damages of Rs 15 crore.

Observing that the subsequent complaint appeared to have emerged from the continuing dispute between the parties, the Court said the chronology of events lent credence to Kamal Saini's contention that the complaint was a counterblast to the earlier proceedings.

The Court further observed that the allegation regarding circulation of copies of the application among the complainant's relatives and friends was unsupported by any cogent or tangible material.

The court held that the cumulative circumstances, coupled with the absence of a sustainable foundation for the alleged offence, warranted the exercise of the High Court's inherent jurisdiction to prevent abuse of the process of law.

"Criminal law cannot be permitted to become a means of penalising a person merely for approaching a statutory authority with a grievance," the Court observed and accordingly quashed the criminal complaint titled Pritam Singh Saini v. Kamal Saini before a Jammu court.

We Did Not Buy

the abrogation of Article 370 had given ordinary citizens freedom from fear and access to rights that had been denied to them for decades.

"Jammu Kashmir has emerged as a model of peace, development and good governance," he said.

He also said the administration's action against narco-terrorism was continuing, adding that thousands of drug smugglers and peddlers had been arrested during the current year.

Their illicit assets had been attached and properties allegedly funded through drug money demolished, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor further alleged that those who had profited from separatism and terrorism had been exposed, while people in Jammu and Kashmir had embraced peace, progress and national integration.

Referring to the political and institutional changes since 2019, Sinha said the implementation of grassroots democratic institutions and the conduct of Assembly elections had strengthened public participation and accountability.

"Today is not merely a date; it is a milestone that changed the direction of history and strengthened the spirit of national integration, equality and inclusive development," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the future of Jammu and Kashmir should be shaped by peace, equal opportunities and development rather than terrorism and discrimination.

"The future of Jammu and Kashmir lies not in the shadow of terror, but in the light of peace; not behind the walls of discrimination, but in equal opportunities; and not in stagnation, but in the momentum of progress," he said.

Calling for greater public participation in governance, Sinha said unity could be sustained through justice, accountability and public trust.

"Public trust must be won not merely by promises, but by deeds. Justice and accountability are the strongest foundations of unity," he said.

He urged institutions and citizens to work collectively towards good governance, compassion and inclusive development, ensuring that the benefits of growth reached every household, village and community.

Highlighting the changing aspirations of the younger generation, Sinha said children and youth were increasingly growing up in an environment focused on education, opportunities and progress.

He said employment generation, youth empowerment, strengthening agriculture and allied sectors, healthcare, education, environmental sustainability, tourism, women's empowerment and transparent governance would remain among the administration's key priorities.

He also stressed the need to equip young people with skills relevant to the changing global economy and encouraged greater participation in entrepreneurship, innovation and sports.

The Lieutenant Governor called for sustained efforts to strengthen agriculture through modern technology, climate-resilient practices and value addition, while emphasising the importance of accessible healthcare and quality education.

He also called for harmony and respect for diversity, saying the safe and dignified return of displaced communities and the restoration of social trust required collective commitment and cooperation.

Sharing his vision for the region, Sinha said he wanted Jammu and Kashmir to emerge as a model of prosperity by 2047, with a modern economy, world-class healthcare, excellent education and a vibrant cultural heritage.

"My dream is that by 2047, Jammu Kashmir should emerge as a model of prosperity with a modern economy, world-class healthcare, excellent education and a vibrant cultural heritage," he said.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor administered the Unity Pledge and flagged off the Run for Unity to mark Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, observed on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

A documentary film prepared by the Information Department on Jammu and Kashmir's transformational journey was also screened during the event.

Chairperson of the J&K Waqf Board Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, Additional Chief Secretary Home Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor Govind Jaiswal, IGP Kashmir Sujit Singh and Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg were among those present.

Senior officers of the police, security forces and civil administration, prominent citizens, heads of educational institutions, members of civil society and youth also attended the event.

LG Flags Off

students, youth, government officials and representatives of various institutions.

On the occasion, Sinha administered the Unity Pledge to participants, who reaffirmed their commitment to national unity, integrity and security.

Speaking to reporters, the Lieutenant Governor said National Unity Day was being celebrated with enthusiasm across the country, with events organised in all districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Today is the eighth Foundation Day of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The journey over the past eight years has been marked by development, peace and progress," he said.

Sinha also extended greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of the UT Foundation Day.

Earlier, at Lok Bhavan, the Lieutenant Governor administered the Unity Pledge to officials, staff and security personnel and paid tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 151st birth anniversary.

In a post on X, Sinha said he had administered the pledge and paid tributes to Patel, popularly known as the Iron Man of India.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is observed on October 31 every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and recognise his contribution to national integration.

Cybercrime Among

Singh extended greetings to the people on National Unity Day and called for collective efforts to uphold the unity and integrity of the country.

Jammu Readies

preparations had gathered pace, with renovation and allied works underway both inside and outside the Civil Secretariat. Arrangements were also being finalised to provide residential accommodation to employees shifting from Srinagar.

Repairs and maintenance of government buildings, offices and residential quarters are being undertaken to ensure that employees do not face inconvenience upon their arrival.

Several roads and bridges, particularly those damaged during the monsoon rains, are being restored through macadamisation and repair works. Footpaths are being cleaned, debris removed, and road dividers and roadside structures painted as part of the beautification drive.

Security arrangements have also been strengthened across Jammu ahead of the government's return.

Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Tejinder Singh, chaired a high-level security review meeting on October 24 to finalise security and coordination arrangements for the Durbar Move.

Adequate deployment of police and paramilitary personnel has been ensured around the Civil Secretariat, Raj Bhawan and residential areas earmarked for government employees. Security has also been stepped up along vital roads, including the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

To facilitate the smooth movement of employee convoys, restrictions have been imposed on heavy and medium goods vehicles along the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway (NH-44) on October 31 and November 1.

According to the traffic advisory, no movement of goods carriers from Jakheni in Udhampur towards Srinagar will be allowed on these two days.

Similarly, goods carriers will not be permitted to proceed from Jakheni towards Ramban, Banihal and Srinagar, or from Qazigund towards Banihal, Ramban and Udhampur after 2 am on October 31 and November 1.

However, heavy motor vehicles travelling from Qazigund towards Jammu will be allowed in a regulated manner. Operators carrying fresh and perishable goods and livestock have been advised to plan their journeys accordingly.

The government has also shortened the transition period, with offices scheduled to reopen in Jammu on Monday. Earlier, employees were generally given about a week's holiday to facilitate the shifting of offices, files and other official material. With government records now digitised and managed through the e-office system, the physical transportation of files is no longer required.

The Durbar Move is a 154-year-old administrative tradition initiated by Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1872, under which the government shifts between Srinagar and Jammu to provide administrative access to both regions during different seasons.

The practice continued after Independence but was discontinued in 2021 during the Lieutenant Governor's administration, with the government citing the transition to e-governance and annual savings of around Rs 200 crore.

The decision had drawn criticism, particularly from sections of the Jammu business community, which viewed the practice as an important economic and emotional link between the two regions.

The Omar Abdullah-led National Conference government restored the Durbar Move in October 2025, fulfilling an election promise.

Under the arrangement, the government functions from Jammu during the six winter months and returns to Srinagar for the summer.

12 IAS, IPS,

has been assigned the additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, till further orders.

Anil Kumar Singh, IAS (AGMUT: 1995), Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Public Works (R&B) Department, will also hold the additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Power Development Department.

Vikramjit Singh, IPS (AGMUT: 2004), Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Industries and Commerce Department, has been assigned the additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Mining Department.

Mir Tariq Ali, IAS (AGMUT: 2010), Director General, Women and Child Development, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Secretary, Civil Aviation Department.

Mohammad Akbar Wani, IAS (AGMUT: 2013), Director, Social Welfare, Kashmir, has been transferred and posted as Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department.

Leena Padha, IAS, Registrar, Cooperative Societies, J&K, has been assigned the additional charge of Mission Director, Skill Development Mission, besides her own duties.

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Six JKAS Officers Also Transferred

In a separate Government Order No. 1719-JK(GAD) of 2026, six JKAS officers have also been transferred and posted to different positions.

Khalid Majeed, Special Secretary to the Government, School Education Department, has been transferred and posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Baramulla, against an available vacancy.

Udham Dass, Additional Secretary in the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat, has been posted as Joint Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, replacing Satish Kumar, JKAS, who will await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department.

Mohd Raiyaz, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Karnah-Tangdhar, has been transferred and directed to await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department.

Dr Amit Kumar, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Padder, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Marh, relieving Mukhter Ahmad, JKAS, of the additional charge.

Daljeet Singh, Tehsildar, Sunderbani, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Padder.

Firdous Ahmad Qadri, Tehsildar, Bandipora, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Karnah-Tangdhar.

Both orders were issued by the General Administration Department on October 31, 2026, and signed by Commissioner/Secretary to the Government M. Raju, IAS.

Article 370 Abrogation

is its strength and reflected the message of national unity associated with Sardar Patel.

Referring to the government's fight against Naxalism, Shah said India has moved beyond the shadow of Naxalism on March 31 this year and was now moving towards becoming a drug-free nation.

He said collective efforts are needed to protect the country's youth from drugs and build a stronger and more prosperous India.(KNO)

Ashutosh Dixit Takes

to strengthen the force's operational capabilities. He also stressed professionalism, accountability and initiative among air warriors.

Dixit, an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, was commissioned into the Fighter Stream of the IAF on December 6, 1986.

With four decades of service, he brings extensive experience in fighter operations, flight testing, capability development and joint staff assignments. An accomplished fighter pilot, Qualified Flying Instructor and Experimental Test Pilot, he has logged over 3,300 hours of flying on aircraft including the Mirage-2000, MiG variants, Jaguar and transport aircraft.

He played a key role in the IAF's modernisation, including the Jaguar and MiG-27 upgrade projects, and contributed to the Initial and Final Operational Clearance activities of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk-I Tejas.

His operational assignments include command of a Mirage-2000 squadron, a Forward Base Support Unit in the Western Sector and Air Force Station Bidar, a key fighter training base.

Dixit also served as Air Defence Commander at Southern Air Command, Senior Air Staff Officer at South Western Air Command and Deputy Chief of the Air Staff.

Before taking over as Air Chief, he commanded Central Air Command as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief and served as Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee during Operation Sindoor. He subsequently served as Vice Chief of the Air Staff.

In recognition of his service, Dixit has been awarded the Vayu Sena Medal, Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Param Vishisht Seva Medal.

The IAF wished AP Singh and his wife, Sarita Singh, the very best for the future, saying his leadership, operational resolve and connect with air warriors would continue to inspire future generations.

CQAI Hosts Special Sessions On Quantum Many-Body Physics

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant step towards strengthening Kashmir's presence in the evolving global landscape of advanced quantum science and emerging technologies, Chinar Quantum AI (CQAI) hosted expert sessions on Quantum Many-Body Physics at its Headquarters in Srinagar, featuring engaged quantum physics and technology discourse led by Prof. Syed Raghib Hassan, Theoretical Physicist at the Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc), Chennai.

The engagement brought together a diverse intellectual community comprising professors, academics, researchers, university faculty, students from the University of Kashmir, NIT Srinagar, Cluster University Srinagar and SSM College of Engineering and Technology, alongside scientists and researchers from CQAI. The gathering reflected a growing interest in frontier scientific disciplines like quantum physics and technology and the importance of creating platforms in Kashmir where advanced research, academic thought and technological ambition converge.

The session explored the theoretical foundations and mathematical architecture of quantum many-body physics, examining the behaviour of complex interacting quantum systems, their applications, emerging research pathways and their relevance to the rapidly advancing field of quantum computing. Among the key dimensions discussed was the understanding of quantum computers themselves as quantum many-body systems, offering a deeper perspective on the relationship between fundamental physics, computational complexity and next-generation quantum technologies.

Beyond the scientific discussions, the engagement represented a broader transformation in Kashmir's intellectual and technological landscape. As India advances its ambitions under the National Quantum Mission, with initiatives such as the Amaravati Quantum Valley contributing to the country's expanding quantum ecosystem, Kashmir's participation in these conversations becomes increasingly important. The presence of distinguished scientific minds and the convergence of academic communities at CQAI demonstrate the growing potential of the Valley to engage with disciplines that will shape the next generation of global innovation.

The significance of such engagements extends beyond individual sessions. They create opportunities for students to interact with leading researchers, enable academics to engage with contemporary scientific developments, and introduce regional talent to research areas that were traditionally concentrated within specialised national and international institutions.

Bringing a scientist of Prof. Hassan's stature to an academic and research engagement in Kashmir also reinforces an important proposition: the geography of scientific excellence need not be limited by geography itself. With the right institutional platforms, research culture, collaborations and sustained intellectual investment, Kashmir can become an increasingly active participant in India's scientific and technological advancement.

CQAI continues to position itself as a platform for advancing quantum science and technology, fostering research-oriented engagement and connecting Kashmir's academic ecosystem with the wider national and global quantum community. The organisation intends to sustain such expert interactions, scientific sessions and knowledge-exchange initiatives to strengthen foundational understanding, encourage interdisciplinary research and prepare students and researchers for emerging opportunities in quantum technologies.

As India moves towards greater

Dr Tasleem Arif Among World's Top 2% Scientists for Third Consecutive Year

SRINAGAR: Dr Tasleem Arif, a dermatologist from Soura, Srinagar, has been named among the world's top two percent of scientists for the third consecutive year, from 2024 to 2026, according to data compiled by Stanford University.

Ranked 878 globally in Dermatology and Venereal Diseases, Dr Arif is among 24 dermatologists from India featured in the latest recognition.

Currently heading the Department of Dermatology at Dar As Sihha Medical Complex in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, Dr Arif completed his MBBS at SKIMS and MD in Dermatology at Government Medical College, Srinagar.

He has authored more than 155 research publications, with a major focus on scleroderma and related disorders. His contributions include developing diagnostic and surgical techniques and research on systemic sclerosis that received coverage in the New England Journal of Medicine's Journal Watch.

Dr Arif received the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology's Imrich Sarkany Non-European Memorial Scholarship in 2023. He also serves on the editorial boards of more than 25 medical journals, bringing international recognition to Kashmir's medical research community. (Observer News Service)

NC Won't Be Affected If Aga Ruhullah Quits: Minister Rana

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Minister Javed Ahmed Rana on Saturday said that if National Conference MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi decides to leave the party, he would do so alone and his departure would have no impact on the organisation.

Speaking to reporters in Jammu, Rana, according to KNO dismissed reports of internal differences within the National Conference following the recent Cabinet expansion, asserting that the party remained united and strong.

"If Aga Sahib decides to leave, he will leave alone. Why would his departure affect the party? The organisation will remain united," he said. Rana said celebrations were being held across Jammu and Kashmir over the Cabinet expansion and that he had not witnessed any resentment within the party.

Addressing reports that 18 NC legislators had met amid alleged dissatisfaction over the Cabinet expansion, Rana questioned the basis of such claims.

"Has any press note been issued by them? Has anyone received an official statement from their side? I do not think there is any concrete evidence to support such claims," he said.

He added that meetings among party colleagues should not be interpreted as signs of discord. "If members of an organisation meet or sit together, such gatherings should not be given a different colour to create unnecessary controversy," he said.

Reaffirming the party's unity, Rana said the National Conference remained strong under the leadership of Farooq Abdullah, while the government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was functioning firmly. "The National Conference is strong, the government under Omar Abdullah is strong, and the party organisation under Dr Farooq Abdullah stands united like a rock," he said.

Rana said those anticipating divisions within the party would be disappointed, maintaining that the NC continued to remain firmly united. On the Cabinet expansion, he acknowledged that some legislators who were not inducted into the Council of Ministers might feel disappointed.

"Every MLA wants to become a minister, but the available positions are limited. Naturally, there may be disappointment among those who could not become ministers," he said.

Expressing optimism about the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, Rana said he hoped the process would be completed soon, allowing for the induction of more ministers.

"Insha'Allah, statehood will be restored very soon and more ministers will also be appointed," he added—(KNO)

Xxxxx

New Academic Session Starts Monday In Kashmir schools

J&K Bank Bags Top CGTMSE Award For Highest Guarantee Coverage

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- In recognition of its contribution to expanding access to collateral-free credit for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), J&K Bank has been honoured by the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) for "Highest Guarantee Coverage (Number) in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh".

Divisional Head (Rest of India) Riaz Ahmed Wani received the award on behalf of the Bank, accompanied by Zonal Head (Mumbai) Irfan Kawoosa and Incharge GSGD (CHQ) Vikas Aithmia. The award was presented at the Member Lending Institutions (MLI) Felicitation Ceremony 2026, organised by CGTMSE in Mumbai, to honour the outstanding contribution of its MLIs towards widening access to collateral-free credit for MSEs.

Welcoming the recognition, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "We thank CGTMSE for recognizing the Bank's efforts to widen access to enterprise credit in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. I congratulate our staff, particularly our colleagues in operations, whose diligence in processing proposals, securing guarantee coverage and supporting borrowers has been central to this achievement."

Underscoring the strategic significance of guarantee-backed lending, he said, "Expanding access to collateral-free credit is strategically important for strengthening the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. CGTMSE coverage helps us support viable enterprises whose promoters may have the ability and commitment to build a business but lack collateral. By extending this support to more eligible entrepreneurs, we aim to encourage enterprise creation, support business expansion and generate employment across the region."

"We will continue to deepen awareness of guarantee-backed credit and strengthen its delivery across our operational network so that more eligible micro and small enterprises can access the finance they need to establish, sustain and expand their businesses," he added.

Dry Weather Likely Across J&K Till Nov 9

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Night temperatures remained below normal at several places in Kashmir, with Shopian recording the lowest minimum temperature of 0.5 degrees Celsius, while the Meteorological Department has forecast largely dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir till November 9.

According to the forecast, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 3 degrees Celsius against the normal of 3.7 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam registered 0.2 degrees Celsius against the normal of 1.4 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 2.1 degrees Celsius, against the normal of 2.3 degrees Celsius, while Qazigund and Kupwara recorded minimum temperatures of 2.6 and 2.3 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Among other places, Bandipora recorded 3.5 degrees Celsius, Anantnag 3.2 degrees Celsius, Baramulla 4.8 degrees Celsius, Pulwama 1.4 degrees Celsius and Sonamarg 1.1 degrees Celsius.

Shopian recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 0.5 degrees Celsius among the Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) in the Valley.

In Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature of 15.8 degrees Celsius, while Katra registered 13.9 degrees Celsius, Kathua 14.5 degrees Celsius and Bhaderwah 5.4 degrees Celsius.

The weather remained largely dry across Jammu and Kashmir during the past 24 hours, with Reasi recording the highest rainfall of 0.5 mm, the department said.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said the weather would remain partly cloudy on November 1 and 2, with brief spells of rain likely at isolated places towards the evening.

The department said weather would remain generally dry on November 3 and 4, while isolated places could receive brief spells of light rain or light snowfall over higher reaches on the evening of November 5 and November 6.

Dry weather is expected to continue from November 7 to 9, with no significant weather activity forecast during the period.

The department has advised farmers

Ahead of Ladakh Polls, Ex-NC Leader Jaffer Akhoon Joins BJP

Press Trust OF India

KARGIL: In a significant development ahead of the November 21 panchayat and municipal elections in Ladakh, Mohd Jaffer Akhoon, expelled NC leader and former chairman and chief executive councillor of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Kargil, joined the BJP on Saturday.

Two other prominent faces, Raza Abbasi, ex-director of Sheep and Animal Husbandry, and social activist Fida Hussain, joined the Congress, signalling renewed political realignments in Kargil ahead of the local body polls.

The developments come amid heightened political activity across the region, with various political parties intensifying their efforts to strengthen their organisational base, mobilise public support and consolidate their respective positions ahead of the November 21 elections.

Akhoon was expelled from the National Conference (NC) for six years on July 18, after his refusal to honour a 2023 pre-poll rotational power-sharing agreement with the Congress, under which power was supposed to rotate after 2.5 years.

The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil, was dissolved on October 21 by the lieutenant governor's administration following the resignations of key council members, including Akhoon, three executive councillors and six councillors.

The move also follows the creation of new districts, including Drass, Zanskar and Sankoo, which has changed the territorial boundaries of the erstwhile Kargil district.

At the joining ceremony in Kargil, Akhoon said his close association with the BJP over the past three years helped him understand the party beyond the negative perceptions prevalent among the people.

Referring to his inter-

Crime Branch Files Chargesheet Against Dentist In Job Fraud Case

Press Trust OF India

JAMMU: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch Jammu on Saturday filed a chargesheet against a dentist accused of cheating a man on the pretext of securing him a government job in the Health Department, an official said.

The chargesheet was filed before the Court of Special Municipal Mobile Magistrate in Jammu against Liaqat Ali Khan, a resident of Gujjar Nagar, in connection with a case registered in 2024. The accused allegedly duped Johar Hafeez of Rs 5.50 lakh by promising to secure his appointment as a Junior Assistant in the Health Department, a Crime Branch spokesman said.

In his complaint, Hafeez had alleged that Khan cheated him by claiming influential contacts in the Civil Secretariat.

During the investiga-

HQ-POLICE TELECOM
ACS KASHMIR
Mail id:- spacskmr@jkpolice.gov.in | Ph:- 01942472439 | Fax:- 01942506585

SHORT TERM QUOTATION

Sealed short term quotations are invited from authorized dealers/suppliers for supply of commercial LPG filled cylinders of 19 Kgs to Police Telecommunication ACS Kashmir Zone for winter session 2026-27 for delivery at Zonal Police Telecom ACS Hqrs Kashmir near Shifa Hospital Magarmal bagh, Srinagar on day to day Govt. approved rates.

The rates quoteds per cylinder should be inclusive of all taxes viz SGST/CGST and other charges viz, freight, loading, unloading as applicable under rules.

The quotation must be submitted in a sealed envelope duly marked for supply of commercial LPG filled cylinders of 19 Kgs capacity addressed to Senior Supdt. of Police Telecommunication ACS Kashmir and should reach this office by or before 07.11.2026 upto 1400 hours. The quotations so received will be opened on 12.11.2026 in the office of undersigned in presence of quotationers who may like to attend the opening of quotations on the scheduled date. The supply has to be made immediately on placement of supply order within the prescribed time period.

The quotations shall be accompanied with the earnest money deposit (EMD) amounting to Rs 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand only) in shape of CDR from any branch of J&K Bank pledged to SSP Telecom ACS Kashmir Zone without which no quotation shall be accepted. The quotation received after the prescribed date and time shall not be entertained. The earnest money of unsuccessful quotations will be released within one month after the opening of the quotations, whereas, in case of successful quotationer, it will be treated as a part of security deposit and will be released after successful supply of gas during the winter session 2026-27.

No: Q-ACSK/LPG-47/2026/ 6830-32
Dated: 30/10/2026

DIPK-7252-26
DT: 31/10/2026

Supdt. of Police,
Telecommunication ACS Kashmir

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
✆ 0194-2310283
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION RAJBAGH SRINAGAR.
LAL MANDI, NEAR L.D. HOSPITAL SRINAGAR- 190008.
(FOR ROAD WORK/BRIDGES/BUILDINGS)

FRESH TENDER

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
TWO COVER SYSTEM (Above Rs. 2.50 crores)
E-NIT No.106 of R&B/Div/Raj/ of 2026-2027 issued under endorsement No. 9496-9505 Dated: 31.10.2026.

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

S. No	Name of Work	Base Cost Excl. GST (Rs. In Lacs)	Total / Adv. Cost (Base Cost + GST) (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	T.O.C	Major Head	Class of Contract
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Construction of Model School at Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Amira Kadal Srinagar.	612.24	722.44	₹8500/-	₹14,44,880/	365 Days	School Education Relevant Head of Account (EBB)	AAY

Project Authority: = Commissioner / Secretary to Govt. School Education Department.
Position of AAA = Accorded vide No: 199-JK-EDU of 2026 Dated: 25.05.2026.
Position of T/S = Accorded vide No: CE(R&B) CK/TS/535 of 2026 Dated: 21.09.2026.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	31.10.2026
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	01.11.2026 From 10:00 AM
3.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	05.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, PW(R&B) Circle Srinagar South.
4.	Bid submission Start Date	01.11.2026 From 10:00 A.M
5.	Bid Submission End Date	12.11.2026 up to 4:00 P.M
7.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	13.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, PW(R&B) Circle Srinagar South.
8.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after Technical Bid Evaluation is completed.

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per below schedule:
1.1 Bids must be accompanied with Cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury challan Receipt (under M.H-0059) in favour of Executive Engineer, R&B Division Rajbagh, Srinagar. (The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date).
1.2 At the time of tendering all bidders must upload Earnest Money / Bid Security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle Srinagar (South). The Date of Earnest Money must be between the Date of Start of bid and bid submission end date. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 3% of the allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG before the contract award. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of Performance Security / Additional Performance Security of the allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond Bid validity.
2. Bidders can resubmit/withdraw the bids as specified.
3. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial Bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, PW(R&B) Circle Srinagar South. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

No. 9496-9505
Dated: 31.10.2026.
DIPK-7263-26
DT: 31/10/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Rajbagh
Srinagar

INDIA Bloc Seeks Treason Trial for CEC Gyanesh Kumar

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Opposition INDIA bloc on Saturday called for the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that he participated in a "devious and malevolent criminal conspiracy orchestrated by the BJP to steal national and state elections", and asserted that he must be tried for "treason" in a court.

The resolution seeking to indict Kumar was read out by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge at a symbolic "public impeachment" of the CEC, who has been under a fierce attack from the opposition over alleged electoral irregularities and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)

The resolution stated that the Members of Parliament of the INDIA bloc resolved that he be impeached on the "charges" laid down by it. In the first charge, the INDIA bloc alleged that the CEC Kumar has overseen and participated in a "devious and malevolent criminal conspiracy orchestrated by the BJP to steal national and state elections".

Kumar has "willingly broken the rule of law by allowing them to access voter rolls, to delete and add voters at will and manipulate the outcome of the elections", the resolution alleged.

"He is guilty of operationalising a premeditated attack on the electoral process that is the very foundation of India's democracy. This is a criminal act and an act of treason against the nation and the Constitution of India," said the INDIA bloc resolution.

Former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar presided over the event, while Samajwadi Party (SP) MP Awadhesh Prasad and Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Saugata Roy were serving as vice-chairs.

Besides Kharge, Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, party General Secretaries Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Jairam Ramesh and K C Venugopal, among others, were present at the "public impeachment" held on the eve of the opposition rally here.

Additionally, several MPs and leaders from various constituent parties of the opposition alliance -- including SP MP Dharmendra Yadav and TMC parliamentary party leader Derek O'Brien -- were in attendance.

The event was part of the opposition bloc's campaign against alleged irregularities in the SIR exercise and its demand for accountability from the Election Commission. The BJP has accused the opposition of resorting to anarchy and attacking constitutional bodies after failing to win the confidence of voters.

In the resolution on Saturday, the INDIA bloc also accused the Chief Election Commissioner of being directly responsible for a manipulated, truncated and destructive SIR of electoral rolls.

"He has ensured the intentional deletion of 13.2 crore voters, depriving them of the fundamental right to vote guaranteed to them by the Constitution of India, in a manner that is partisan, opaque and flagrantly violative of natural justice.

"This is a criminal act and an act of treason against the nation and the Constitution of India," the INDIA bloc resolution read.

The opposition bloc also alleged that the Chief Election Commissioner is guilty of illegally, without Parliamentary oversight or knowledge, having amended Form 6 of the Registration of Electors' Rules, 1960.

It decried it as a "criminal conspiracy to prevent the enrollment of first-time voters and stealing from them the fundamental right to vote guaranteed by the Constitution, effectively negating their rights as citizens of India.

"This is an act of treason against the nation and the Constitution of India," the INDIA bloc resolution said.

It also alleged that Kumar is guilty of illegally centralising control over the electoral rolls in the ECI, through the malicious use of the ERONET/ECINET software, with the aim of deleting voters and preventing local ERO's from adding legitimate voters.

"This is a criminal attempt to tamper with the process of free and fair elections upon which the democratic framework of India is founded. It is an act of treason against the nation and the Constitution of India," the resolution said.

The INDIA bloc further claimed that the Chief Election Commissioner is guilty of having willfully violated the law along with seven associates in the Election Commission, while "deliberately and unlawfully excluding" the other two Election Commissioners from decision-making, prompting them to place no less than 14 objections on record.

"This is a clear infringement of the mandate of the Election Commission as laid down by the Constitution of India and an act of treason against the nation and the Constitution of India," it said.

The CEC has "breached" his constitutional mandate to act in an independent capacity to ensure free and fair elections and uphold the Constitution of India, the resolution said.

It also accused the CEC of denying a fair hearing to the opposition.

"In return for this shameful compliance with the ruling BJP, several of Mr. Gyanesh Kumar's family members have received benefits and considerations including by way of plum postings and unprecedented opportunities for remuneration," it alleged.

By acting "brazenly against his constitutional mandate" at the behest of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, Gyanesh Kumar has betrayed the trust and faith of the Indian people, it said.

Iran Blindsided US Defences, Then Pounded Mideast Bases: Report

AP

WASHINGTON: Iran's strikes on more than two dozen US bases in the Middle East focused on early-warning systems before hitting aircraft and buildings, causing billions of dollars in equipment damage, according to an Associated Press analysis.

The AP independently verified damage to American targets using satellite imagery from multiple providers and spoke to four regional officials who were briefed or have firsthand knowledge of what was hit. The AP found that, through August, more than 115 drone or missile strikes claimed by Iran or Iranian-backed militias damaged or destroyed structures on 26 military bases and other sites with US equipment.

The AP found that Iran initially focused its attacks on aircraft hangars and systems that detect incoming strikes, clearing the way for further strikes on warehouses, troop housing and more.

The damage has significantly reshaped the American foothold in the Middle East, with two regional officials saying the US has moved many of its assets out of the Persian Gulf. That includes aircraft, air defense systems, communications systems and other equipment crucial to base operations, one of those officials said.

The impact of the damage raises questions about American defences in the region as President Donald Trump considers new strikes after Tuesday's midterm elections and Tehran has vowed major retaliation. A return to hostilities threatens additional costly damage to bases, which would heighten uncertainty about whether the United States will choose to rebuild its bases and equipment in the region when the war ends.

The AP's analysis offers new insight into Iran's strategy for its retaliation and what precisely has been damaged on US bases during the eight-month war, going beyond the details that have been released in independent reviews, including from the Pentagon's inspector general. It found that from April 1 to June 30, Iranian strikes had damaged and destroyed hundreds of buildings and other structures on US bases.

Such assessments provide the only overall snapshot because the Trump administration and the US military have provided few details about the toll of the conflict on people and equipment, even putting measures in place to impede outside review, such as delays in the release of satellite images.

US Central Command, which oversees operations in the Middle East, has refused to comment on or specify damage to bases or equipment, usually citing the need for operational security. The command did not comment for this story.

Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell asserted that US "forces and bases are well protected and America's military is stronger than ever."

Dipke Says CJP Not to Join INDIA Rally But Supports Cause

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Saturday met Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee in Delhi and thanked her for supporting the outfit's youth-led protests, while extending solidarity with the INDIA bloc rally on the "vote chori" charge.

He, however, said that the CJP would retain its independent identity and not join the Sunday protest by the opposition parties.

Dipke said he had called on Banerjee to express gratitude for her support to the outfit's first protest at Jantar Mantar on the NEET paper leak issue and her backing when its leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka were arrested by the Delhi Police.

"I just came to say thank you to Didi because the way she supported our first Jantar Mantar movement, she was always so strongly with the youth movement. When Saurav and Ashutosh were arrested by the Delhi Police, even then Didi stood with us very firmly," he said.

Asked whether CJP would be present at Sunday's rally at Ramlila Maidan, Dipke said the outfit supported the protest but would continue to function independently.

"We support the protest tomorrow, we stand in solidarity, but the Cockroach Janta Party is an independent organisation; it is a neutral platform, and we want to keep it that way," he said.

He said the issue went beyond any one organisation and CJP would support all groups fighting against alleged vote theft.

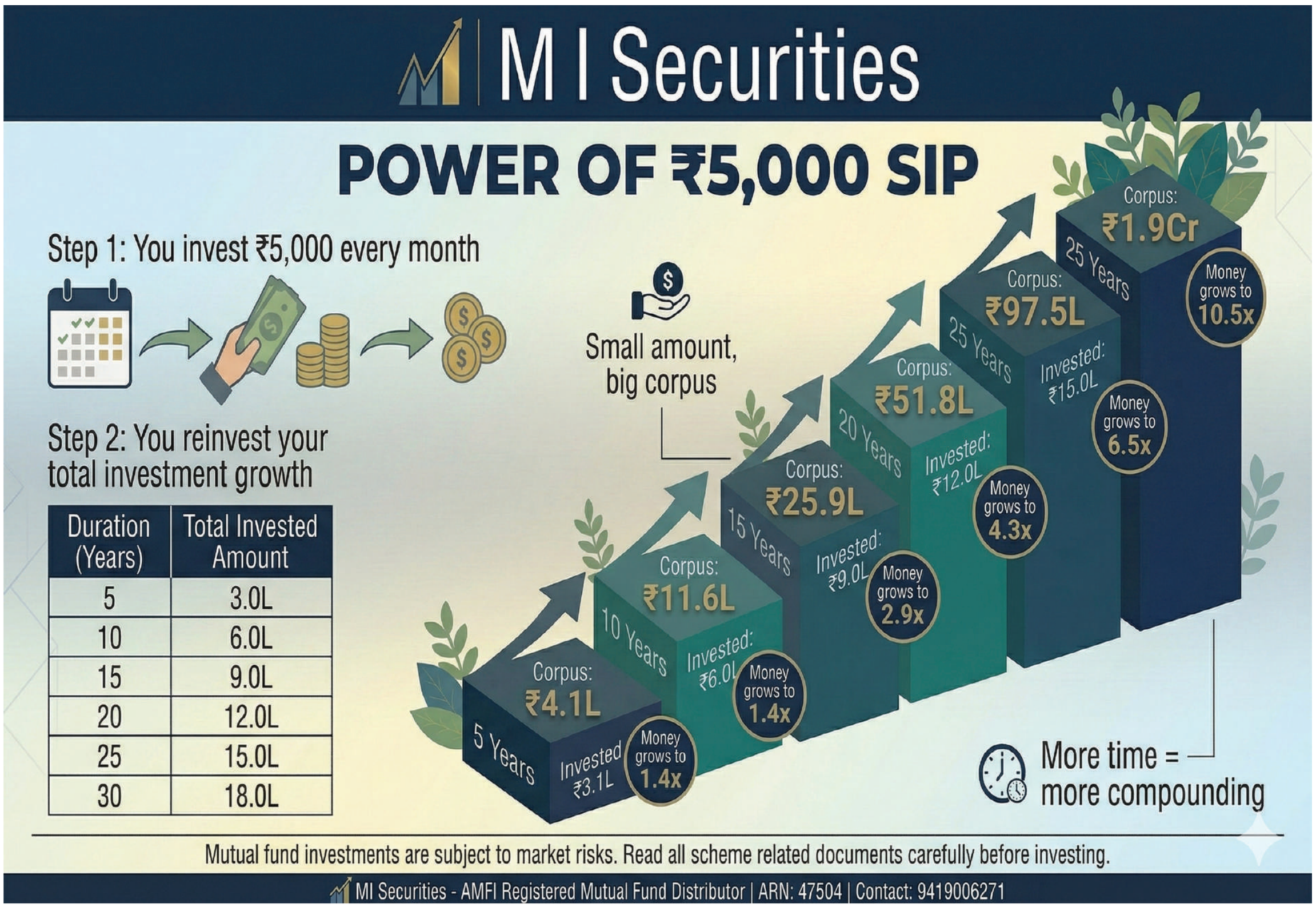
"Anybody who will fight against this vote theft, we will support all organisations," he said.

Banerjee, who is in Delhi and will attend Sunday's rally, praised Dipke and the young activists for their role in the protests against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the Election Commission.

"They have extended their full support for tomorrow's rally, and we have extended all support to them as well. They are the pioneers and the founders of this movement. That we must remember," she told reporters.

Banerjee said she was happy to meet the activists and acknowledged their efforts in sustaining the protests despite difficulties.

She also invited Dipke and the others to West Bengal and organise programmes there. Asked whether they would hold an event in Kolkata, she said the decision rested with them.

"That they will decide. It is their choice," she said.

Dipke's meeting with Banerjee came a day before the INDIA bloc rally at Ramlila Maidan, where opposition parties are set to raise the issue of alleged electoral irregularities and demand accountability from the Election Commission.