29th year OF PUBLICATION

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Rain, Snow Likely In J&K Today

Another Wet Spell Forecast On Nov 10-11

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to receive light rainfall at isolated places and snowfall over higher reaches on Thursday, while temperatures are expected to dip further and morning fog may become more frequent across the region.

Director Meteorological Department Mukhtar Ahmad said that another weather system is expected to affect Jammu and Kashmir on November 10 and 11, bringing the possibility of light rainfall in parts of both divisions and snowfall over higher-altitude areas.

Ahmad said weather conditions are likely to remain largely dry across the region after the November 5 spell until November 9.

He said isolated thunderstorms cannot be ruled out during November 10 and 11, although no significant weather activity is expected under the current forecast.

Meanwhile, minimum temperatures continued to remain low across several parts of Kashmir, with Kupwara and Gulmarg recording temperatures close to the freezing point on Wednesday.

According to the India Meteorological Department's evening bulletin, Kupwara recorded a minimum temperature of 1.8 degrees Celsius, while Gulmarg settled at 1.6 degrees Celsius. Both stations recorded temperatures 0.1 degrees below their respective | More on P6

Trump's Republicans Ousted, Democrats Storm US Congress

Press Trust Of India



Washington: In a stinging rebuke to President Donald Trump, American voters on Tuesday gave the opposition Democratic Party control of the US Congress and flipped key gubernatorial posts in widely watched elections that will have consequences far beyond America.

Trump's Republican Party faced stunning defeats in its strongholds such as Texas, Georgia, Iowa and Ohio, where it lost the governors' posts to the Democrats.

The grand old party also faced a drubbing in Senate races in Texas, Maine, South Carolina, North Carolina, Kansas, Iowa and Ohio, where Trump campaigned with a simple message urging voters to pretend that he was on the ballot.

The Democrats won control of both the Senate and the House of Representatives, ending the Republicans' hold on the two chambers of Congress.

The widespread losses were attributed to anger against Trump's policies, including the war on Iran, which have contributed to rising living costs.

In interviews with PTI at polling booths, voters repeatedly cited Trump's lies and boasts as reasons for turning away from him.

"Trump is a disgrace. I do not want him to be a role model for my children, and the sooner he is out of office the better," a Democrat voter said in Georgia, which is traditionally a Republican state.

Trump-backed Indian-American Vivek Ramaswamy was defeated in Ohio's gubernatorial race by Democrat Amy Acton after a bitter campaign that even left the Republican Party divided.

The Democrats also flipped more than two dozen House seats, including in several districts that Trump had won by double-digit margins in 2024.

"The Trump era is over," Republican leader Chris Christie | More on P6

Iran: US Voters Reject Trump's War

Iranians on Wednesday struck a defiant tone, celebrating US voters' rebuke of President Donald Trump in the midterm elections while many in the Middle East waited to see how the results could affect the Iran war.

Concerns about the war, particularly frustration over rising prices for fuel and other goods in the US, helped Democrats win control of both chambers of Congress in Tuesday's vote, a sharp setback for Trump and his Republican Party.

Iran's supreme leader said those who think partisan changes in the United States can change its hostility toward the Islamic Republic are | More on P6

Vance Cites Iran War for Republicans' Losses

US Vice President JD Vance blamed war in Iran for Republican midterm losses.

In a lengthy online post, the vice president seemingly sought to distance himself from election results seen as a referendum on Trump that featured big Republican losses across the country.

"The reason we lost is the war," Vance wrote, adding, "If you'd like to argue it was worth it, that losing the Senate for the next 6 years was worth it, then do so. Argue it was a worthwhile cost to pay. Agree or disagree, that's at least honest."

In a nationwide romp, Democrats ousted Republicans from coast to coast, with many surprising places in between, as voters rejected the president's party for the promise of something different for the country. Their majorities will be padded by wide margins in both the House and the Senate.

The results | More on P6

AIIMS Awantipora Nears OPD Rollout

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda will visit the under-construction All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Awantipora in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Thursday to review the project's progress and preparations for the commencement of healthcare services.

Officials said that Nadda will assess the infrastructure, ongoing construction work and preparedness for the phased rollout of services at the institute.

The visit assumes significance as the much-awaited project has missed multiple completion deadlines, with residents across Kashmir awaiting its operationalisation.

The Outpatient Department (OPD) is expected to become functional later this month, subject to the completion of pending works and operational formalities.

Officials said efforts are underway to expedite the remaining infrastructure, install medical equipment and obtain mandatory clearances required for the commencement of patient services.

An October-end target for launching OPD services could not be met due to pending works and procedural requirements.

At a review meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Pulwama Kuldeep Krishan Sidha on | More on P6

J&K Allows Businesses To Operate On Self-Declaration

Grants 3-Year Inspection Exemption

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday allowed eligible enterprises to commence operations on self-declaration through single window setup and granted them protection from routine inspections for three years under the Jammu and Kashmir Ease of Doing Business Act, 2026.

The government has also designated the executive committee as the single nodal agency for all investment-related approvals required by enterprises across the Union Territory, including those operating in notified industrial areas, parks and clusters.

The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on October 29 passed the Jammu and Kashmir Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2026, after a debate during which chief Minister Omar Abdullah defended his government's push to make it easier for businesses to operate in the Union Territory, saying the government should create conditions for private industry rather than run commercial establishments itself.

A notification issued by the General Administration Department on Wednesday said enterprises could obtain a certificate of in-principle approval (CIPA) by submitting a declaration of intent to the district empowered committee.

"It is hereby notified that, after coming into force of the Jammu and Kashmir Ease of Doing Business Act, 2026, an enterprise may obtain a Certificate of In-Principle Approval on the basis of a self-declaration furnished through the Declaration of Intent in accordance with sections | More on P6

LG Sets 6-Month Deadline For Universities To Roll Out 'DYD'

JKHEC Meeting Calls For Sharing Of Academic Credits, Research Labs, Resources

Observer News Service



Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday set a six-month deadline for universities in Jammu and Kashmir to roll out the 'Design Your Degree' (DYD) programme, calling for coordinated academic reforms and greater resource-sharing among higher education institutions.

Chairing a high-level meeting of the Jammu and Kashmir Higher Education Council (JKHEC) at Lok Bhavan, Sinha stressed the need to translate policy initiatives into measurable outcomes and ensure that students benefit from improved utilisation of institutional resources.

He called upon universities to share academic credits, research laboratories and other resources, emphasising that collaboration among institutions was essential for transforming the higher education system.

"Transforming higher education in Jammu Kashmir into a comprehensive, holistic, and visionary system is a shared responsibility. The time has now come to translate Higher Education Council initiatives into tangible achievements, while ensuring that every student benefits from outcome-oriented asset | More on P6

HC Stays Order Allowing Reopening Of Shopian Seminary

Says Students Enrolled Shall Not Be Disturbed

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has stayed the operation of an order passed by the Principal and Sessions Judge Shopian permitting the reopening of Darul Uloom Jamia Siraj-ul-Uloom, an institution declared unlawful under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) earlier this year.



A Division Bench comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Mohd Yousuf Wani, while hearing a petition filed by the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and others, however directed that students enrolled at the institution on the date of issuance of the impugned order shall not be disturbed.

The Bench issued notice to the respondents (seminary and another), represented by counsel who waived formal notice, and allowed them four weeks to file their objections. The case has been listed for further consideration on February 1.

The High Court clarified that the stay on the Shopian court's order would remain operative until the next hearing, subject to the objections filed by the respondents.

In September this year, Principal and Sessions Judge Shopian had allowed the institution to reopen pending final adjudication, observing that the material presented by the government at the prima facie stage was | More on P6

Veteran Journalist Madan Mantoo No More

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Madan Lal Mantoo, veteran journalist and former deputy director of the Department of Information and Public Relations, Jammu and Kashmir, died of a cardiac arrest in the early hours of Wednesday. He was 74.

Mantoo complained of uneasiness late Tuesday night and was rushed to hospital, where he breathed his last around 4 am, his son Vikas Mantoo said.

Madan Mantoo is survived by his wife, son and daughter.

A large number of people from different walks of life, including members of the media fraternity, government officials and political leaders, attended | More on P6

Ruhullah's Exit: NC Accuses BJP Of Executing 'Operation Lotus'

Observer News Service



Srinagar: A day after Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi announced his resignation from the National Conference and the Lok Sabha, the ruling party on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on the BJP, accusing it of executing its "Operation Lotus" in Kashmir by pushing the Srinagar MP out of the party.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary also accused the BJP of misleading Ruhullah and attempting to weaken the National Conference, while questioning the remarks made by BJP national vice-president Ram Madhav following the MP's resignation.

Addressing a joint press conference at the

RAM MADHAV'S REMARKS TRIGGER ROW

On Tuesday, BJP national vice-president Ram Madhav had said Ruhullah's rally in Budgam was held with the blessings of "our people", triggering a | More on P6

NC Dissidents Likely To Meet Party Leadership On Friday

The group of dissident National Conference (NC) legislators is likely to meet the party leadership on Friday morning in Srinagar amid growing resentment over the recent expansion and reshuffle of the Council of Ministers.

According to sources, all the legislators who have expressed dissatisfaction with the cabinet reshuffle are expected | More on P6

Dead Father's Name, Son's Signature: ₹35L Cheque Fraud

Observer News Service



Srinagar:The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of Crime Branch J&K has filed a chargesheet against a Pulwama resident for allegedly issuing a cheque in the name of his deceased father to settle a Rs 35 lakh business liability.

The chargesheet was filed before the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Pulwama, in connection with FIR No. 44/2026 registered under Sections 318(2), 336(3) and 340 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The accused has been identified as Mushtaq Ahmad Yatoo, a resident of Chanpora, Rajpora, Pulwama.

According to an EOW spokesperson, the case was registered following a written complaint alleging that the complainant was in a partnership business with the accused and that Rs 35 lakh remained outstanding against him during the settlement of accounts.

The accused allegedly issued a cheque to clear the liability. However, the cheque was dishonoured after it was found to have been issued in the name of his father, who had died two years earlier, while bearing the accused's own signatures.

The spokesperson said the allegations were substantiated during the investigation and the charges against the accused were found to be established.

The investigation was conducted by Sub-Inspector Farooq Ahmad, | More on P6

6 in 10 Men 45+ Unaware of Prostate Cancer Status

Press Trust Of India

Nearly six in 10 Indian men aged 45 and above do not know whether they have ever been screened for prostate cancer, while 84 per cent are either unscreened, unsure of their screening status or believe screening is unnecessary, according to a survey.
The survey of 1,036 men across Delhi-NCR, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana and Maharashtra, by HEAL Foundation, highlighted significant gaps in awareness of prostate cancer risk factors, screening and treatment options, as well as reluctance among men to discuss prostate health with doctors.
It found that 68.9 per cent of respondents could not name a single risk factor for prostate cancer, while only 13.2 per cent recognised family history as a risk factor. Around 75 per cent believed prostate cancer monitoring should begin only at the age of 50 or later.
"These findings point to a fundamental awareness gap around prostate cancer. When nearly seven in 10 men cannot identify even one risk factor, and six in 10 do not know whether they have ever been screened, it is clear that prostate health needs to become a more visible part of routine health conversations for men over 45.
"Awareness of risk, screening and when to speak to a doctor is an important first step toward informed, personalised healthcare decisions," said Dr Devavrat Arya, Vice Chairman, Medical Oncology, Max Healthcare, Delhi.
The screening gap persisted despite nearly two-thirds of respondents reporting that they underwent annual general health check-ups.
While 60.8 per cent were unaware of their prostate cancer screening status, only around one in six said they had ever been screened.
Awareness of the prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test was also limited, with only 31 per cent having heard of it and just 14 per cent having specifically requested the test.
The survey brings out a worrying pattern that men are participating in general health check-ups, but prostate health is still not consistently part of that conversation, said Dr Nitesh Rohatgi, Principal Director of Medical Oncology at the Fortis Memorial Research Institute (FMRI).
The fact that 84 per cent respondents are either unscreened, uncertain about their screening status or do not believe screening is necessary shows how much work remains in helping men understand prostate cancer risk and the role of early evaluation.
These conversations should begin proactively and be guided by individual risk and clinical advice. Awareness remains the first and most significant barrier in the prostate cancer journey.
Among elderly patients and their caregivers, there is limited understanding of the disease itself -- its symptoms are often dismissed as normal signs of aging leading to delayed diagnosis.
"Even after a diagnosis is made, the gap does not close. Patients and families frequently remain unaware of advanced treatment options like radioligand therapy, leaving many to stick to conventional pathways simply because no one told them otherwise. Closing this awareness gap -- before and after diagnosis -- is critical to ensuring patients access the right therapy at the right time," said Dr Rohatgi.
The survey also highlighted gaps in awareness of specialist care. Although doctors were the most trusted source of health information, with 67 per cent placing their greatest trust in them, only 36 per cent correctly identified a urologist as the appropriate specialist for prostate cancer.
Around 44 per cent said they would seek a second opinion before starting treatment.
The reluctance to discuss prostate health with doctors was another concern, with 59.5 per cent of respondents saying they were uncomfortable raising prostate cancer screening or treatment with a doctor.
Only around 18 per cent said they would proactively initiate such a conversation.
At the same time, 84 per cent said they searched online for health information, while 48 per cent said family or friends influenced their first conversation about prostate cancer.
"There is a clear disconnect between general health awareness and prostate-specific awareness. Many men are undertaking annual health check-ups, yet they may not know whether prostate cancer screening was discussed or whether they have ever undergone a PSA test," Dr Ishita B Sen, Principal Director Nuclear Medicine, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram.
Education needs to focus on helping men understand risk factors, the role of screening and the importance of having an individualised conversation with their healthcare professional rather than treating prostate health as something that can be ignored until symptoms appear, Dr Sen highlighted.
The awareness gaps were particularly pronounced among men aged 65 and above, with uncertainty about screening status rising to around 72 per cent and limited treatment knowledge reaching roughly 80 per cent.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION-IIIRD, SHEREEN BAGH, SRINAGAR

Tel- 0194-3510830

Notice Inviting Tender

e-NIT No.: - ED-III /25 of 2026-27 Dated: 04-11-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from reputed companies Registered with ROC of INDIA, Original Manufacturers or relevant class A registered electrical contractors/suppliers enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency of JKPDD for
***1.Creation of 250 kVA Substation along with HT/LT Network at Kikar Bagh Goripora falling under the jurisdiction of ESD Nawakadal of ED-3rd Shereen Bagh Srinagar* (Turnkey Basis).**
2. Creation of 250 kVA Substation along with HT/LT Network at Dar Mohallah Khomani Chowk falling under the jurisdiction of ESD Watal kadal ED-3rd Shereen Bagh Srinagar (Turnkey Basis) as details below:

Name of the work.	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	EMD	Cost of Tender Document	Status of funds	Completion Period
1.Creation of 250 kVA Substation along with HT/LT Network at Kikar Bagh Goripora ESD Nawakadal Sub Division of ED 3rd (Turnkey Basis). 2. Creation of 250 kVA Substation along with HT/LT Network at Dar Mohallah Khomani Chowk ESD Watalkadal of ED 3rd (Turnkey Basis)	**33.22**	**2% of estimated Cost (Rs 66444.00)**	**Rs. 1000/-**	**Committed Under SASCI 2026-27**	**20 days**

1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.
2. The tender document is available on website http://jktenders.gov.in. 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 below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document/Sale of Bid Document (Start)	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 04-11-2026; 05:00 PM
B	Sale of Bid Document (End)	19-11-2026; 03:00 PM
C	Clarification start date	04-11-2026; 05:00 PM
D	Clarification End date	17-11-2026; 02:00 PM
E	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (Submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	04-11-2026; 05:00 PM
F	e-Bid submission (End) date and time Submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	19-11-2026; 03:00 PM
G	Hard copy of tender document Submission end date (along-with Original Copy of e-tender fee, Instruments and other supporting documents)	Required for L1 only & to be submitted on or one day after opening of financial e-bid.
H	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	20-11-2026; 02:00 PM
I	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
J	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	Office of Executive Engineer ED-III, Sgr.
K	Cost of e-bid document. (Copy of treasury challan/receipt to be up-loaded with e-tender)	Treasury Receipt of Rs. 1000.00/- (Rupees one thousand only)

No.: - ED-III/TS/
Date: 04-11-2026

DIPK-NB-2030/26
dated: 04-11-2026

Executive Engineer
Electric Division 3rd

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
District Industries Centre Pulwama
dicpulwama@gmai.com
PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that M/s Ashraf Steel Works, IGC Lassipora, stands formally registered with this office under Registration No. 01/05/11/02415/PMT/MSME dated 15.06.2017 for the line of activity "Manufacturing of Tubular Poles, Trusses, Grills and Gates", as a Proprietorship concern of Mr. Mohd. Ashraf Mir, S/o Gh. Mohd. Mir, R/o Hatiwara, Pulwama. The proprietor has applied for transfer of leasehold rights of the unit from the existing proprietorship concern to a Partnership concern comprising the following partners:
1. Mr. Fayaz Ahmad Khanday, 5/o Gh. Mohd. Khanday, R/o Kandizal, Pampore
2. Mr. Muzaffar Ahmad Mir, S/o Mohd. Rajab Mir, R/o Lasjan, Srinagar.
The unit holder also seeks de-registration of the existing unit. Subsequently, the incoming partners propose to establish a new industrial unit under the name and style "M/s Venus Apple Trays" for the line of activity "Manufacture of pulp moulded products on the land presently allotted to the existing unit.
Any person(s) or any organization/ Department having any objection in this behalf should convey in writing to the General Manager. DIC, Pulwama within (07) seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the time frame no objection shall be entertained.
NO: DICPL/Dev/191/2025/7754871/1206
Dated: 24-07-2026

General Manager,
District Industries Centre,
Pulwama,
iko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Khalida Akhter , W/O Zameer Ahmad Qadri residing at Naseembagh habbak do hereby declare that I have applied for a change of name on the electricity connection/meter (Consumer ID / Service Connection No: [0204020008207]). The meter is currently registered under the name [Zameer Ahmad Qadri]. Henceforth, the connection should be updated to [Khalida Akhter] for all future purposes. Objections, if any, should be conveyed to the Executive Engineer, JKPDD Subdivision Rainawari within 7 days of this notice.

rko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for a D-Class contractor card in the office of SE PWD(R&B) circle Baramulla.
If any person has any objection in this regard, they may contact the above mentioned office within 15 days from the date of Publication of this notice ; falling which, no objection shall be entertained.
Name...Sabreena Majid
C/O.. Rameez Raja Ganaie
R/O.. Kreshama, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla
Cell.. 8493848345

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, GULSHANA AKHTER, W/o Mohd Rafiq Malik, R/o Bongam, District Shopian, Jammu & Kashmir UT, do hereby notify the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as GULSHANA BANO in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 3880 1865 3765, whereas my actual and correct name is GULSHANA AKHTER. Now, I have applied for correction of the same in the concerned records. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, RUBY JAN, M/o NUMAIRA RAYEES, R/o Pinjoora, District Shopian, Jammu & Kashmir UT, do hereby notify the general public that my daughter's name has been wrongly recorded as NUMAIRA JAN in her Aadhaar Card bearing No. 2830 4350 4962, whereas her actual and correct name is NUMAIRA RAYEES. Now, I have applied for correction of the same in the concerned records. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SHABIR AHMAD KUMAR, F/o ZEHAN AHMAD KUMAR, R/o Bon Bazar, District Shopian, Jammu & Kashmir UT, do hereby notify the general public that my son's name has been wrongly recorded as ZEYAN AHMAD KUMAR in his Aadhaar Card bearing No. 3424 4026 7488, whereas his actual and correct name is ZEHAN AHMAD KUMAR. Now, I have applied for correction of the same in the concerned records. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, GULSHANA, W/o Shakeel Ahmad Sheikh, R/o Jamia Masjid, Sofi Mohalla, District Shopian, Jammu & Kashmir UT, do hereby notify the general public that I have changed my name from my old name GULSHAN to my new and correct name GULSHANA. Henceforth, I shall be known and identified as GULSHANA for all purposes. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, BILAL AHMAD DAR, S/o Mohd Akbar Dar, R/o Ketchmatipora, Tehsil Kawarhama, District Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir UT, do hereby notify the general public that my ward, namely HOORAIM BILAL, studying in Class 1st at Sheikh Ul Alam Public School, Dhobiwan, has his mother's name wrongly recorded as RIFAT ARA in the school records, whereas her actual and correct name is RAFIQA BANO. Now, I have applied for correction of the same in the concerned school records. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, BILAL AHMAD DAR, S/o Mohd Akbar Dar, R/o Ketchmatipora, Tehsil Kawarhama, District Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir UT, do hereby notify the general public that my ward, namely AYAT BILAL, studying in Class 2nd at Sheikh Ul Alam Public School, Dhobiwan, has her mother's name wrongly recorded as RIFAT ARA in the school records, whereas her actual and correct name is RAFIQA BANO. Now, I have applied for correction of the same in the concerned school records. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, BILAL AHMAD DAR, S/o Mohd Akbar Dar, R/o Ketchmatipora, Tehsil Kawarhama, District Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir UT, do hereby notify the general public that my ward, namely MOMIN BILAL DAR, studying in Class 7th at Sheikh Ul Alam Public School, Dhobiwan, has his name and mother's name wrongly recorded as MOMIN BILAL and RIFAT ARA, respectively, in the school records, whereas his actual and correct name and his mother's name are MOMIN BILAL DAR and RAFIQA BANO, respectively. Now, I have applied for correction of the same in the concerned school records. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.

fko

IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS PATTAN

Coram: Mr. Anjeet Singh

IN THE CASE OF:
Assadullah Khan
Widower of Raja Begum
S/o Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Khan
R/o Sariwarpora Pattan

Applicant

V/S
B.D.O Pattan
(Registrar of Births and Deaths)

Non-applicant

IN THE MATTER OF: Application for Registration of Death and Issuance Of Death Certificate in respect of Raja Begum W/o Assadullah Khan D/o Abdul Ahad Rather & Taja Begum R/o Sariwarpora Pattan, District Baramulla.

PUBLICATION NOTICE

Through the medium of this publication, the public at large is hereby informed that the applicant has instituted the above captioned petition seeking the issuance of Death Certificate of his Wife namely Raja Begum W/o Assadullah Khan D/o Abdul Ahad Rather & Taja Begum R/o Sariwarpora Pattan, District Baramulla, who has died on 11-03-2014, in which the next date of hearing is fixed on 23-11-2026. If anybody has any objection or want to become a party in the petition/case as applicant/non-applicant, he/she may approach this court on or before the next date of hearing, failing which the petition/case shall be heard and appropriate orders warranted under law shall be passed.

Sd/-
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
Pattan

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, BASHIR AHMAD GANIE, F/o AYSHA BASHIR, R/o Uttarpora Phalipora, District Shopian, Jammu & Kashmir UT, do hereby notify the general public that my daughter's name has been wrongly recorded as ASHIA BASHIR in her Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6967 0014 4479, whereas her actual and correct name is AYSHA BASHIR. Now, I have applied for correction of the same in the concerned records. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, GHULAM NABI KHANDAY, F/o JIBRAN AHMAD KHANDAY, R/o Narapora, District Shopian, Jammu & Kashmir UT, do hereby notify the general public that my son's name has been wrongly recorded as JIGRAN NABI in his Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8863 3176 2513, whereas his actual and correct name is JIBRAN AHMAD KHANDAY. Now, I have applied for correction of the same in the concerned records. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SHABIR AHMAD KUMAR, F/o HAMMAD JAVAID, R/o Bonabazar, District Shopian, Jammu & Kashmir UT, do hereby notify the general public that my son's name has been wrongly recorded as ZEYAN AHMAD KUMAR in his Aadhaar Card bearing No. 3424 4026 7488, whereas his actual and correct name is HAMMAD JAVAID. Now, I have applied for correction of the same in the concerned records. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, MOHD HUSSAIN DOYE, F/o FAREEDA AKHTER, R/o Devpora, District Shopian, Jammu & Kashmir UT, do hereby notify the general public that my daughter's name has been wrongly recorded as FEERADA JAN in her Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6661 5034 2970, whereas her actual and correct name is FAREEDA AKHTER. Now, I have applied for correction of the same in the concerned records. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, JAMILA AKHTER, D/o Ab Qayoom Sofi, R/o Hergam, District Shopian, Jammu & Kashmir UT, do hereby notify the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as JAMEELA AKHTER in my personal and official documents, whereas my actual and correct name is JAMILA AKHTER. Now, I have applied for correction of the same in the concerned records. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, ARSHEED AHMAD CHOHAN, S/o Mohammad Yaqoob Chohan, R/o Amshipora, District Shopian, Jammu & Kashmir UT, do hereby notify the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as ARSHEED AH in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6413 4265 7643, whereas my actual and correct name is ARSHEED AHMAD CHOHAN. Now, I have applied for correction of the same in the concerned records. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

fko

BEFORE THE HONORABLE COURT OF SPECIAL MOBILE MAGISTRATE AT BUDGAN

Present:-Easer Ul Nabi
Reg. No:-4324/2026
CNR No:-JKBG030043272026.
D.O.I: 03-11-2026
D-O-D :-03-11-2026
Aazim Ali S/o Ali Mohammad Awan
R/o Shalnar Tehsil Khansahib District Budgam.

(Applicant)

Versus

Registrar of births and deaths (BDO) Khanshaib Tehsil khansahib

(Respondent)

In the matter of: Application u/s 13 (3-A) of registration of birth and deaths Act, 1969 ε amended by the registration of birth and deaths (amendment) Act 2026 for an order fo delayed registration of birth of the applicant

PUBLICE NOTICE

Whereas, an application has filed regarding delayed registration of Birth of the Applicar Namely Aazim Ali s/o Ali Mohammad Awan R/o Shalnar Tehsil Khansahib District Budgam he been filed before this court. The honorable court, vide order dated 03-11-2026 he directed publication of notice in a newspaper inviting objections from the general publ regarding the proposed delay registration of the said birth. The Birth of applicant stated to have taken place on 12/06/2004 at home. The applicant seeks the registratio of the said birth with the concerned birth and death registration authority. Any perso having any objection to the delayed registration of the aforesaid Birth may file the san before this court within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. In case r objection is received within the stipulated period, the matter shall be proceeded with i accordance with law.
Given under my hand and seal of this court on 03-11-2026

Special Mobile
Magistrate at Budgam

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as MONEN KHAN While as my actual name is MOMIN KHAN PATHAN C/O NAZAKAT KHAN PATHAN R/O MINDIYAN KERAN 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.
MOMIN KHAN PATHAN
C/O :- NAZAKAT KHAN PATHAN
R/O :- MINDIYAN KERAN , KUPWARA

fko

Two Charred To Death As Fire Guts 80 Shelters In Bemina

Mother mourns 16-year-old son – the only earning member; CM Omar announces Rs 2 lakh ex-gratia for kin; 20 families affected

Agencies


KO Photo : Abid Bhat

Srinagar: A mother's desperate plea for help, a father's recollection of his son's last phone call and families left with nothing but the clothes they managed to escape in captured the tragedy after a fire gutted nearly 80 temporary shelters in Durbal area of Bemina in Srinagar, killing two people, including a 16-year-old boy.

The blaze broke out during the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, leaving several families homeless, destroying their belongings and claiming the lives of two Delhi natives who were working as scrap collectors in the area.

One of the bereaved mothers, whose 16-year-old son died in the fire, said she received the heartbreaking news around 3 am. "I got the news at 3 in the night that my son was burnt," she said, breaking down, while speaking with KNO. She has appealed to the government for assistance.

Another family member said the boy had come to visit his relatives in the area just two days before the incident and had spoken to his father over the phone shortly before the tragedy.

"He called me in the middle of the night and said, 'I have come here, but I don't like it here. I will come to Kupwara in the morning.' That was the last thing he said to me," his father Mohammad Rehmet Islam said.

He said the family received news of the tragedy around 2 am, when the entire area had already been engulfed in flames.

The bereaved mother said the deceased was the only earning member of the family, while another woman survivor recounted how she managed to escape with her children but could not save any belongings.

"We had money, jewellery and everything, but it was all burnt. We could not take even a single thing out. We somehow managed to escape with the children," she said, adding that the family had lost its clothes, household belongings and savings.

"We are sitting on the roadside. We don't know where to go. We are asking the government for help," she said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed grief over the loss of two lives and announced an ex-gratia relief of Rs 2 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased.

The CM conveyed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and directed the concerned authorities to ensure immediate relief and all necessary assistance to those affected, stressing the need for prompt intervention to address their urgent requirements.

An official said that the fire broke out around 12:23 am and rapidly spread through the cluster of temporary shelters, mostly made of tarpaulin and wood, engulfing nearly 80 structures.

An empty poultry farm and a tipper were also damaged in the blaze, while a residential house was among the properties affected.

Fire tenders from JVC and Rawalpora fire stations, along with additional reinforcements from Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) Headquarters at Batamaloo, were rushed to the spot to douse the flames.

"By the time the Fire and Emergency Services were informed, the entire area was already engulfed in flames," an official said, adding that two bodies were recovered from the debris after the fire was brought under control.

The deceased were identified as Mohammad Noor Alam (27), son of Abdul Wahab, a native of Delhi presently residing at Durbal, and Al Ameen (16), son of Mohammad Rafi, also a native of Delhi and presently residing in Kupwara.

Both were working as scrap collectors in the area, officials said.

Recounting the terrifying moments, another survivor, Mohammad Ramin, said he woke up suddenly to find the fire spreading through the area.

"I suddenly woke up and saw the fire. I don't know how it started," he said.

Ramin said the affected people had not received government relief at the time of his interview. He expressed gratitude to local residents who came forward to help them.

"Our Kashmiri brothers fed us breakfast this morning," he said.

Meanwhile, an official speaking on behalf of the district administration said around 20 families, 30 temporary structures and one residential house were affected in the incident.

He said police, Fire and Emergency Services and revenue officials immediately reached the spot, while the damage assessment was almost complete. The Deputy Commissioner had assured immediate relief, and cases were being processed for assistance under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

Srinagar Generates 525 Tonnes Of Waste Daily, Processes Only 184.5: SMC Tells NGT

Over 10.19 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste remain at Achan; Rs 361-crore integrated facility proposed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar produces nearly 525 metric tonnes of municipal solid waste daily, but existing infrastructure can process only 184.5 tonnes, leaving a daily shortfall of around 340.5 tonnes, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) told the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

The disclosure was made in a status report submitted before the tribunal in Original Application No. 543 of 2024, titled Raja Muzaffar Bhat versus Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, detailing the progress made in managing legacy waste at Achan landfill and plans to strengthen the city's waste-processing infrastructure.

According to the SMC report, Achan landfill had accumulated approximately 11 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste. Of this, nearly 80,750 metric tonnes have so far been treated through bio-mining and remediation, while around 10.19 lakh metric tonnes remain to be processed.

The corporation said the remediation process involves excavation, mechanical screening and segregation of waste into different categories for recovery and disposal.

Combustible waste recovered during the process is being converted into Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF) for use by cement industries. Recyclable materials are being separated for recovery, while inert waste is stored at designated locations and suitable soil-like material is being utilised for landscaping.

Div Com Reviews Progress Of Jhelum Water Transport Project

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress made in resolving various issues and bottlenecks affecting the progress of water transport facilities along River Jhelum.

The meeting was convened to assess the status of issues faced by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) project and to ensure coordinated efforts among the concerned departments for facilitating the smooth execution and timely advancement of the Jhelum Water Transport Project.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar and Bandipora, Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir, representatives of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), and officers from the Public Health Engineering (PHE), Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC), Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED) and other concerned departments.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner undertook a detailed review of the progress on several critical issues requiring inter-departmental coordination and timely intervention.

The matters discussed included road widening and removal of trees at Gund Parang, disposal of treated wastewater, and installation of electricity connections and provision of water supply at eight identified locations to facilitate the development of essential infrastructure for water transport operations.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Special Forest Division Tangmarg.

e- NIT NO: - 13 OF 2026-27 DATED:- 30 - 10 - 2026

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders (In Two cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following work:-

S.NO	NAME OF WORK	ADV. COST (Rs. In lacs)	EARNEST MONEY (Rs. In Lacs)	CLASS OF CONTRACTOR	Cost of Tender Document. (Rs)	TIME OF COMPLETION	Receiving/OpeningCommittee.
1	Development of Basic Facilities in and around Eco Park at Gogaldara Tangmarg. Special Forest Division Tangmarg.	**90.80**	**1.816**	**"A"**	Rs. 1600/=	Two working Season	Tender Opening Committee

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Website: - www.jktenders.gov.in.

Name of Scheme:- UT CAPEX

Position of Funds: Budgeted.

Position of AA/TS: Accorded.

Publishing Date: -	03-11-2026
Download Start Date:	04-11.2026 from10:00 AM
Bid submission Start Date:	04-11.2026 from10:00 AM
Bid submission End Date:	**16-11-2026 Upto 04:00 PM**
Date of Opening of Technical BidOnline.	17-11-2026 at 11:30 AM in the office of the Conservator of Forests Srinagar Circle at Shiek Bagh Srinagar.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid Online:	To be opened (on Line) after completion of Technical Evaluation and the date will be notified separately.

Important Note: "In pursuance of Finance Department Circular No. FD-Code/290/2026 dated 22.05.2026 and Circular issued by the Office of the Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), J&K vide No. PCCF/Acctts./2026-27/435-43 dated 24.06.2026, Bid Security (EMD), Tender Fee and applicable transaction/service charges shall be deposited online in cash through the prescribed online mechanism. Submission of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/TDR/Bank Guarantee shall not be accepted. Bidders shall comply with the aforesaid instructions while submitting their bids."

01. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: - https://jktenders.gov.in
02. The Technical bids shall be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
03. The financial bids shall be opened online after completion of Technical Evaluation and the date will be notified separately.
04. Bids uploaded online shall be accompanied by proof of payment of the Cost of Tender Document (Tender Fee) through the prescribed online mechanism, and proof/receipt of online cash deposit of 2% Bid Security (EMD) through the designated pooling account notified by the Finance Department, as generated by the e-tendering system. **Submission of Bid Security (EMD) in the form of CDR/FDR/TDR/Bank Guarantee or any other offline instrument shall not be accepted.** The date of payment of the Tender Fee and EMD shall be between the date of downloading the bidding document and the bid submission end date. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
05. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Divisional Forest Officer Special Forest Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority). The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP of 18 months.
7. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed document.

NO: DFO/TNG/Acctts/2026-27/769-74
Dated: 30-10-2026

DIPK-7362/26
dated: 04-11-2026

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer,
Special Forest Division,
Tangmarg.

- 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

24 Jumada al-Awwal
1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 30
ZUHR	12:15
ASR	3: 58
Magrib	5: 38
ISHA	7: 01

This Day In History

- 1556 - Akbar (14) succeeds his father Humajun as Sultan of Delhi
- 1556 - Battle at Panipat: Mogollegers beat hindu leader Hemu
- 1605 - Gunpowder Plot: Catholic conspirator Guy Fawkes attempts to blow up King James I and the British Parliament. Plot discovered, Guy Fawkes caught, tortured and later executed along with seven others.
- 1678 - Brandenburgse troops occupy Greifswald in Sweden
- 1725 - Spain & Austria sign secret treaty
- 1757 - Battle at Rossbach (7 year war/French & Indian War)
- 1838 - Honduras declares independence of Central American Federation
- 1862 - Battle at Barbee's Crossroads, Virginia: 51 casualties
- 1873 - Due to the fallout from the Pacific Scandal, John A. Macdonald resigns as Prime Minister of Canada
- 1881 - French government-Ferry resigns
- 188 - 1 1,600 police and volunteers attack M ori settlement at Parihaka in western Taranaki which had become the symbol of protest against the confiscation of M ori land, New Zealand
- 1900 - Under US military control since the end of the Spanish-American War in 1898, Cuba now calls its own constitutional convention
- 1911 - Italy attacks Turkish North-Africa (Libya), takes Tripoli & Cyrenaica
- 1912 - Democrat candidate Woodrow Wilson is elected President of the United States, defeating Republican incumbent William Howard Taft and Progressive candidate Theodore Roosevelt
- 1913 - Ludwig III crowned king of Bavaria
- 1914 - Britain declares war on Turkey and annexes Cyprus, occupied since 1878; the immediate reason is to keep it from being taken by Turkey
- 1916 - Emperors Wilhelm II (Germany) and Franz Jozef I (Austria-Hungary) establish the kingdom of Poland
- 1916 - Second Chamber accept initial impetus to general males/female suffrage
- 1916 - The Everett Massacre takes place in Everett, Washington as political differences lead to a shoot-out between IWW organizers and local police.
- 1917 - Gen Pershing & US troops see action on Western Front for 1st time
- 1921 - Soviet Russia signs a treaty with Mongolia, temporarily supporting the new government against China and Japanese incursions
- 1925 - Mussolini disbands Italian socialist parties
- 1930 - Nobel for literature awarded to Sinclair Lewis for "Babbitt"
- 1933 - Spanish Basques vote for autonomy
- 1937 - Adolf Hitler informs his military leaders in a secret meeting of his intentions of going to war
- 1940 - Franklin D. Roosevelt is re-elected President of the United States for an unprecedented third term, defeating Republican candidate Wendell Willkie
- 1941 - Japanese naval staff officers Suzuki and Maejima leave Pearl Harbor.
- 1943 - Vatican in Rome bombed by unknown source
- 1944 - Allied troops reach Zoutelande, Walcheren
- 1944 - Canadian & British troops liberate Dinteloord
- 1953 - Nobel prize for physics awarded to Frederik Zernicke
- 1956 - Britain and France land airborne forces at Port Said in Egypt, escalating the Suez Crisis
- 1964 - US launches Mariner 3 toward Mars; no data returned
- 1967 - ATS-3 launched by US to take first pictures of full Earth disc
- 196 7 - US troops conquer Loc Ninh South Vietnam
- 1967 - Yemen president Sallal flees
- 1975 - British government sends troops to Belize
- 1978 - Iranian PM Jaafar Sharif-Emami resigns to Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi
- 1979 - Iran government of Bazargan resigns
- 1979 - Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini declares US "The Great Satan"
- 1983 - Orbiter Discovery (OV-103) moves overland to Dryden
- 1988 - France performs nuclear test
- 1994 - Space probe Ulyssus completes 1st passage behind the Sun
- 1995 - STS 73 (Columbia 18), lands
- 2006 - Saddam Hussein, former president of Iraq, and his co-defendants Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti and Awad Hamed al-Bandar are sentenced to death in the al-Dujail trial for the role in the massacre of the 148 Shi'as in 1982.

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KO VIEW

Roads Over Roots

Kashmir's forests are paying a growing price for development, and the government must explain who is responsible.

Roads, power projects and other infrastructure may serve public needs, but their construction cannot come at the cost of unchecked forest destruction.

The latest figures on tree felling, forest diversion and unpaid environmental levies point to a serious failure of accountability.

The problem is no longer simply the loss of trees. It is the failure of government agencies to honour the obligations that come with using public land.

A February 2026 investigation, based on a government report submitted to the National Green Tribunal, found that 82,511 trees had been felled for infrastructure projects in Jammu and Kashmir since 2019. Government agencies also owed more than Rs 49 crore in statutory environmental levies.

The outstanding payments formed part of an estimated liability of Rs 84.82 crore linked to 154 projects.

The administration cited the transition following Jammu and Kashmir's reorganisation and disruptions caused by the pandemic to explain the delays. Such explanations do little to justify years of unpaid dues.

The policy that allowed government projects to proceed without prior payment of mandatory environmental levies raises an even bigger concern.

Public agencies were allowed to use forest land while postponing payments meant to fund ecological restoration. The administration has since reversed the policy and returned 23 fresh project proposals because of pending payments.

That is a welcome correction, but it also raises questions about why the arrangement continued for so long and who approved it.

Meanwhile, the pressure on forests continues.

Data presented in Parliament in July 2026 show that 1,178.58 hectares of forest land in Jammu and Kashmir were approved for non-forestry use between April 2021 and March 2026. Annual diversion rose from 126.65 hectares in 2023-24 to 310.39 hectares in 2025-26.

These figures call for a closer look at the projects approved and the steps taken to protect the forests.

Encroachment further adds to the problem. The government informed the Legislative Assembly in March 2026 that more than 21 lakh kanals of state and forest land were under illegal occupation in Jammu and Kashmir. Nearly 29,000 kanals had been retrieved since October 2024.

These figures point to the scale of the enforcement challenge and the need for regular public reporting on action against illegal occupation.

The government should publish a project-wise record of forest diversion, tree felling, unpaid levies and compensatory plantations. Independent audits should establish whether planted trees survive and whether agencies fulfil their environmental obligations. Departments and contractors responsible for violations should face financial and administrative penalties.

Kashmir needs better roads, reliable electricity and public infrastructure. It also needs forests that protect water sources, mountain slopes and wildlife.

Development cannot become a licence for public agencies to ignore environmental laws. Those who approve forest diversion must also answer for the damage it causes.

The Case for Fair Quotas

As influential families find ways into reserved categories, disadvantaged students in Jammu and Kashmir are left questioning whether the system still serves those it was designed to protect.



Sahil Parray

India's reservation system began with a moral purpose that commanded broad respect.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar envisioned it as a constitutional instrument that could repair centuries of exclusion and open doors that caste, poverty, geography, and social discrimination had kept shut.

Reservation emerged as a bridge into public life for communities denied access to education, jobs, and state power.

That vision still holds immense value.

Millions of Indians entered universities, government offices, and professional institutions because the Constitution recognized that equality on paper means little when society begins with unequal foundations.

A serious problem now confronts that vision, especially in Jammu and Kashmir.

Reservation increasingly serves people with influence, financial security, institutional access, and political reach while many genuinely disadvantaged students remain trapped at the edge of the system.

Honest discussion on this issue rarely survives beyond slogans because political parties treat reservation as electoral territory rather than public policy.

That silence has produced deep resentment among young people who spent years believing hard work still mattered.

Reservation and merit can work together when the system functions honestly.

A first-generation student from a remote village in Poonch who studies through power cuts, attends a poorly staffed government school, lacks coaching support, and still qualifies for a competitive examination represents both social justice and academic merit.

Such a student deserves institutional support because the playing field began sharply uneven.

The crisis begins when privilege enters the system wearing the mask of disadvantage.

A senior bureaucrat's son raised in a government bungalow, educated in elite schools, coached in Delhi, and surrounded by institutional guidance can still appear in recruitment lists through reserved category certificates.

That reality destroys public faith because every such selection pushes out somebody who genuinely depended on constitutional protection.

This distortion grows sharper in Jammu and Kashmir because government employment remains the main path to economic stability.

Maharashtra has industries, Bengaluru has technology firms, Gurgaon has corporate employment, while J&K offers very little beyond state recruitment.

A government job here supports entire families, funds education for younger siblings, prevents migration, and provides long-term security in a region with limited private investment.

Every single seat, therefore, holds enormous weight. And that reality makes excessive reservation deeply contentious in J&K.

The Union Territory operates under one of the heaviest reservation structures in India. Categories including SC, ST, OBC, RBA, ALC, PSP, and EWS consume a vast share of government recruitment seats. Open merit candidates often compete for a narrow remainder after quota allocations conclude.

A middle-class student from Jammu or a struggling family in rural Kashmir may spend six or seven years preparing for JKAS or other competitive examinations only to discover that the available open seats barely exist.

Such candidates do not possess business networks, inherited wealth, or alternative career routes. They only possess exam preparation and hope.

Political leadership continues expanding reservation categories because quotas generate votes while structural reform demands courage. Serious investment in schools, libraries, teacher quality, internet access, and coaching support would produce lasting mobility.

That route requires time, accountability, and sustained governance. Expanding quotas simply requires a press conference.

Medical education reveals the danger of reducing standards without fixing inequality at its source.

NEET PG emerged to ensure baseline competence before doctors entered specialist training. During NEET PG 2023, the qualifying percentile fell to zero. Candidates with negative marks entered postgraduate medical programs. Several candidates scoring below zero qualified for admission into MD specializations.

The same controversy resurfaced during NEET PG 2025 when lowered cutoffs again permitted candidates with negative scores into counselling rounds for clinical specialties.

This issue reaches beyond statistics.

A poor family entering a government hospital in Kupwara or Rajouri trusts that the doctor standing before them passed through a system committed to competence. Public health depends upon that trust. Educational reform cannot survive on symbolic compassion while professional standards weaken.

Real justice would produce stronger schools in Handwara, functioning science laboratories in Doda, trained teachers in Ramban, and accessible coaching support in underserved districts. Real justice would prepare disadvantaged students to compete confidently rather than lowering thresholds while calling the outcome empowerment.

Fraud worsens the crisis further.

Delhi Police arrested four individuals during 2024, including an Executive Magistrate, for allegedly running a racket that issued fake OBC, SC, and ST certificates to general category applicants. Authorities seized more than a hundred fraudulent certificates. The Ministry of Personnel has acknowledged that more than 1,832 government appointments across India involved fake or fraudulent category certificates.

Those numbers represent stolen futures.

Jammu and Kashmir now faces similar allegations that demand transparent investigation. Questions emerged after the JKAS 2023 selection process regarding an RBA certificate allegedly issued to a candidate from a financially secure and socially influential family. Public complaints triggered an inquiry ordered by the Deputy Commissioner. Public trust collapsed when the inquiry reportedly disappeared into bureaucratic silence.

Citizens notice such designs quickly. Powerful families receive procedural protection while ordinary aspirants spend years waiting outside government offices for a single document.

Fresh concerns emerged during the 2026 JKAS selections. Reports indicate that serving government employees secured EWS certificates despite drawing stable salaries and receiving state benefits. Questions also surround candidates linked to influential officials whose economic status appears inconsistent with EWS eligibility.

Authorities owe the public clear answers.

Economic weakness cannot become a flexible category available to anyone with administrative access. EWS certification exists for financially vulnerable households struggling without inherited institutional advantages. Expanding it into a convenience for already secure families destroys the moral foundation of the policy itself.

Picture a student in Kishtwar preparing for civil services examinations through freezing winters and endless uncertainty. His father survives on daily wage labour, while his mother stitches clothes for neighbours to supplement household income. Coaching remains unaffordable, so he studies borrowed material under dim phone light during power cuts.

He competes honestly because honesty remains the only resource available to him.

Then recruitment results arrive. A serving government employee with salary security enters the list through an EWS certificate while his own name disappears.

That moment changes how citizens see the state.

Governments cannot repair this crisis through speeches alone. J&K needs an independent, time-bound verification of reservation and EWS certificates used in major recruitment processes. Authorities should cross-check salary records, tax filings, land ownership, and asset declarations without political interference.

Fraudulent selections should face cancellation and criminal prosecution. Administrative protection for influential families must end.

Whistleblower mechanisms also deserve swift creation because communities often know exactly who obtained fake certificates. Fear prevents reporting, but protection encourages truth.

Reservation still matters deeply in India. Large sections of society continue battling historical discrimination, poor schooling, social exclusion, and economic deprivation. Constitutional safeguards remain essential. Honest reform strengthens reservation because reform restores credibility.

Dr. Ambedkar never imagined reservation as a permanent shield for the already powerful. He imagined it as a path toward equal citizenship.

That promise survives only when the deserving receive support before the connected capture it.

Governments cannot repair this crisis through speeches alone. J&K needs an independent, time-bound verification of reservation and EWS certificates used in major recruitment processes. Authorities should cross-check salary records, tax filings, land ownership, and asset declarations without political interference.

The author is a student activist from Jammu and Kashmir and heads the Open Merit Students Association. He writes on education policy, reservation, youth unemployment, and institutional fairness in J&K.

Kashmir's One-Career Trap

The pressure to become a doctor is narrowing the horizons of young people and turning a career choice into a test of personal worth.



Furqan Iqbal

A crisis grips Kashmir, unfolding inside homes and in long evenings of study, where teenagers absorb a dream before they understand it. One word defines this story: NEET.

Step back and consider the world young people inhabit today.

Career paths stretch in every direction, from technology and research to law, design, aviation, and public service. A teenager in Tokyo may build robots after school. A student in Berlin may train in a skilled craft. A young coder in Lagos may create tools used far beyond her city. Opportunity exists in many forms, driven by talent and curiosity.

Kashmir tells a different story. A single path dominates the imagination. A white coat stands as the ultimate goal, and every other ambition fades into the background.

The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test serves as India's gateway to medical education. It remains one among many competitive exams, each opening a distinct path.

Engineering aspirants prepare for GATE, law students pursue CLAT, and civil service hopefuls take the UPSC route.

Each path demands effort and commitment. But Kashmir's social script elevates NEET above all others, turning one exam into a defining measure of worth.

Parents in the valley act from a place of concern defined by decades of uncertainty. Stability, respect, and financial security guide their choices for their children. Medicine appears to promise all three.

That instinct has sincerity, but the outcome reveals a different reality.

A hope for stability has hardened into a single expectation. Dinner table conversations shift early, coaching classes begin in adolescence, a plan becomes the only plan, and a child's voice grows faint over time.

Many young people begin with interests that feel alive and personal.

A student dreams of flying planes, another shows a sharp instinct for debate. A young writer fills pages with stories that draw readers in. A tinkerer spends hours taking apart machines and putting them back together.

These early passions often give way to years spent in coaching centers, working through mock tests for an exam that never aligned with their instincts.

Good intentions guide these decisions, though intention alone cannot guarantee a good outcome.

"Doctor or disappointment" has become an unspoken verdict delivered far too early.

Real lives show the cost of this career trend and trajectory. Bilal from Srinagar spent four years attempting NEET after finishing school. Each year brought another attempt, another round of preparation, and another delay. Friends moved forward into careers and new cities. His eventual score fell short of a government seat, and private education remained out of reach. He now studies a subject he never cared for, while his interest in engineering has faded into something distant and uncertain.

The problem lies in a culture that reduces success to a single outcome. A generation stands ready to contribute in many ways. It deserves the freedom to choose its own path and the support to pursue it with confidence.

Aasiya from Baramulla once saw biology as a window into the natural world. Research held her attention, and her academic record opened doors to strong science programs. Coaching replaced exploration at fifteen, and three years went into exam preparation. She later returned to a general science degree, though her earlier spark had dimmed.

Imran from Anantnag entered the process without a clear passion, which describes many teenagers. Space to explore might have led him toward a genuine interest. Structured preparation took over instead, and three attempts later, he stands without direction. A system meant to provide clarity left him with fewer answers than before.

An entire industry thrives on this demand. Coaching centers line the streets of Srinagar and district towns, promising success and rank lists. Families invest heavily, often stretching finances to secure what they believe is the best chance for their children.

Many students enter a cycle that extends through multiple attempts. Years pass, and peers in other fields gain experience and confidence. A sense of falling behind grows stronger with each passing season.

These years carry lasting importance. Ages fifteen to twenty mark the beginning of adult identity, when interests take root and direction becomes clearer. Total focus on a single exam can crowd out that process.

Anxiety and burnout among aspirants have become common experiences, visible in late-night study sessions where motivation feels forced rather than natural.

Social pressure deepens the burden. Academic performance often defines status, and a failed attempt can feel like a personal verdict. A more honest view sees it as information, pointing toward a different path that may suit a student better.

Medicine stands as one of the most meaningful professions in any society. That meaning depends on choice. A doctor who enters the field through pressure may lack the commitment that patients deserve. Personal misalignment turns into a broader concern, touching the quality of care itself.

Kashmir's history tells a richer story than this narrow focus suggests. The region has produced poets, scholars, and craftsmen whose work continues to inspire. Such a legacy supports a wide range of ambitions. Engineering can help rebuild infrastructure. Law can strengthen justice and rights. Research can address environmental and scientific questions unique to the region. Public service can bring local insight into governance. Each path demands dedication and can lead to a life of purpose when chosen freely.

This argument does not oppose NEET as an exam. It challenges the culture that elevates it above all else. Change must begin within families, where conversations about careers take shape early. Parents can ask what truly interests their children and listen closely to the answers. Schools can provide meaningful guidance that presents multiple options. Coaching centers can present realistic outcomes and encourage backup plans as a mark of practical thinking.

Kashmir has endured decades of difficulty with remarkable strength. That strength deserves direction toward futures that align with individual talent and interest. Many young people in the Valley possess the curiosity and ability to succeed in diverse fields. Some will choose medicine with full conviction, and they should receive full support. Others will find their place in different professions, and their choices deserve equal respect.

The problem lies in a culture that reduces success to a single outcome. A generation stands ready to contribute in many ways. It deserves the freedom to choose its own path and the support to pursue it with confidence.

The exam holds its place. The monoculture surrounding it demands change.

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Are We Failing Our Elders?

Senior citizens are increasingly left to navigate complicated systems and conflicting information, even as society celebrates its traditions of respect for older generations.



Mohammad Ilyas Bhat

People judge a society by how it treats its elders. This simple test never goes out of date.

When we were young, the entry of an elder changed the room. Children slowed their steps, lowered their voices, and set aside their mischief out of regard for a life fully lived.

That change happened without instruction, because elders stood as living records of experience and sacrifice within every mohalla and household.

Today, senior citizens enter public debates mainly through headlines, and those headlines promise celebration while delivering complication.

Pick up any newspaper in the valley and a bold line announces, "Railways give big relief to senior citizens," and an elderly reader feels a warm surge of hope that someone in authority has finally remembered their daily struggles.

That moment of joy soon meets a long paragraph of conditions, where the concession stands at two percent, applies only to online bookings, works only in selected classes, fits certain dates, and requires identity proofs verified through digital systems.

The simple task of purchasing a ticket begins to resemble a treasure hunt, where every click demands another document, code, and confirmation that the passenger exists in the correct format within a government portal.

The headline projects generosity, while the details create a maze that tests eyesight, internet speed, and digital familiarity.

Editors present these announcements with great confidence, as though senior citizens fail to grasp percentages or procedures. These same citizens have lived through decades of inflation without budgeting apps, ration systems without QR codes, and political promises that arrived season after season with cheerful taglines about better days ahead.

The veterans understand numbers and patterns, and recognize exaggeration when it appears in bold print.

The story repeats itself with the 8th Pay Commission, which has turned into a daily soap opera for pensioners who depend on fixed incomes.

One morning a headline declares that huge benefits approach pensioners, and the next morning another headline predicts zero gains, followed by breaking news about a massive hike, then an update suggesting a modest increase.

Readers follow this sequence like episodes of a drama, while the core fact remains simple and unchanged, since the commission holds its own timeline for submitting a report and any figure printed before that submission rests on speculation.

Speculation fills pages and drives circulation, while certainty waits silently in official files.

Even when benefits reach pensioners, they come buried in layers of procedure, requiring online applications, document uploads, OTP codes, biometric verifications, and portals that open and close unpredictably.

A benefit exists in theory, and its practical form depends on server performance, pension ceilings fixed by distant authorities, and the ability of aging fingers to respond swiftly to touchscreens.

Senior citizens receive advertisements of benefits more often than benefits themselves, and this pattern deepens the sense that announcements matter more than access.



MODERN CULTURE EQUATES SILENCE WITH IGNORANCE, EVEN THOUGH SILENCE OFTEN REFLECTS EXPERIENCE AND DISCERNMENT GAINED THROUGH DECADES OF OBSERVATION. Many elders choose restraint in argument because long life teaches that wrestling with foolishness produces little light, and that wisdom sometimes expresses itself through measured words.

As newspapers spin their stories, a new breed of digital personalities rises on YouTube, presenting themselves as experts on food, gold testing, lifestyle, and then health, all within the same channel.

These creators speak with theatrical confidence that rivals celebrated authors and decorated scientists, even though their backgrounds often remain unclear to viewers who seek guidance.

Each day brings a fresh directive delivered with dramatic flair: avoid mangoes, avoid bananas, avoid chapati, treat rice as poison, treat milk as harmful, treat tea as slow death, and treat sugar as certain disaster.

One self-declared expert urges viewers to drink five liters of water daily for perfect health, and another warns that excess water destroys kidneys, leaving an elderly viewer trapped between opposing claims delivered with equal certainty.

An older person who values health listens carefully, because experience teaches that the body deserves attention and care, while younger audiences often scroll past with the confidence of youth.

This environment turns health into content farming, where views and subscribers grow while clarity shrinks.

WhatsApp completes this circle of confusion by operating as a hospital without doctors, where forwarded messages promise cures for diabetes, blood pressure, arthritis, depression, cancer, and even strained marriages.

Every morning introduces a new miracle tip, such as boiling garlic in water to erase sugar levels, followed the next day by a warning that garlic harms sugar patients, then a claim that garlic extends life to 120 years, and soon after a dramatic alert that garlic triggers heart attacks.

Within this ecosystem, every uncle becomes a physician, every aunt becomes a surgeon, and every forwarded message resembles a medical journal, while verified recovery remains absent from the narrative.

The irony stands in plain view, because the senior citizens who face this storm of headlines and digital noise built the infrastructure and institutions that support daily life in Kashmir.

They constructed roads and irrigation canals, established schools and hospitals, staffed government offices, cultivated fields to secure food supplies, maintained public discipline, protected forests, planted gardens, and passed on moral values that many in the present generation label old fashioned.

They preserved the social and physical environment brick by brick and tree by tree, and today society often treats them like outdated furniture placed against the wall.

Modern culture equates silence with ignorance, even though silence often reflects experience and discernment gained through decades of observation. Many elders choose restraint in argument because long life teaches that wrestling with foolishness produces little light, and that wisdom sometimes expresses itself through measured words.

Public discourse now rewards volume and spectacle, where the loudest voice receives applause and a speaker who talks without depth earns the label of bold, while a person who reflects before speaking gains the label of outdated.

Those who built institutions sit at the edge of discussions, while those who master algorithms command screens and shape opinions.

A society that sidelines its elders weakens its own foundation, because senior citizens anchor memory, continuity, and shared understanding within communities.

When that foundation absorbs constant dismissal and mockery, cracks appear in trust and values that hold families and neighbourhoods together.

Time introduces its own perspective, as the energetic youth who dominate screens today will one day open newspapers with similar hopes for recognition and relief. They will encounter digital portals, shifting announcements, and health advice delivered with grand certainty, and they will seek clarity and fairness in systems designed for them.

Respect grows when it begins early in life, and it returns in later years as lived reality.

Kashmir celebrates its traditions in poetry, speeches, and festivals, and that celebration gains depth when it extends into policy design, media language, and everyday interaction with senior citizens.

Elders ask for clear information, workable procedures, and honest communication that values their experience.

The valley stands at a point where reflection can lead to reform, and where social commentary can evolve into social change.

The question before us feels deeply personal and distinctly Kashmiri, as every family includes parents and grandparents who deserve systems that serve them with fairness.

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Srinagar of Our Younger Days

A journey through the city's old shopping corners and college haunts, where a treasured shirt, a shared glance and an afternoon with friends could make lasting memories.



Syed Nissar H Gilani

I catch sight of Dress Corner these days, and it pulls me straight back to those sunlit afternoons of my college years, from 1963 right through to my postgraduate days in 1970.

Back then, we treated any shop with real branded men's clothes like a hidden treasure, something special that made our hearts race with possibility.

Srinagar pulsed with these spots we called corners, each one a magnet drawing us into the everyday adventures of growing up.

Book Corner sat right there by the grand old S.P. College and the lively Government College for Women along M.A. Road, and my circle of friends, including Saleem, Rauf Fazili, Syed Ahamed, and Mushtaq Buch, who left us far too soon, made it our regular haunt.

We wandered in for the newest shirts or jackets, sure, but mostly we soaked up the buzz of student chatter and dreams spilling out onto the pavement. That place wrapped us in the energy of lectures just ending and futures still unfolding.

Right next door stretched Love Lane, tucked away behind the Women's College, a narrow path alive with the silent excitement of young hearts stealing moments together or stealing quick peeks at faces that lit up their world.

We all knew the pull of those encounters, the way a shared smile could turn an ordinary walk into something electric. Even so, we shared those spaces with watchful guardians who shaped our world with firm hands.

Jinab Saif-ud-Din, the sharp-minded administrator at S.P. College, and Professor Mahmooda Ahmed Shah, the inspiring principal of the Women's College, stood as pillars of order. They guided us away from reckless impulses, trimming back any excess with clear expectations, and in turn we held them close with genuine admiration and warmth.

Come around three or four in the afternoon, when the Women's College doors swung open and students poured out, the whole area transformed into a lively gathering ground. Young men gathered there, eager to catch eyes or exchange waves, letting the crowd carry them along in waves of laughter and possibility.

Anyone who pushed too far with careless words soon faced the firm hand of officers from the Kothibagh Police Station, who enforced the rules of the day and occasionally marched the boldest ones off to spend a night reflecting behind bars.

A little farther out at Polo View, Beauty Corner drew crowds with its displays of intricate Kashmiri crafts and those soft, handwoven shawls that seemed to hold stories in every thread.

Over at Budshah Chowk, Paris Beauties hummed under the watchful eye of Ghulam Rasool, whose bright red Volkswagen gleamed like a promise of far-off places parked out front. He stocked wonders like French perfumes, scents that whispered of elegant lives we could only imagine.

As students scraping by on pocket money, we hoarded every coin in our little tin "ginny boxes," plotting and saving for weeks or even months to claim one crisp shirt or a cozy sweater that felt like a victory.



OVER AT BUDSHAH CHOWK, PARIS BEAUTIES HUMMED UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF GHULAM RASOOL, whose bright red Volkswagen gleamed like a promise of far-off places parked out front. He stocked wonders like French perfumes, scents that whispered of elegant lives we could only imagine.

One piece stands out in my memory above all: that half-sleeve nylon sweater in a cheerful lemon shade I scraped together enough for one crisp autumn day. I wore it like a crown, parading through campus with a grin that wouldn't fade, and it held up through three full decades, its colour as fresh as the day I brought it home.

People in my neighbourhood came to see it as a lucky charm, more than a few grooms slipped it on for their wedding days, then carefully folded it back into my family's keeping at our old place in Yarkand House Mallaratta.

Dress Corner itself belonged to a solid Punjabi family, who built trust with local customers. They ran the Neelam Hotel just upstairs, filling the air with the aroma of fresh meals and warm welcomes.

Life brought them hardships over the passing years, blows that tested their spirit, but their shop thrives on, passed down through generations who carry forward that same blend of skill and straightforward kindness, earning nods of respect from everyone who steps through the door.

Srinagar's streets bustle now with fresh additions, including Coffee Corners steaming with brews from distant lands, Cake Corners tempting with layers of sweetness, but that special spark from our era, the one woven into every shared glance and treasured find, eludes the rush of today.

We carried those simple, dearly bought clothes like emblems of our own unfolding stories, a personal pride that fast-changing trends seem to chase right out of reach.

I look back on those times as a former civil servant who once served in the administrative ranks, and as someone honoured with the Moulana Abul Kalam Azad Award from the UP Cultural Academy for my Urdu translation of Sir Francis Younghusband's "Kashmir."

Those corners shaped me, and in sharing them, I hope you feel the warmth of afternoons that still colour my steps.

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TCI MAX names Owais Yaqoob brand ambassador, celebrates bond built on trust and resilience

Observer News Service

Srinagar, Nov 4: TCI MAX on Wednesday announced Owais Yaqoob, a professional mixed martial arts (MMA) fighter, who has represented the country in international competitions in professional MMA, as its brand ambassador, bringing together two names it says embody resilience, perseverance, and the ability to withstand challenging conditions.

The announcement was made at a function held at Four Points by Sheraton in Srinagar, where Yaqoob spoke about his association with the organisation, recalling the support it extended to him during the early stages of his journey.

"TCI MAX stood by me when I had nothing. Its support was not limited to Kashmir; the organisation stood with me outside as well, at a time when I was still finding my feet. I may achieve many things in life, but I will never forget those who believed



in me when there was little to believe in," said Yaqoob.

He said the association was built on trust and gratitude, adding that the support he received had left a lasting impression on him.

Addressing the gathering, TCI MAX Marketing Manager Nisar Ahmad Bhat said resilience was best measured not in favourable circumstances but when faced with adversity.

"The true strength of a person, just like the strength of cement, is revealed when the conditions are at their toughest. Challenges do not define us; the ability to stand firm through them does," Bhat said.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

Trump's Republicans

told ABC News.

In media interviews, Trump conceded defeat in the elections, known as midterms because they are held in the middle of the president's four-year term, and said he was ready to work with the Democrats.

"My message is, congratulations to the Democrats, and I look forward to working with you for the good of our country," he told CBS News.

"I am absolutely willing to accept those results," Trump said in an interview with The New York Times on Tuesday night as results trickled in.

If that was uncharacteristically humble and conciliatory of Trump, he was quick to revert to his customary style of transferring the blame elsewhere.

He said his party lost because he was not on the ballot and said he had no regrets about endorsing candidates such as Senator Darline Graham, Republican of South Carolina, and Ken Paxton, the Republican attorney general of Texas.

Paxton's loss to James Talarico marked the first time Texas will be sending a Democrat to the Senate in nearly 40 years.

Graham is the sister of the late Senator Lindsey Graham and was appointed to the Senate to complete her brother's term after his death earlier this year.

In the outgoing Senate, Republicans had a 53-47 majority. The Democrats flipped the Senate after winning at least seven Republican-held seats, including in North Carolina, Ohio, Maine, South Carolina, Kansas, Iowa and Texas.

In the outgoing House, Republicans had a slim margin of 220-215. Democrats have now crossed the 218-seat threshold needed to take control of the chamber, reversing the balance of power.

"I wasn't on the Ballot and if I was, we would have won IN A LANDSLIDE! Thank you for your attention to this matter," Trump posted on Truth Social.

North Carolina was the first Senate seat to flip when Democrat Roy Cooper defeated Republican Michael Whatley.

Georgia scripted history when Keisha Lance Bottoms was elected the state's first Black woman governor, defeating Republican nominee Rick Jackson.

In Iowa, Democrat Rob Sand won the governor's post, defeating Republican Zach Lahn.

Democrat Gina Hinojosa defeated incumbent Governor Greg Abbott, thus becoming the first Latina to be elected to a gubernatorial office in Texas.

In Kansas, pastor-politician Adam Hamilton entered the record books by winning the Senate seat for the Democrats for the first time in nearly 100 years.

In Ohio, Republican Jon Husted, who was appointed to the US Senate after incumbent JD Vance was elected Vice President, lost the seat to Democrat Sherrod Brown.

Democrat Senator Jon Ossoff was re-elected in Georgia. He is seen as a potential presidential candidate in the 2028 elections.

An Associated Press poll found roughly 6 in 10 voters disapprove of Trump's job performance. About 70 per cent of voters want Congress to provide more checks and balances on the presidency. And roughly 6 in 10 voters said Trump places a higher priority on his personal interests than the country's interests.

The results will lead to severe curtailing of Trump's ability to govern according to his whims, as the Congress has great powers to stymie the president. Trump's only weapon now will be executive orders, which he can wield for the rest of his term, or veto the Congress.

As the results came out, Trump posted a picture on Truth Social, his preferred social media platform, a picture of a red cap with VETO emblazoned on the front.

AIIMS Awantipora

October 16, officials said the overall physical progress of the project had reached around 81 per cent, while financial progress stood at over 72 per cent.

Hospital Block-I has been completed, while Hospital Block-II is nearing completion.

The administration has directed executing agencies to resolve pending issues and ensure that ready facilities are made operational without further delay.

During a visit to the institute on October 23, the Deputy Commissioner also stressed that departments ready for operations should be opened in phases rather than waiting for the entire campus to be completed.

Officials said electricity and water connections are in place, while heating systems, lift safety clearances, mandatory no-objection certificates and other operational requirements are being addressed on priority.

AIIMS Awantipora is being developed as a 750-bed tertiary care hospital comprising 57 buildings, with facilities for specialised treatment, medical education, research and advanced diagnostic services.

While the first phase is nearing operationalisation, several academic, administrative, residential and hospital facilities remain under development.

Officials said four buildings under Phase II are targeted for completion by the end of November 2026, while major Phase III works, including Hospital Blocks 3 and 5, are scheduled for completion by June 2027.

Vance Cites Iran War

set up a divided government, with Congress poised to reassert itself as a coequal branch ready to challenge President Donald Trump and reverse course after two years of unified GOP control. ~AP

Iran: US Voters

"gravely mistaken."

In a letter shared on his social media account, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, who hasn't been seen publicly since the war began in late February, said: "If there are still those who harbour even a slight hope for a change in behaviour or partisan and factional shifts within the system of domination, or who imagine that by giving concessions to America they can dissuade it from hostility toward the Iranian nation, they are gravely mistaken."

The broader region has been on edge for weeks over the prospect of the US resuming full-scale military operations against Iran for the first time in almost two months. Talks aimed at preventing renewed fighting are continuing, while other US allies in the region urge Washington against resuming a war that began more than eight months ago and has rattled the global economy and devastated Iran.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has reportedly pushed for more strikes, while Trump has alternated between threatening major strikes and pushing for a deal.

Iran's chief negotiator and parliament speaker, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, wrote Wednesday on X that "Americans said NO TO WAR, and we endorse this message."

"If the US govt betrays their public will to serve international paymasters and blackmailers, it will learn our NO comes with a Nightmare."

Despite ceasefire agreements and repeated diplomatic efforts, military confrontations have continued in southern Iran and around the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson said in a social media post that Americans had sent a clear message and warned Washington against ignoring it. If the US continues to ignore reality, the spokesperson said, "the consequences of this grave miscalculation will extend far beyond what you have already witnessed."

Iran marks anniversary of 1979 seizure of US Embassy

Thousands marched through Tehran on Wednesday to commemorate the anniversary of the 1979 takeover of the US Embassy and celebrate the US election results.

Demonstrators burnt American and Israeli flags and chanted "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." They displayed effigies of Trump and Netanyahu alongside caricatures of the two leaders.

"Trump has gone too far in everything, and that's one reason for his defeat in the election," said Hananeh Jahed, a demonstrator.

Zahra Nadiminejad praised Iranian resistance, saying US voters "finally figured out that this is Iran, and they can't just come in here and do whatever the hell they want."

"They've seen the consequences of the war back home, from skyrocketing gas and food prices to all the devastating effects the war has had on their own country. And whether the Democrats win or the Republicans win, our hostility toward America will never come to an end."

Nearly three decades ago, Iranian students stormed the US Embassy on Nov. 4, 1979, taking American diplomats and other citizens hostage. Fifty-two Americans were held for 444 days before being released.

The crisis helped cement the rupture between the two countries, which have had no formal diplomatic relations for years.

The United States and Israel launched the war against Iran on Feb. 28, killing the country's longtime supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and triggering a conflict that has disrupted global energy markets and shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

Addressing the demonstrators Wednesday, Tehran Mayor Alireza Zakani claimed the United States and Israel has suffered a massive defeat.

"The decisive defeat of the United States and the Zionist regime in recent developments and elections is the result of the Iranian nation's steadfastness and strength," Zakani said. "Even political rivals in the United States have acknowledged that this failure was the result of the Iranian people's ingenuity and perseverance." (AP)

Rain, Snow Likely

seasonal averages.

Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 4.1 degrees Celsius, 1.1 degrees above normal, while Qazigund registered 3.4 degrees Celsius and Pahalgam 3.1 degrees Celsius.

Kokernag recorded a low of 6 degrees Celsius, while Jammu city registered a minimum temperature of 15.1 degrees Celsius.

On the maximum temperature front, Kupwara was the warmest among the reported Kashmir stations at 23.8 degrees Celsius, followed by Srinagar and Qazigund, both recording 22 degrees Celsius.

Ahmad said winter has almost set in across the region, with shallow fog being witnessed over the plains during morning hours. He cautioned that foggy conditions and reduced visibility could become more frequent as temperatures continue to fall.

He advised farmers to make use of the prevailing dry weather for harvesting, threshing, fresh sowing and other agricultural activities.

The MeT director also urged commuters to follow traffic advisories, particularly while travelling through higher reaches and vulnerable stretches of roads. (KNO)

HC Stays Order

inadequate to warrant the continued closure of the entire institution.

The court had also directed the government to constitute a three-member supervisory committee to monitor its functioning.

The institution's counsel had argued that the prolonged closure was causing hardship to nearly 1,200 students, including around 400 residential boarders, besides affecting the upkeep of the institution's property.

The institution was shut in April following an order issued by the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, based on allegations of sustained and covert links between the seminary and the banned Jamaat-e-Islami.

LG Sets 6-Month

utilisation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The meeting focused on advancing academic excellence, strengthening research and innovation, and aligning undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) programmes with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the Design Your Degree framework.

The Council also discussed modalities for setting up a task force to integrate Artificial Intelligence, including Machine Learning and Deep Learning, and Data Science into undergraduate and postgraduate curricula.

Emphasising the need to prepare students for emerging technological challenges, Sinha called for integrating artificial intelligence and other frontier technologies into academic programmes. He also stressed that the new programmes should incorporate local languages and cultures.

The Lieutenant Governor said successful implementation of the reforms would require institutional changes, stronger collaboration among universities and a long-term strategy.

Vice Chairman of JKHEC, Prof Dinesh Singh, called for policy directives to align undergraduate and postgraduate curricula with the Design Your Degree framework.

Vice-chancellors and other Council members shared their suggestions for advancing the DYD programme and implementing NEP 2020 interventions.

The Council also reviewed the progress of ongoing higher education initiatives, including Engineering Kitchens and entrepreneurship programmes, besides discussing budgetary allocations and reforms in the fund allocation mechanism.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Minister for School Education, Higher Education and Jal Shakti Shamim Firdous attended the meeting along with vice-chancellors of universities across Jammu and Kashmir, heads of premier institutions and senior government officials.

J&K Allows Businesses

of said Act," a notification issued by Commissioner- Secretary M Raju said.

The certificate will be valid for three years, during which enterprises can establish, construct and operate their businesses while obtaining regular approvals, the notification said.

The government has also introduced time-bound approvals, with deemed approval in case of delays, and provisions for self-certification or third-party certification.

The CIPA is to be issued within three working days for enterprises in approved industrial parks and within 30 days for those outside such parks. Failure to issue the certificate within the stipulated period will result in deemed approval.

The notification said enterprises would be protected from routine inspections for three years from the grant of the certificate, except as provided under the Act.

According to an another notification issued by Raju, the committee will coordinate pre-establishment, construction, connection and operation-stage approvals under the Jammu and Kashmir Ease of Doing Business Act, 2026.

The move aims to streamline regulatory clearances and ensure time-bound approvals for investors by bringing various departments and agencies under a single mechanism.

The notification states that the Executive Committee will function as a single point of contact for investors in coordination with District Empowered Committees.

The district-level committees will receive declarations of intent and issue certificates of in-principle approval under the supervision of the Executive Committee, it said.

Dead Father's Name

following which the chargesheet was filed before the competent court for judicial determination.

Meanwhile, SSP EOW Kashmir advised people to maintain proper documentation of business transactions, verify financial instruments and remain vigilant against fraudulent practices to safeguard their money.

Ruhullah's Exit: NC

party headquarters, Nawai Subah, NC MLAs Salman Ali Sagar and Sajad Shaheen accused Ruhullah of betraying the party and the electorate that had elected him on the NC ticket.

"With a heavy heart, not with joy, because he was an MP elected on our National Conference ticket, I say that the BJP has succeeded in pushing Aga Ruhullah Sahib out," Sagar said.

Flanked by Banihal MLA Sajad Shaheen, Sagar said the BJP had been attempting to weaken the National Conference for years and had now succeeded in executing its "Operation Lotus" in Kashmir.

Citing the exits of former NC leaders Devender Singh Rana and Surjit Singh Slathia, who later joined the BJP, Sagar said the party had earlier succeeded in making political inroads in Jammu and had now managed to pull Ruhullah out of the NC.

"Rana is no longer in this world, and Slathia is a BJP MLA. They succeeded there, and now they have succeeded in pulling Aga Sahib out. 'Operation Lotus', which targets MPs across the country to break parties, has now been executed in Kashmir," he said.

Sagar alleged that Ruhullah had aligned himself with forces that had spent decades attempting to weaken the National Conference.

He questioned the circumstances surrounding the MP's resignation, saying Ruhullah had picked up an "excuse" to distance himself from the party.

"I don't know; Aga Sahib can answer that himself in the future, and we will certainly ask. There is definitely something behind the curtain," he said.

NC QUESTIONS RUHULLAH'S POLITICAL STAND

Sagar said Ruhullah had every right to question the party leadership and express disagreement but should have raised his grievances through the party's internal forums.

He said the National Conference was a democratic organisation where members could speak freely and raise questions, but maintained that political differences should be expressed with dignity and decorum.

Questioning Ruhullah's engagement with the party, Sagar asked how often the MP had visited the party headquarters or personally approached MLAs to discuss his grievances and issues concerning the people.

He said the departure of one leader would not weaken the National Conference, asserting that its strength rested on its collective leadership, political ideology and the mandate given by the people.

"Omar Abdullah and the National Conference are not so fragile that the arrival or departure of one person will shake us. Delhi has been trying to weaken us since 1947, not just 1953," he said.

Referring to the party's political position on the restoration of special status and statehood, Sagar said the NC's core agenda remained unchanged and could not be judged through the departure of an individual leader.

On the reservation issue, he said the party had acknowledged concerns over the existing policy and included corrective measures in its election manifesto.

He said a Cabinet sub-committee had examined the matter and submitted its report to the Cabinet in June 2025, after which it was forwarded to the Lieutenant Governor for further consideration.

Questioning Ruhullah's criticism of the party over the issue, Sagar asked why he had not raised similar questions about the delay in the report's approval and the role of the Lieutenant Governor.

Sagar also accused Ruhullah of targeting Chief Minister Omar Abdullah while remaining silent on the PDP's alliance with the BJP.

Asked about Ruhullah's remarks that he would not allow "Delhi's agenda" to run in Jammu and Kashmir, Sagar said the PDP had facilitated that agenda when it formed a coalition government with the BJP.

He described the resignation as part of a "planned script" and said the reasons behind it would be made public at an appropriate time.

Responding to Ruhullah's claims that he had recorded conversations with NC president Farooq Abdullah and vice-president Omar Abdullah after the abrogation of Article 370, Sagar said secretly recording private conversations with party leadership "speaks volumes about his mindset".

He also said the party would not resort to trolling or unparliamentary language against political opponents, maintaining that its leadership had instructed members to uphold political decorum.

SHAHEEN ACCUSES RUHULLAH OF BETRAYING ELECTORATE

Shaheen also termed Ruhullah's departure unfortunate, accusing him of betraying not only the National Conference but also the people who had elected him.

"He (Mehdi) has betrayed us. I do not hesitate to say candidly: Ruhullah Sahib has not only betrayed the party, he has also betrayed his electors and the people of his constituency," Shaheen said.

He questioned Ruhullah's parliamentary performance during his nearly two-year tenure as an MP, saying that apart from an initiative seeking the impeachment of Allahabad High Court judge Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav, he had not taken any other significant initiative in Parliament directly addressing the aspirations and concerns of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Shaheen also questioned why Ruhullah had chosen to target the NC leadership while remaining comparatively silent on the PDP and its alliance with the BJP.

He alleged that multiple political parties were being floated as part of an organised attempt to divide the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Why is it that in Kashmir, a new party sprouts at every corner?" he asked.

Shaheen also questioned Ruhullah's references to the sacrifices of martyrs, including Tufail Mattoo, saying such issues should not be used for political positioning.

NC DENIES FISSURES AMID DISCONTENT

Asked about resentment among several NC legislators following the recent expansion of the Council of Ministers, Sagar said the party was monitoring developments and maintained that its MLAs remained united.

He said minor differences would be resolved through the party's internal mechanisms and ruled out any major fallout.

"They are our brothers and colleagues. Within a day or two, you will see all minor differences sorted out through the normal process," he said.

Sagar named senior party leaders Mubarak Gul, Majeed Sahib, Peerzada Sahib and Farooq Shah among those he said would not leave the National Conference.

He alleged that agencies were working to create divisions within the party but said such efforts would not affect the government.

DY CM ACCUSES BJP OF MISLEADING RUHULLAH

Separately, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary accused the BJP of misleading Ruhullah and attempting to weaken the National Conference.

Reacting to questions about discontent among 10 MLAs and Ruhullah's resignation, Choudhary asked the BJP to clarify its position in view of Ram Madhav's remarks following the MP's rally in Budgam.

"Immediately after Aga Ruhullah resigned, BJP leader Ram Madhav issued a statement saying that all those who attended Aga Sahib's programme were their people. Then why are you asking us these questions? Go and ask the BJP Leader of the Opposition Sunil Sharma," Choudhary told reporters in Jammu.

Describing Ruhullah as a decent and respectable person, Choudhary said the BJP had misled him.

"Aga Sahib was a good and respectable person. The BJP misled him, and yesterday the BJP itself said that Aga Sahib was their man. I am not saying this; Ram Madhav himself said it," he said.

Questioning the BJP's position, Choudhary asked how Ruhullah could be associated with the National Conference if, as Madhav had claimed, those attending his programme belonged to the BJP.

When a reporter pointed out that Madhav had ruled out forming a government with Ruhullah, the Deputy Chief Minister asked the BJP to clarify its position.

"If Aga Sahib was your man, then why were you indulging in all this drama? The BJP is always indulging in drama," he said.

Choudhary also dismissed speculation about a possible new political formation involving former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, Ruhullah and MP Engineer Rashid.

RAM MADHAV'S REMARKS

sharp response from the National Conference.

"I would not like to comment on the matter, but the National Conference is visibly divided today. Ruhullah is holding the rally today with the blessings of our people," Madhav had said.

Madhav had played a key role in the formation of the PDP-BJP coalition government in Jammu and Kashmir in 2015-16.

The NC had subsequently said Madhav's remarks explained why Ruhullah had not said anything against the BJP.

Ruhullah resigned from the National Conference and his Lok Sabha seat on Tuesday, bringing an end to a prolonged political standoff with the party leadership.

He had accused the party leadership, particularly Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, of betraying its promises to fight for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

The BJP, meanwhile, denied having any involvement in the National Conference's internal differences.

NC Dissidents Likely

to attend the meeting. However, it could not be confirmed whether they would meet party president Dr Farooq Abdullah or Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

The National Conference has been facing internal dissent following the recent cabinet expansion-cum-reshuffle, with around two dozen legislators reportedly upset over the allocation of ministerial positions and the changes made to the Council of Ministers.

The disgruntled legislators have held three separate meetings in Srinagar over the past week to discuss their concerns and chalk out their future course of action.

They have also submitted a memorandum to the party high command, seeking a cabinet reshuffle and urging the leadership to address their grievances.

The proposed Friday meeting is expected to provide an opportunity for the legislators to take up their concerns directly with the party leadership.

Veteran Journalist

his last rites. National Conference provincial president Rattan Lal Gupta was among those who attended the cremation.

Originally from north Kashmir's Baramulla, Mantoo served the Jammu and Kashmir government's Information Department in various capacities, including press officer to former chief minister Farooq Abdullah, deputy director of public relations and director of public relations at Raj Bhawan. He retired from government service at the age of 58.

A law graduate with a Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism and Mass Communication, Mantoo continued his association with journalism after retirement. He was serving as executive editor of a leading Jammu-based newspaper.

He also served as provincial spokesperson of the National Conference and headed its Jammu Media Cell for several years after retirement. He later distanced himself from the party following the exit of then provincial president Devender Singh Rana, who joined the BJP in October 2021.

The Department of Information and Public Relations condoled his demise at a meeting attended by Director Information Mamta Yadav and other senior officers.

Paying tributes, they recalled his contributions to writing and public relations and described him as an affable colleague and an inspiring mentor. A two-minute silence was observed in his memory.

J&K Tourism Deptt Takes Region's Natural Treasures To London

Director says 'our presence matters', eyes bigger foreign tourist footfall

Agencies



SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department is showcasing the region's natural treasures and diverse tourism potential at the World Travel Market (WTM) London 2026, aiming to attract a larger number of foreign visitors and strengthen its presence in the international tourism market.

Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajjad said showcasing the region's tourism potential at international platforms is essential to attract visitors from foreign countries.

"We are exhibiting the potential of Jammu and Kashmir. It is necessary to showcase the treasures and natural beauty of the region. Unless we exhibit our potential, how can we expect tourism from foreign countries?" he said.

He said Kashmir has unique potential to offer diverse tourism experiences, including adventure and winter tourism, besides its natural attractions.

"We have enough breathing space for different types of activities which are generally not found together under one umbrella. Kashmir and Jammu regions have unique potential, including religious tourism," he said.

Sajjad said the participation was aimed at making the international tourism community aware of Jammu and Kashmir's diverse offerings, adding that global visibility was important for boosting tourist arrivals.

"It has been impressed upon them that there is a place called Jammu and Kashmir which needs to be explored. This is absolutely going to boost tourism, as our presence matters," he said.

He said foreign tourist arrivals in Kashmir have continued despite the ongoing crisis in the Middle East, expressing hope that participation in international tourism events would further increase the number of overseas visitors.

Pertinently, the Indian Pavilion at the event was inaugurated by Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in the presence of Advisor to the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani and Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajjad.

Several tourism stakeholders from the region are also participating in the event, providing an opportunity to engage with international tour operators, travel professionals and industry representatives, while exploring avenues for collaboration and expanding the region's presence in the global tourism market.

World Travel Market London is a major global marketplace for travel professionals to explore destinations, discover business opportunities and establish partnerships in the international tourism industry—(KNO)

JKBOSE To Distribute Free Textbooks For KG-8th By Mid-Nov

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) on Wednesday said it will start distributing free textbooks for classes KG to 8th by mid-November.

Speaking to KNO, JKBOSE Chairman, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh said, "We will start distributing free textbooks among students by mid-November."

He said that the Board has not received a consignment of revised textbooks of classes 3rd and 6th.

"The textbooks of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 6th classes have been revised as per the NEP-2020. As of now, we have received revised textbooks of only classes 1st and 2nd and the consignment of free textbooks of classes 3rd and 6th is supposed to arrive by November-12," he said.

JKBOSE Chairman further said that the free textbooks of other classes are available with the Board. "Therefore, we have decided to distribute the free textbooks when all the titles are available with us."

"The 80 percent of syllabi of revised textbooks have been framed by the NCERT and 20 percent by JKBOSE. The revision has been mostly done in science and social science subjects," he said.

Pertinently, the educational institutions across Kashmir Valley begin academic session 2026–27 from November-02 for KG to Class-10 students.

An official informed that the new academic session commenced after the schools completed annual assessments and declared results in line with the academic calendar.

Earlier, JKBOSE had said that the free textbooks among students will be distributed to various educational zones in the first week of November.

Former Education Minister, Sakeena Itoo in this regard had directed the officials to ensure timely completion of preparation of textbooks, syllabus and other needs.—(KNO)

BJP Misled Aga Ruhullah: Dy CM

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary on Wednesday accused the BJP of trying to weaken the National Conference (NC), alleging that the party had misled Srinagar MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi.

Reacting to Ruhullah's resignation from the NC, Choudhary, said the party had consistently maintained that the BJP was attempting to create divisions within it.

Referring to reported remarks by senior BJP leader Ram Madhav after Ruhullah's programme, Choudhary said Madhav had claimed that people attending the event were sent by the BJP.

"If Ram Madhav himself is saying that his people attended Aga Sahib's programme, then why are you questioning us? BJP should clarify its position," Choudhary told reporters.

Describing Ruhullah as a decent and honourable person, the Deputy Chief Minister alleged that the BJP had misled him and sought an explanation for Madhav's remarks.

Choudhary also accused the BJP of creating confusion through contradictory statements.

Dismissing speculation about a possible political formation involving former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, Ruhullah and Engineer Rashid, he said there was no basis for such reports and urged the media to focus on substantive issues rather than political speculation—(KNO)

Sopore MBBS Student Found Dead In Bangladesh, Family Seeks Repatriation

SRINAGAR: A medical student from Dangerpora area of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district was found dead in Bangladesh, leaving his family in shock.

The family told KNO that Adnan had travelled to Bangladesh around 15 days ago alongwith his mother and was scheduled to appear in his first examination of the final semester.

The family said they lost contact with him two days ago and were subsequently informed that he was missing. "We were informed on Tuesday evening that our beloved family member had been found dead near a water body," a family member said.

The deceased was identified as Adnan Ahmed Rather, son of Mohammad Altaf Rather, who was pursuing MBBS in Bangladesh and was in the final semester of his course.

The family appealed to the Government of India to intervene, coordinate with the authorities in Bangladesh and ensure that Adnan's mortal remains are brought back home at the earliest—(KNO)

J&K High Court Frames Structured Training Framework For Newly Inducted Civil Judges

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has introduced a structured framework for the field training of newly inducted Civil Judges (Junior Division), making practical courtroom exposure, supervised judicial drafting and regular performance assessment key components of their induction programme.

According to the details available, the guidelines, approved by the High Court, prescribe a comprehensive training mechanism aimed at developing the judicial, procedural and analytical skills required by trainee judges before they take up independent judicial responsibilities.

As per the order, each trainee will be attached to a designated court and placed under the supervision of the judicial officer holding its additional charge, who will function as the mentor judge and monitor the trainee's progress throughout the field training period.

Trainees will be required to remain stationed at their assigned places during the training period and cannot leave without prior approval from the competent authority.

The High Court has clarified that trainees will not automatically acquire judicial or administrative powers by virtue of their placement. They may exercise the powers of a Judicial Magistrate First Class only to the extent specifically delegated by the High Court and subject to prescribed conditions.

The regular judicial and administrative responsibilities of the concerned court will continue to remain with the officer holding additional charge.

During court proceedings, trainees will observe and participate in judicial work under the direct supervision of their mentor judges. Their assignments will include studying case proceedings, analysing evidence, preparing witness statements wherever required and drafting orders on procedural and interlocutory matters.

Northern Railway To Run Unreserved Special Trains Between Srinagar, Katra On Nov 5, 6

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: To accommodate the additional rush of passengers during the festival season, Northern Railway will operate unreserved special trains between Srinagar and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on November 5 and 6.

According to an official railway communication, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, train number 04690 will depart from Srinagar at 11:45 am and reach Anantnag at 12:57 pm before proceeding towards Banihal.

The train will depart from Banihal at 1:32 pm and reach Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra at 3:30 pm.

In the return direction, train number 04689 will depart from Katra at 4:00 pm and reach Banihal at 6:25 pm. It will depart from Banihal at 6:27 pm, reach Anantnag at 7:00 pm and arrive in Srinagar at 7:45 pm.

The special service will cover a distance of 188.7 kilometres and comprise one DPC-2 and six TC coaches, the communication said.

Shelat Foundation Calls For Collective Fight Against Drug Abuse



Observer News Service

RAJOURI: Shelat Foundation Pir Panjaal has called for intensified community welfare initiatives and collective efforts to combat drug abuse, stressing the need to protect young people from the growing menace.

Addressing a meeting of volunteers in Rajouri, Foundation Chairman Rafiq Tahir urged members to serve underprivileged communities with dedication, compassion and accountability, ensuring assistance reaches deserving families irrespective of caste, creed, religion or region.

He emphasised that sustained community participation was essential to safeguarding the younger generation against the harmful consequences of drug addiction.

Vice-Chairman Ghulam Abbas (IIS), former Director of the Central Bureau of Communication, stressed the importance of connecting economically disadvantaged families with government welfare schemes.

He urged volunteers to identify eligible beneficiaries, spread awareness about available programmes and assist applicants in securing their entitled benefits.

Both speakers highlighted transparency, effective coordination, responsible resource utilisation and accountability as essential pillars of meaningful social service.

The meeting was attended by former District Agriculture Officer Rafiq Ahmad, Master Mohammad Rashid, Javid Jawad, Shabir Hussain, Fazal Hussain, Rehana Choudhary, Sajad Rubbani and several other volunteers.

Fazal Hussain conducted the proceedings, while former Principal Noor Ahmed Chauhan presented the vote of thanks.

J&K Bank Organises Workshop On Employee Wellbeing, Stress Management



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank on Wednesday organised a workshop on "Emotional Wellbeing and Stress Management" at its Corporate Headquarters here, reaffirming its commitment to promoting employee mental health and fostering a supportive workplace environment.

The workshop was chaired by General Manager (HRD) Aneet Kanwal Singh Bagee and attended by Deputy General Manager Shabir Ahmad Bulla, senior officers and employees from the Corporate Headquarters and various branches.

A team of experts from the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS), including Senior Psychiatrist Dr Insha Rouf and Clinical Psychologists Nashafa Firdous and Simranjeet Kour, conducted the sessions.

Addressing the participants, Bagee said employee wellbeing was central to the institution's strength, emphasising the importance of building resilience and equipping staff to manage workplace stress effectively.

He highlighted the need for a healthy work-life balance, assertive communication and a supportive professional environment where employees feel respected, heard and comfortable seeking assistance.

In her presentation, "Stress: A Boon or Bane", Dr Rouf explained different types of stress, their underlying causes and associated behavioural and cognitive symptoms. She also discussed the body's response to stress and its implications for mental health, suggesting practical measures such as positive thinking, behavioural changes and healthier lifestyle choices.

Earlier, welcoming the experts and participants, Bulla stressed that emotional and mental wellbeing should not be overlooked while pursuing professional responsibilities and organisational goals. He said the Bank would organise similar programmes in the future.

FDA Destroys 500 Kg Of Sweets Ahead Of Diwali, Suspends 4 Licences



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K, has intensified food safety inspections across Jammu Division ahead of Diwali, lifting 56 samples and destroying nearly 500 kg of sweets, including Rasgullas, valued at Rs 79,500, after finding them unfit for consumption.

The special enforcement drive covered Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri and Poonch districts, with samples collected from sweets, paneer, khoya, savouries and other food items.

The FDA also suspended two food business licences and two registrations for violations of prescribed hygiene and safety standards. It recommended 11 challans under Section 56 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which provides for a penalty of up to Rs 1 lakh for unhygienic food processing or manufacturing. Four other cases were compounded.

The department said the drive aimed to prevent the sale of adulterated and substandard festive food items and ensure compliance with food safety norms. It urged consumers to buy sweets from licensed establishments and report suspected cases of adulteration.

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In double cover system) are invited on Percentage (%age) Basis from approved and eligible Civil Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/U.T/ Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Construction of Chain Link Fencing at Kupwara Campus, University of Kashmir	163.35 Lacs	Rs.2600/-	3,26,700/-	06/11/2026 to 26/11/2026 (4:30 PM)	27/11/2026 (2:30 PM)	"AAY"

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.kashmiruniversity.net / www.jktenders.gov.in.

NIT No: F(E.Tend)(Cons. Fencing Kup. Camp.)(UCD)/KU/23/26
DATED: 03/11/2026

DIPK-NB-2020-26
DT: 04/11/2026

Executive Engineer

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, KASHMIR
Health Secretariat, Bemina Bypass, Srinagar-190018 | E-mail: dhsk-pa@jk.gov.in Website: www.Dhskashmir.org. | Tel. No: 0194 - 2493712, 0194-2493711

Subject: Final Seniority List of Senior Dental Technician, Division Cadre Kashmir.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, First Tentative Seniority List of Senior Dental Technicians (Divisional Cadre Kashmir) working under the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir has been prepared on the basis of available service records maintained in this Directorate and information furnished by the subordinate offices.

Whereas, representations regarding 1st Tentative Seniority List Senior Dental Technicians (Divisional Cadre Kashmir) received from various officials have been examined and requisite corrections wherever found justified have been incorporated.

Whereas, representations regarding 2nd Tentative Seniority List Senior Dental Technicians (Divisional Cadre Kashmir) received from various officials have been examined and requisite corrections wherever found justified have been incorporated.

Whereas, 3rd Tentative Seniority List of Senior Dental Technicians (Divisional Cadre Kashmir) was circulated for information of all concerned and for inviting objections, if any. No objection were received in response to the said list from the concerned.

Now. Therefore, the final seniority list of Senior Dental Technicians (Divisional Cadre Kashmir) is hereby notified and circulated among all concerned Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDO's) and Senior Dental Technicians for information.

The date of birth and category status of the officials recorded in the seniority list shall not be treated as authentic for all purposes and shall remain subject to further verification with reference to the service records/matriculation certificates issued by the competent authorities concerned.

No. DHSK/Est-W/NG/E-7911386/5934-65
Dated: 04-11-2026

Sd/
Director Health Services Kashmir.

Annexure to Notification No. DHSK/EST-IV/NG/7911 386/5934-65 Dated 04-11-2026
Final Seniority List of Senior Dental Technicians, Division Kahsmir

S.No.	Name of the official	D-O-B	D-O-A	Date of promotion as Sr. Dental technician	Present place of Posting	Category
1	Mohammad Yousuf Sheikh	08-04-1971	21-11-1997	13-07-2023	JLNM Hospital	
2	Peerzada Javid Ahmad	05-11-1975	14-12-1998	13-07-2023	SDH Bijbehara	
3	Mohd Shafi Pir	01-05-1968	22-10-2002	13-07-2023	SDH Sogam	
4	Syed Basharat	03-12-1972	10-11-2002	13-07-2023	SDH Magam	
5	Mohd Iqbal Dar	03-10-1973	04-01-2006	13-07-2023	SDH Pampore	
6	Iqbal Ahmad Bhat	15-02-1974	02-08-2006	13-07-2023	PHC berthipora	
7	Javid Ahmad Parray	06-04-1975	03-08-2006	13-07-2023	DH Handwara	
8	Gazi Fayaz Ahmed	24-09-1975	19-10-2006	13-07-2023	SDH Kreeri	
9	Sumeera Hamid	23-08-1979	13-10-2006	13-07-2023	CHC Pattan	
10	Parvaiz Ahmad Ganie	03-07-1984	23-02-2007	13-07-2023	SDH Kangan	
11	Fiddah Hussain Parray	11-03-1981	18-02-2002	24-07-2025	SDH Kokernag	
12	Showkat Nayeem	15-05-1977	04-01-2006	24-07-2025	CHC Kremshore	
13	Javid Ahmad Dar	05-12-1976	04-01-2006	24-07-2025	SDH Chrar I Shareef	
14	Robinder Kour	28-08-1982	16-06-2006	24-07-2025	SDH Chadoora	
15	Abdul Rashid Rather	20-05-1981	27-07-2006	24-07-2025	Gousia Hospital	
16	Altaf Hussain Parray	16-04-1980	31-07-2006	24-07-2025	CHC Rajpora	
17	Reyaz Ahmad Parray	15-05-1980	04-12-2006	24-07-2025	SDH Dooru	
18	Nazir Ahmad Reshi	02-03-1975	19-10-2007	24-07-2025	DH Kulgam	
19	Nighat Nasreen	18-05-1974	10-03-2008	24-07-2025	JLNM Hospital	
20	Vipinder Pal Singh	15-10-1979	10-03-2008	24-07-2025	SDH Sopore	
21	Samir Ahmad Kumar	28-11-1983	19-01-2012	24-07-2025	DH Shopian	
22	Manzoor Ahmad Dar	05-03-1983	01-03-2012	24-07-2025	CHC Chandoosa	
23	Mubashir Aejaz Khan	28-02-1976	12-10-2012	24-07-2025	SDH Pakherpora	
24	Shakeel Ahmad Andrabi	31-01-1979	30-04-2013	24-07-2025	SDH Chadoora	

DIPK-7371-26
DT: 04/11/2026

Climate Change Cutting Into India's Food Supply: Report



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: solidates existing evidence on climate and ecological risks facing India's food production, and sets out policy pathways for an agro-ecological transition to a more sustainable food system.

According to the report, approximately 40 per cent of India's livestock population is vulnerable to extreme weather events, while 45 per cent of crop-producing land lies within areas exposed to significant flood risk.

Moreover, research shows that over the past five decades, an increase of 1 degree Celsius in temperature has reduced national average all-crop yields by approximately 8 per cent.

In a statement, Dr Palak Balyan, research lead at Climate Trends, said, "What this paper clarifies is that India's food losses are not just a farming problem. They are a systems problem."

"Fixing this requires more than improved weather forecasts. It needs sustained investment in storage, extension services and market access, so farmers aren't left absorbing these losses alone," she said.

The report also highlights the need to move beyond yield-centric approaches towards restoring soil health, conserving water, diversifying cropping systems and reducing dependence on chemical inputs.

This must be supported by stronger institutional frameworks, integrated climate risk management, accessible adaptation finance for smallholders, and the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices, the report said.

Iran Exempts Indian Ships From Hormuz Curbs

Press Trust of India



DUBAI: Iran has exempted commercial ships from four countries, including India and China, from transit restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz, a top Iranian official has said, amid continued attacks on vessels attempting to cross the strategic waterway.

Amir Hayat Moghadam, Deputy Chairman of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, made the announcement in an interview with the Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA) on Tuesday.

"We have currently exempted four countries - India, China, Iraq and Qatar - from transit restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz. Ships from these countries pass freely, and the Americans do not intercept them either," he was quoted as saying by the semi-official news agency.

Moqaddam said the exemptions were based on specific considerations and mutual interests.

He said that facilitating the passage of Indian ships was intended to allow imports of medicines from India, while the exemption for Chinese vessels was intended to secure Beijing's political support.

The Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman, handles roughly 20 per cent of global energy supplies in normal times.

Shipping through the waterway has been severely disrupted since February 28, when the US and Israel launched joint attacks on Iran, triggering retaliatory strikes.

Iran moved to shut the waterway soon after the US-Israeli bombing began, and Washington responded weeks later with a naval blockade of Iranian ports.

Iran, which has imposed strict restrictions on traffic, allows only a few vessels to pass through the waterway while others undergo screening and, in some cases, pay transit fees.

At least 15 Indian seafarers have been killed in attacks on ships in the region since the conflict began in February.

In the latest incident, an Indian sailor was killed in an attack on the commercial vessel MSV Al Jusufi near Limah in Oman on Monday evening.

India, which has been consistently calling for finding a solution to the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy, has termed the continuing incidents of attacks on commercial shipping in the region as "deeply concerning".

India has said that the targeting of commercial shipping and civilian infrastructure in the region must end, and free and unimpeded navigation and commerce through the international waterways, in keeping with international law, must be restored at the earliest.

India Thrash S-Korea 8-1 to Enter ACT Hockey Final

Press Trust of India



MOHALI: Shilanand Lakra and Dilpreet Singh struck a brace each as five-time champions India thrashed South Korea 8-1 in the second semifinal to enter the men's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament final here on Wednesday.

Lakra scored in the fourth and 13th minutes, while Dilpreet found the target in the 21st and 25th minutes. Captain Harmanpreet Singh (9th), Sukhjeet Singh (21st), Angad Bir Singh (36th) and Vivek Sagar Prasad (54th) were the other goal scorers for India who made it to the final for a record-extending seventh time.

Sangjun Han (9th minute) pulled one back for South Korea.

Asian Games gold winners India will face Japan in the final on Thursday.

Japan beat Malaysia in the penalty shootout 5-3 after the two teams were locked goal-less in the regulation time in the first semifinal earlier in the day.

India had beaten South Korea 8-0 in the round-robin stage also.

The hosts remained unbeaten in the tournament so far. They had topped the six-team round-robin league after winning all their five matches.

India led 6-1 at half time, scoring three goals each in the first two periods. The hosts earned four penalty corners in the match, while South Korea got none.

It was Lakra who gave India an early lead in the fourth minute from a field effort. However, South Korea equalised in the ninth minute with Sangjun Han scoring a field goal.

India continued their domination with frequent forays in the opposition circle and in the process secured a penalty corner in the ninth minute. Skipper Harmanpreet made no mistake from the chance.

Four minutes later, Lakra scored his second goal of the day off a rebound from a penalty corner as India took a 3-1 lead.

India continued their dominance over South Korea in the second period, scoring three field goals in five minutes. Sukhjeet scored from a field effort in the 21st minute and seconds later, Dilpreet found the net from a field play.

Dilpreet completed his brace through a field effort in the 25th minute as India took a 6-1 lead.

The final two periods of 15 minutes yielded one goal each for India. Angad Bir Singh extended India's lead just six minutes after half time from a field play.

