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AIIMS Awantipora OPD By Dec, IPD By July 2027

JP Nadda Sets March 2027 Deadline For Construction Work



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Outpatient department (OPD) services at the upcoming All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Awantipora, are planned to begin before December 2026, while inpatient department (IPD) services are expected to start in July 2027.

Union Health Minister J P Nadda on Thursday reviewed the progress of the institute and directed the concerned agencies to complete the remaining construction work by March 2027.

During the review meeting, officials informed the minister that all major | More on P6

AIIMS Awantipora MBBS Intake Doubled To 100

Jammu and Kashmir Health Minister Sakina Itoo on Thursday said AIIMS Awantipora would have 100 MBBS seats, doubling the 50 seats announced earlier, as she welcomed Union Health Minister J P Nadda's visit to the institute. Speaking after Nadda's visit to the institute in Pulwama district, Itoo said the Union Minister reviewed the progress of the project and its preparedness for launching academic and healthcare services. "Earlier, 50 MBBS seats had been announced, but | More on P6

SC: 24-Hour Arrest Clock Starts From Detention

Rules Pre-Arrest Detention Must Count; Directs Magistrates To Record Actual Time Of Detention

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that the constitutional 24-hour deadline for producing an arrested person before a magistrate begins from the moment of detention, and not from the time the police formally records the arrest.

Holding that there can be no artificial distinction between arrest and detention for the purpose of Article 22(2) of the Constitution, a bench of Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Atul S Chandurkar said any interpretation allowing the police to exclude the period of pre-arrest detention would be contrary to the constitutional mandate.

"The view that 24 hours begin only from the formal arrest is contrary to the constitutional mandate of Article 22(2) and Section 56 of the BNSS," the bench observed. The verdict | More on P6

Jhelum, Tributaries Run Low As Kashmir Heads Into Winter

Water Scarcity Concerns Mount Ahead Of Winter; Forecaster Warns Of Impact On Drinking Water, Power Generation

Observer News Service



Srinagar: Water levels in the River Jhelum and several of its tributaries remain below normal as Kashmir heads into winter following prolonged dry spells, raising concerns over drinking water availability and power generation in the coming months.

Gauge readings released by the Irrigation and Flood Control Department showed that the water level at Sangam stood at minus 0.64 feet at 9 am on Wednesday, while Ram Munshi Bagh in Srinagar recorded 3.80 feet.

At Asham in north Kashmir, the water level stood at 1.19 feet, while Wular Lake was recorded at 1573.84 metres.

Several tributaries also recorded low levels. Vishow Nallah at Khudwani stood at 2.41 metres, while Rambiyara Nallah at Wachi recorded minus 0.48 metres and Lidder Nallah at Batkoot minus 0.52 metres.

Doodhganga at Barzulla recorded 0.26 metres, while Sindh Nallah at Doderhama stood at minus 0.25 metres.

Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif said water levels across the Valley were below normal and warned that another prolonged dry spell could worsen water scarcity during the winter months.

"Water levels are below normal, and we have a dry spell ahead in Kashmir Valley. This could trigger shortages of drinking water and affect electricity generation, particularly if | More on P6

MeT Predicts Rain, Snow From November 10

Higher reaches of Kashmir, including Razdan Pass, received fresh snowfall on Wednesday evening as the Meteorological Centre Srinagar forecast another spell of rain and snow across Jammu and Kashmir from November 10. The weather department has predicted generally dry conditions from November 6 to 9, followed by light to moderate rainfall in the plains and snowfall in higher reaches on November 10 and 11. Another spell of light to moderate precipitation is likely at many places on November 12, particularly during the evening and night.

Meanwhile, night temperatures | More on P6

ECI Defers J&K Voter Roll Revision Over Weather

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has deferred the electoral roll revision exercise in Jammu and Kashmir, citing weather conditions, and said the schedule for the Union Territory would be announced in due course.

The Commission said the schedule for electoral roll revision in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh would be announced separately, keeping in view the prevailing weather conditions in these regions.

"Also, for the 3 States/UTs namely Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, where SIR has not been started so far, schedule for roll revision will be announced in due course of time keeping in view their weather conditions," the ECI said.

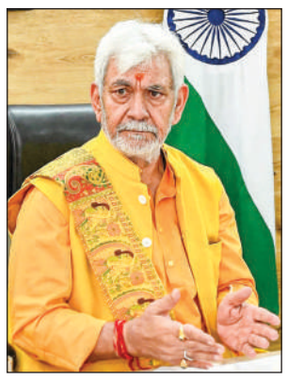
The decision means Jammu and Kashmir will remain outside the ongoing nationwide Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise for now, with the Commission opting to announce a separate schedule at a later stage.

The timing assumes significance as winter sets in across the Union | More on P6

No Room For Security Lapses In Jails: LG Sinha

- Calls For Intelligence Sharing, Surprise Checks And Dedicated Prison Intelligence Units
- Asks Officials To Keep Close Watch On Terror Networks, Radicalisation

Observer News Service



Srinagar:Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday directed the Police, Prisons Department and intelligence agencies to establish a unified coordination mechanism to strengthen prison security and combat terror networks, radicalisation and law and order threats in Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairing a high-level review meeting of the Prisons Department at Lok Bhavan in Jammu, the Lieutenant Governor stressed the need for regular review meetings and intelligence sharing among the agencies to ensure robust jail administration and prevent security threats.

He directed officials to conduct surprise checks of prison premises and surrounding areas and ensure forensic examination of electronic devices seized during such inspections.

The meeting also discussed the establishment of dedicated Prison Intelligence Units in jails to strengthen intelligence gathering and monitoring of activities within prison premises.

Other measures discussed included the introduction of biometric systems across all jails, expansion of telemedicine facilities for inmates and strengthening of human resources in the Prisons Department.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised the need for close coordination among the security and intelligence agencies to effectively monitor and counter activities linked to terror networks and radicalisation.

He also reviewed the progress of the upcoming High-Security Prison at Mahanpur and directed the concerned officials to expedite the remaining construction works within the stipulated timelines.

The meeting was attended by Director | More on P6

Education Must Go Beyond Marks, Says Omar

Urges Youngsters To Question Existing Practices & Use AI Responsibly

Observer News Service



Jammu: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday called for an education system that goes beyond academic performance and marks, emphasising the need to nurture independent thinking, moral values and the ability among students to question existing practices.

Addressing the annual awards ceremony of the Diocese of Jammu-Srinagar Education Society (DJSES), titled 'Honour & Excellence 2026', at the Convention Centre here, the Chief Minister said Jammu and Kashmir needed a generation that was inquisitive, willing to challenge ideas and capable of understanding what was happening around them.

"There are no stupid questions, there are only stupid answers," Omar remarked, encouraging students to develop the confidence to ask questions and explore the 'why' and 'how' behind things.

He said a generation willing to question existing practices would make those in positions of responsibility more answerable and contribute towards a better Jammu and Kashmir.

"A generation that is happy to ask questions will make all of us answerable. And if we are answerable, Jammu and Kashmir tomorrow will be a better place," he said.

The Chief Minister emphasised that | More on P6

CAT Declines To Interfere With Female Doc's Transfer

Observes Women Doctors Cannot Be Exempted From Remote Postings On Gender Grounds

M Ahmad



Srinagar: In a strong message to those responsible for public healthcare, the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) has observed that there was no duty as solemn as treating the sick and that the health of the nation rests on the shoulders of those entrusted with this responsibility.

Quoting French scholar François Rabelais, Member (Judicial) M.S. Latif observed: "Without health, life is not life, it is only a state of languor and sufferings—an image of death."

The Tribunal further remarked that people approaching government hospitals and health centres for treatment deserve the utmost attention, describing healthcare professionals as individuals who share the agony of the sick and strive for their recovery, good health and, ultimately, better living.

It also observed that women doctors cannot be exempted from postings to difficult and remote areas merely on the ground of | More on P6

BPL Families Lured Into Rs 209 Cr Cyber Fraud Racket

Offered Up To Rs 10,000 Monthly To Provide Bank Accounts; Nearly 200 J&K Accounts Under Scanner

Agencies

Srinagar: Poor families holding Below Poverty Line (BPL) ration cards were allegedly lured with monthly commissions of up to Rs 10,000 to provide their bank accounts, which were subsequently used to route money through fraudulent online investment and gaming platforms in a cyber fraud racket involving transactions worth Rs 209 crore.

A senior police officer on Thursday said that investigations had uncovered a Ganderbal link involving transactions worth around Rs 2.5 crore, while nearly 200 bank accounts linked to Jammu and Kashmir were under scrutiny for their suspected connection with the wider network.

The officer said a local resident of Ganderbal was approached and persuaded to provide bank account details in exchange for a commission. The transactions subsequently came under the scanner of Ganderbal Police, which investigated the suspected links.

The alleged main handler, an MBBS doctor from Haryana identified as Ekant Yogdutt, alias Dr Morphine, was apprehended at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI), New Delhi, while returning from China, the officer said.

According to investigators, the doctor had pursued his MBBS studies in the Philippines and allegedly learnt techniques | More on P6

Terrorists On Move, Exact Number Not Feasible: IGP

Says Over 1,500 NDPS Cases Registered, Nearly 2,000 Arrests This Year

Urges Youth To Shun Drugs, Cyber Fraud, Reckless Driving

Observer News Service



Srinagar: Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir Zone, Sujit Kumar on Thursday said security forces remained on high alert to deal with threats from terrorist groups operating in Jammu and Kashmir, adding that the exact number of terrorists active in the Valley could not be ascertained as they were constantly on the move.

In his first media interaction since taking over as IGP Kashmir, Kumar said security agencies were responding to continuous intelligence inputs and remained prepared to deal with all contingencies.

"Based on continuous intelligence inputs, our teams remain on high alert. The public have been supportive. While security measures cause some routine inconvenience, we try to minimise it. Threats exist, and we are managing them," he told reporters at Police Control Room Srinagar.

Asked about the number of terrorists active in the Kashmir Valley, Kumar said it would not be appropriate to give an exact figure as | More on P6

IN THE COURT OF ADDITONAL DISTRICT JUDGE (BANK CASES) SRINAGAR

Designated Commercial Court

Present: Ms. Kusoom Pandita, J

In the case of

Ellaquai Dehati Bank B/U Zakura Srinagar

(Plaintiff)

V/S
Irfan Ahmad Dar & Others

(Defendants)

Note to (1) Irfan Ahamd Dar 2, Showkat Ahamd Dar Sons of Ghulam Nabi Dar Both residents of Dobighat Hazratbal Srinagar
Suit for Recovery of Rs 160.591/-

PUBLICATON
GENERAL NOTICE (U/O: 5 Rule 20 CPC)

Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the defendant(s)/respondent(s) above named are not being served by the ordinary mode of service. Hence, this proclamation under Order 5 Rule 20 CPC is hereby issued against him/them who should appear personally or through their counsel on a 28-11-2026 at 10.00 a.m.

Take notice that in default of his/their appearance on the day before mentioned, the above said case will be heard and determined in his/their absence according to law.
Given under my hand this 24th October 2026.

No: 1915/ADJ/BE/Sg
DIPK-7377/26
dated: 05-11-2026

Sd/-
Additional District Judge (Bank Cases) Srinagar.
Designated Commercial Court

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Shopian.

Subject: supply and installation of Accessories for Official Bolero.

TENDERNOTICE.
E-NITNo:MCS/Trans/14 OF 2026.
Dated:03.11.2026.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, term e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited from the interested persons / parties for tender for Supply and installation of accessories for Official Bolero at MC Shopian.

S.NO	Product	Type	Qty
01	Seat Cover	Branded	Full Set
02	Matting	Branded	Full Set
03	Stearung Cover	Branded	01 No
04	Floor Mat	Branded	Full Set

The details of the work is as under and the successful lowest bidder is bound to supply a reputed brand only.

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	06.11.2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 06.11.2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	06.11.2026 from 11:00 AM
4	Bid submission End Date	12.11.2026 up to 02.00PM
5	Date & Time of opening of Bids (Online)	12.11.2026 at 04.00 PM in the office of the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Shopian.
6	Submission of CDR.	The bidder shall be bound to accompany hisbids offerswith Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) of Rs.5000/- amount drawn from any Nationalized bank, pledged to the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Shopian , (without Which offers shall be liable for rejection)

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in, as per the schedule of dates given below:
1. Bids must be accompanied with the cost of tender document in shape of BankChallan / Receipt (Credited to A/c No. 0018040100000611 JRY maintained withJammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. Branch: Shopian Main Branch in favour of Executive Officer, Municipal Council Shopian amounting to Rs. 200/- (Two HundredOnly) and Bid securing declaration as per format Annexure – 1, below on stamppaper duly attested by Notary in favour of Executive Officer, Municipal CouncilShopian, failing which tender will be rejected.
2. The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in. The bids of the responsive bidders shall be opened onlineon the same website in the office of the Executive Officer, Municipal Council Shopian.
3. The bids for the tender shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
4. BIDSECURITY.
a) Bid Security Declaration: The bid security declaration shall be submitted as perthe Format Annexure – 2 (format for the bid security declaration).
b) Any bid not accompanied by the Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) and BID security declaration shall be summarily rejected by the Authority as non responsive.
Terms &Conditions :
01. The product must be of appropriate specifications as Mentioned.
02. The bidder shall be bound to supply all products and accessories of reputed brand only.
03. Bidder shall be bound to produce a Sample before Technical Evaluation on the basis of approval of Sample bidder shall be qualified.
04. EMD is compulsory for all bidder no bidder shall be qualified without EMD
05. Bidder Shall be bound to supply and installation of the said item and replacement warranty for 02 Years, for which an affidavit duly sworn in the court of Law shall be provided in advance.
06. Bidder shall be bound to produce an affidavit dully attested by Judicial magistrate for Warranty period and replacement of Cut and damage of the tyres.
07. bidder shall have service center within the nearest location of Consignee location for immediate service and replacement without which bidder shall not be qualified.
08. The successful bidder shall be responsible for the comprehensive supply, transportation, installation, testing, and commissioning of the Item at the designated sites along with requisite Accessories.
09.The products shall carry a minimum comprehensive warranty of 02 years from the date of final acceptance.
10. The Payment shall only be released subject to Satisfactory report of requisite Tyres by any competent authority.
Instructions to the Bidders regarding E-Tendering process:
a) Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
b) To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get„ Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.
c) The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
d) Bids will be opened online as per time schedule.
e) Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.
Note:-Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
f) The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
g) Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Bank Receipt/challan in favour of Executive Officer, Municipal Council Shopian and bid securing declaration must be uploaded with the bid.
h) The Bidder must have to upload (softcopies) of the following documents (Photostat/Original should be clearly seen in all respect with Ink signed and Seal):-
i) Valid original Bank Challan/ Receipt
j) Call Deposit Receipt (CDR)
k) BID Securing Declaration on stamp paper duly attested by Notary.
l) Valid GSTIN/PAN Card No.
m) The Bidder should upload the Tender Document form attached below (Not Mandatory).
n) Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including
o) BID Securing Declaration and tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical Bid. No document (s) which has /have not been uploaded shall not be entertained in the form of hard copy. However ,in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
p) The Highest Bidder will have to submit hard copies of all documents uploade done-tending portal before issuance of Allotment.

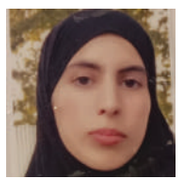
No:MCS/Trans/4649-52 Dated: 03/011/2026.

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Municipal Council
Shopian.

DIPK-NB-2038/26
dated: 05-11-2026

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar



I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No:. 107020047 Session: Annual Regular Year 2023 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the concerned School/ Board/parent against my name as Sualeha Mushtaq instead of my correct name **Soliya Mushtaq** Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bernina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.
Name: Soliya Mushtaq
Father's name: **Mushtaq Ahmad Ganaie**
Mother's Name: Jameela Bano
DOB: 18-09-2008
Residence: Tapper Waripora
Mobile no: 9906809896 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ghulshan Nabi, D/o Ghulam Nabi Ganie, R/o Ganjipora, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Gulshana Nabi in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 3833-2375-5464, whereas my correct and actual name is Ghulshan Nabi. Now, I have applied for correction of the same. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same to the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.
Ghulshan Nabi
D/o Ghulam Nabi Ganie
R/o Ganjipora, Tehsil Pattan, fko
District Baramulla, J&K UT.

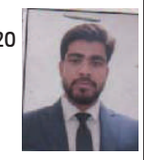
NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

CERTIFICATES-KD, NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR

ATTENTION PLEASE

The candidate whose photograph is published in the notice is claimed to have lost his qualification certificate with the following particulars..
Roll No: 2115493
Class : 12th
Year & Session: Ann-(private) Bi-Annual 2019-20
Registration No: N16341750017
Name : LATIEF AHMAD SOFI
Fathers Name : SONA ULLAH SOFI
Mothers Name: MAGLI BANO
Date of Birth: 01-03-2003
R/o: Charari - Batapora, Budgam



Now the candidate has applied for the DUPLICATE QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE. before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, any person having any objection in this regard may please file the same before the secretary BOSE or undersigned with in 10 (ten) days from the date of isuue of this notice.
Besides, the above referred QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE bearing Serial No 20BKTP-076514 be traeted as CANCELLED.

Sd/=
Depurty Secretary
mcb Certificates - KD

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

CERTIFICATES-KD, NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR

ATTENTION PLEASE

The candidate whose photograph is published in the notice is claimed to have lost his qualification certificate of Secondary School Examination class 10th with the following particulars..
Roll No: 2114313
Class : 10th
Year & Session: Ann-Reg 2017
Registration No: N16341750017
Name : LATIEF AHMAD SOFI
Fathers Name : SONA ULLAH SOFI
Mothers Name: MAGLI BANO
Date of Birth: 01-03-2003
R/o: Charari - Batapora, Budgam



Now the candidate has applied for the DUPLICATE QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE. before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, any person having any objection in this regard may please file the same before the secretary BOSE or undersigned with in 10 (ten) days from the date of isuue of this notice.
Besides, the above referred QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE bearing Serial No 17ARKAM-4006799 be traeted as CANCELLED.

Sd/=
Depurty Secretary
mcb Certificates - KD

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

SUB OFFICE BUDGAM
PUBLIC NOTICE



I have passed /appeared in SSE/HSE-I/HSE-II (Class 11th, 12th) under Roll No. 217006048, 317001254 Session Year Annual 2024 , Bi - Annual 2026. Through the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the online registration against my Fathers name as NOOR MOHAMMAD instead of NOOR MOHAMAD KATARIYA.
Now i have applied for correction / rectification of error in the Jammu & Kashmir board of School Education, Sub- office Budgam. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub - Office Budgam within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, afterthe expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.
This is published for the information of the general public. The Correct particulars be recorded as under:
Name: SAKEENA BANO ,
Fathers Name: NOOR MOHAMAD KATARIYA,
Mothers Name, JANA BEGUM
DATE OF BIRTH: 25-08-2006. RESIDENCE: WARSUN KUPWARA
MOBILE: 9103398321 mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Showket Ahmad Shah S/o Mukhter Ahmad Shah R/o Palhallan Pattan , have misplaced the number plate of my Bajaj Auto Autobearing Registration No. JK05K 9041 while travelling from Palhallan Market To Raipora Palhallan
I am applying for a duplicate number plate from the concerned authorities. Any person having objection may contact the concerned department within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.
Auto Owner : Showkat Ahmad Shah
Vehicle Number Plate: JK05K 9041 fko

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the name & Style " **Ashrat Rahil Ruzba paying guest house (Home Stay) situated at Vethpora Baghander Lasjan**

Public Notice

Whereas I Ghulam Nabi Walo S/o Rehman Walo R/o Vethpora Baghandar Lasjan Srinagar , intends to apply in the offie of the prescribed authority of Directorate of Tourism kashmir for Registration of my proposed Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the name and style "M/S Ashrat Rahil Ruzba paying guest house (Home Stay) situated at Vethpora Baghander Lasjan under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.
Whereas, I will submit Landownership Certificate from Concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner concerned, Rent/Lease Deed/Partnership Deed/issued by concerned Sub-Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as Home stay), Character Certificate of the applicant from the concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration, Public Notice inviting objections , if any in print media, list of family members Name, Age, and Photograph self attested by owner, Photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bed rooms and bathrooms), Inspection report by the Committee (The recommendation of the inspection Committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view, the type of accommodation and amenity, adhar card.
Now before my case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority. The matter is hereby notified for information of general Pubic/organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of Prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the valley. Objection received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained .

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that the ownership of the Domestic Electricity Connection, presently registered in the name of Ghulam Rasool Dar S/o Gh. Ahmad Dar, R/o Wadipora, Budgam, is proposed to be transferred in favour of Muzaffar Ahmad Dar S/o Ghulam Rasool Dar, R/o Wadipora, Budgam.The details of the electricity connection are as under:- Consumer ID: 0206010001162- Account ID: 1444001162- Installation No.: 8387- Sub-Division: BudgamAny person having any objection regarding the proposed change of ownership of the above-mentioned domestic electricity connection may submit the same before the concerned authorities, Sub-Division Budgam, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. In case no objection is received within the stipulated period, the necessary change of ownership may be processed as per rules.
Applicant:Muzaffar Ahmad Dar
S/o Ghulam Rasool Dar mcb
R/o Wadipora, Budgam.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in my Jammu & Kashmir Bank Account bearing No 0483041000001892 the name is entered as AADIL FAROOQ while the actual name is AADIL FAROOQ BHAT. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact JAMMU & KASHMIR BANK Brach OMPORA BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
AADIL FAROOQ BHAT
mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in School records of my daughter RIHAAB BINTI ARAFAT the Fathers name is entered as SHAH YASIR ARFAT while actual Fathers name is SHAH YASIR ARAFAT. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact PRINCIPAL KASHMIR VALLEY SCHOOL HUMHAMA BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
SHAH YASIR ARAFAT
F/o RIHAAB BINTI ARAFAT mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Mohsin Altaf to (new name) Mohsin Altaf Bhat. In future I will be known as (new name) Mohsin Altaf Bhat. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact passport office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Media line advt

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shazada Ali, W/o Tahir Ahmad Rather, R/o Dilshad Pora Donadara, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby notify the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Shahzada Akhter in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 7275-4409-1950, whereas my actual and correct name is Shazada Ali. Now, I have applied for correction of the same. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same to the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.
Shazada Ali
W/o Tahir Ahmad Rather
R/o Dilshad Pora Donadara, Tehsil Pattan,
District Baramulla
Cell No.: 7006446686 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Meema Bano, W/o Abdul Hamid Wani, R/o Khamiyar, Post Office Pattan, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby notify the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Meema Akhter in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 2316-5767-6952, whereas my actual and correct name is Meema Bano. Now, I have applied for correction of the same. Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same to the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.
Meema Bano
W/o Abdul Hamid Wani
R/o Khamiyar, Pattan, Baramulla
Contact No.: 7006446686 fko

CM Omar Visits Ahsan Pardesi's Residence To Offer Condolences

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited the residence of MLA Lal Chowk, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed (Pardesi), to offer condolences on the demise of his father, Ghulam Qadir Pardesi, former Member of the Legislative Council (MLC).



Paying rich tributes to the late leader, the Chief Minister recalled his dedicated public service and valuable contributions to public life. He offered Fatiha for the departed soul and conveyed his heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family.

The Chief Minister prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength and fortitude to the family to bear this irreparable loss.

Dal Lake Upkeep Takes Centre Stage As JKLCMA VC Conducts Inspection

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Vice Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (JKLCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, on Thursday undertook an extensive tour of Dal Lake to review ongoing conservation works, field-level activities and maintenance measures ahead of the winter season.

The Authority said Shah, accompanied by senior officers, toured the lake stretch from Dockyard to Nishat and Hazratbal, covering Bod Dal and other important locations.

During the visit, the Vice Chairman inspected various sites to assess the progress of ongoing works and field-level activities. He also visited the ablution pond and reviewed its condition, maintenance and overall upkeep.

The statement said Shah interacted with officers and field staff at different locations, sought updates on works in progress and discussed operational issues requiring attention.



Fire Damages Two Residential Houses In Batmaloo, No Injuries

Swift police response helps evacuation and firefighting; locals praise SHO Batmaloo and team for prompt action

Agencies

Srinagar: Swift intervention by Srinagar Police and Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES) helped prevent loss of life after a fire damaged two residential houses at New Colony, Batmaloo, in Srinagar on Thursday evening.

As per KNO, the fire broke out in a residential house and spread to an adjoining property before being brought under control by Fire & Emergency Services personnel.

The house belonging to Abdul Razaq Sheikh, son of Mohammad Sideeq Sheikh, suffered extensive damage, while the adjoining house belonging to Mushtaq Ahmad Hakeem, son of Abdul Rahim Hakeem, suffered partial damage.

Police teams from Police Station Batmaloo rushed to the spot immediately after receiving information and worked in close coordination with fire and emergency personnel to assist in rescue and evacuation operations.

Police personnel also secured the affected area, managed the crowd and ensured unhindered movement of fire tenders, helping emergency teams carry out their operations smoothly.

Locals appreciated the prompt response of Srinagar Police, particularly the SHO Bilal Ahmad Khanday and his team, saying their timely intervention and on-ground efforts helped manage the situation and ensure public safety.

No loss of human life or injuries were reported. The cause of the fire is being investigated—(KNO)

- 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

25 Jumada al-Awwal 1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 29
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	3: 57
Magrib	5: 38
ISHA	6: 58

This Day In History

- 1918 - WWI: On the Western Front, Germany is now retreating as French and American troops cross the Meuse and move to take Sedan
- 1928 - Republican candidate Herbert Hoover is elected President of the United States, defeating Democrat candidate Al Smith
- 1940 - Franklin Roosevelt re-elected US President
- 1945 - The first landing of a jet on a carrier takes place on USS Wake Island when an FR-1 Fireball touches down
- 1949 - Greek civil war ends after 3 years with defeat of communist factions
- 1956 - Netherlands and Spain withdraw from Olympics in protest against Soviet actions in the Hungarian Revolution.
- 1967 - US launches Surveyor 6; makes soft landing on Moon Nov 9
- 1968 - Nixon elected 37th President of US, defeating Hubert Humphrey
- 1978 - Shah of Iran places Iran under military rule; General Gholan Reza Azhari forms government.
- 1979 - Ayatollah Khomeini takes over in Iran
- 1983 - Turkey Turgut Özals Moederland party wins elections
- 1985 - 22nd Space Shuttle Mission (61A) -Challenger 9-lands at Edwards AFB
- 1985 - M-19 guerrillas occupy Palace of Justice Bogota Colombia
- 1985 - Space shuttle Challenger lands at Edwards Air Force Base, California
- 1990 - Iran's oil-producing region suffers a serious earthquake
- 1995 - Israel buries Yitzhak Rabin, assassinated by Jewish extremist Yigal Amir who opposed peace with Palestinians.
- 2001 - Crude oil for December delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) falls to a two-year low after OPEC members warn that a downward price spiral could occur if major non-OPEC oil exporters do not reduce oil production

Four Pose As Cyber Crime Officers, Cheat Man Of ₹50,000 in Batmaloo

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police have registered a case against four persons for impersonating Cyber Crime officials and cheating a man of rupees 50,000 in Batmaloo area of Srinagar, officials said.

An official said that a complaint was received from a man alleging that four persons had cheated him by posing as officers of the Cyber Crime Department.

He said the accused fraudulently took rupees 50,000 from the complainant.

SWD Organises Community Outreach Programme

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Social Welfare Department, SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, organised a community outreach programme in coordination with Mission Poshan-Zone Khanyar, and a facilitation camp at Khayam, Srinagar, with the objective of strengthening grassroots-level engagement and creating awareness among the public regarding various welfare initiatives, financial literacy, and financial assistance schemes.

The community outreach programme at Mission Poshan-Zone Khanyar focused on strengthening the role of Anganwadi Workers in disseminating information about government welfare schemes and ensuring that eligible beneficiaries are made aware of the services available to them.

Man Found Dead In Pantha Chowk

Agencies

Srinagar: A 35-year-old man died after being found unconscious on the roadside near Pantha Chowk area of Srinagar, officials said on Thursday.

An official said that the man was found lying unconscious near Smart City Gate at Pantha Chowk, Srinagar.

He said locals spotted the man and informed police, following which he was shifted to SMHS Hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

The deceased was later identified as Mukesh Shrivastav (35), a resident of Bihar.

Meanwhile, the circumstances leading to his death are awaited and an investigation is underway—(KNO)

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Sr.DEN-I/JAT acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on **www.ireps.gov.in** portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to **www.ireps.gov.in**

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
Open	Works	Single Packet System	01.11.2026	09.11.2026	23.11.2026

S.N.	Tender No.	Details of Tender			
1	85-2026-27 MCTM-DRM -JAT	Scour monitoring of Bridge No - 43 and 163 in JAT-SVDK section under ADEN/MCTM (Revenue work 2026-27)			
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest money (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		4238480.62	84800.00	60 Days	12 Months

Similar nature of work-The tenderer must submit a completion certificate of atleast one same kind of work as "Any work involving supply, installation, and commissioning of automated continuous scour monitoring system" (In reference to Railway board letter, Trial Items-Modern Techniques dated 24.07.19.)
Note1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.
Tender Notice No:- 770-W/01/WA/JAT/2026-27 Date: 05.11.2026 3876/2026

Serving Customers With A Smile

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (U T)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara Mechanical & Hospitals Engineering Department, Kashmir.

email: xenmhd-handwara@jk.gov.in

Corrigendum 01 (Extension)

Name of work:- Repairs cum maintenance jobs to Preet New pertaining to Mechanical and Hospital Subdivision 1st Handwara.

Reference: i. e-NIT No: - MHDH/TS/2026-27/eNIT/73
ii. Tender ID No.: 2026_PWDJK_329660_1

Due to poor response the critical dates of the NIT referred to above are hereby rescheduled as under.

S. No.	Description	Date & Time
1	Document Submission End Date	11/11/2026 up to 1400hrs
2.	Date of Opening of Cover-I	11/11/2026 at 1600hrs

All other terms, conditions and specifications of the NIT shall remain unchanged.

DIPK-7392/26
dated: 05-11-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Handwara

No: MHDH/TS/2741-44
Date:-05/11/2026.

J&K Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd.
Gole Pully, Talab Tillo Jammu.

E-mail Id – dmpsjammu@jkagro.com

E NIT No. 34 of 2026-27 JK Agro

NO: -Agro/DM/PSJ/1723-26 DATED:- 05.11.2026

For and on behalf of J&K Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, bids are invited from Eligible Firms s having valid Registration for Supply and Installation of Bower System for Kiwi Orchard and Grape Orchard for rate contract on L1 basis. The last date for applying for the tender online is 16.11.2026. For detailed info kindly visit the website www.jktenders.gov.in.

DIPK-NB-2043/26
dated: 05-11-2026

Sd/-
Divisional Manager (P&S)J.
Member Secretary,
J&K Agro Ind. Dev. Corpn.Ltd.
Talab Tillo, Jammu

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT Civil Secretariat, J&K

Notification

Srinagar, the 28th of October, 2026

S.O 277.- In exercise of the powers conferred by section 4 read with section 8 of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Services Guarantee Act, 2011 (Act No. IX of 2011), the Government hereby notifies the following timelines and Designated Officers/Appellate Authorities of the following Services of Skill Development Department:

S. No	Name of the Service	Stipulated time frame for providing service	Designated Officer	First Appellate Authority	Second Appellate Authority
1	Correction in Mark sheets & Diploma certificate	30 days	Deputy Registrar, Jammu and Kashmir Board of Technical Education	Registrar, Jammu and Kashmir Board of Technical Education	Secretary/ Controller Jammu and Kashmir Board of Technical Education
2	Issuance of Duplicate Mark Sheets	30 days	Deputy Registrar, Jammu and Kashmir Board of Technical Education	Registrar, Jammu and Kashmir Board of Technical Education	Secretary/ Controller Jammu and Kashmir Board of Technical Education
3	Issuance of Duplicate Diploma Certificate	30 days	Deputy Registrar, Jammu and Kashmir Board of Technical Education	Registrar, Jammu and Kashmir Board of Technical Education	Secretary/ Controller Jammu and Kashmir Board of Technical Education
4	Verification (Online/Offline)	10 days	Deputy Registrar, Jammu and Kashmir Board of Technical Education	Registrar, Jammu and Kashmir Board of Technical Education	Secretary/ Controller Jammu and Kashmir Board of Technical Education

By order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sd/-
(M. Raju) IAS,
Commissioner/Secretary to the Government
Dated: 28.10.2026

No: GAD-PSGA/2/2023-09-GAD (7131911)

DIPK-7406/26 dated: 05-11-2026

From KO Archives

Taj Mahal Vanishes Under Magic Spell

Agencies

AGRA- The elegant 16th century embodiment of love, Taj Ma¬hal, today had an altogether different date when noted magic wizard, P.C Sorcar junior, made it vanish.

Sorcar, master of the Indrajaal magic snow, performed the feat at 1450 hours for over two minutes from a distance of about 400 me¬tres behind Taj at a pot called Eachpura across the river Yamuna.

The mysterious entertainment, as Sorcar described it later, left hundreds of onlookers including policemen, administra¬tion officials and mediapersons absolutely stunned. The magic made the Mughal architectural marvel disappear in the thin air leaving a blank space at the site.

The magician was assisted by his daughter, Maneka, who made the historic monument reappear after two minutes. No it was not mass hypnotism, a jubilant Sorcar told PTI, adding on the contrary, it was a case of Application of 'Adrishya' (disap¬pearance) Rasa' of the science of magic.

I just kept the Taj away from your eyes, it was a perfect illu¬sion, the 53-year-old magician, whose late father had several in¬credible feats to his credit, said. This was the junior Sorcar's first major performance since 1992 when he had made a running train disappear at Khana junction near Bardhaman in West Bengal.

Sorcar is also credited with having made Kolkata's famous- victo¬ria memorial vanish in 1990 and an aircraft at Hamamata in Japan.

I don't possess any supernatural powers. I perform with the blessings of God and goodwishes of the people, the magician,, who had challenged a famous godman of the south in the eight¬ies, said. A beaming Sorcar, who says magic was in his blood since eight generations, maintained that there was nothing su¬pernatural in his feat.

This is all science, the science of controlling the mind and the will¬power to create a psychic balance with the environment, he added.

(Kashmir Observer, November 06, 2000)

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

KO VIEW

The Mandate Comes First

Kashmir's political parties have a growing problem with accountability.

They expect voters to remain loyal, legislators to follow party leadership and governments to defend their decisions.

But the relationship between political representatives and the electorate cannot function on obedience alone.

The latest internal tensions within the National Conference expose a deeper weakness in the region's political culture: leaders increasingly risk treating electoral mandates as personal authority.

The National Conference returned to power in the 2024 Assembly elections with considerable public support. Its victory came with clear public expectations.

Voters wanted responsive government, a stronger political voice for Jammu and Kashmir and attention to pressing concerns such as employment, electricity, healthcare and education.

The mandate gave the party an opportunity to rebuild public confidence in elected institutions.

Internal disagreements within the party now raise questions about how its leadership understands that mandate.

Disputes over political direction and party discipline are legitimate subjects of democratic debate. The real concern emerges when disagreement becomes synonymous with disloyalty and legislators face pressure to subordinate their political judgment to the wishes of party leadership.

An elected representative has obligations to constituents that go beyond party membership.

Voters choose legislators to articulate public concerns, scrutinise government decisions and question those in authority. Party structures provide an organisational framework for political work, but they cannot replace the independent judgment expected of elected representatives.

Political leadership also needs to recognise that internal dissent can strengthen a party. A leadership confident in its decisions should welcome scrutiny and explain its choices. Attempts to suppress disagreement weaken internal democracy and risk creating a political culture in which personal allegiance takes precedence over public responsibility.

Kashmir has experienced enough political defections, shifting alliances and abandoned convictions to understand the damage caused by opportunistic politics. Public trust suffers when leaders change positions according to their political convenience.

The latest National Conference tensions should therefore prompt a wider examination of how political parties function, rather than become another contest over personalities.

The responsibility goes to the elected government itself. Internal disputes cannot become an excuse for neglecting public concerns. People expect answers on employment, electricity, healthcare, education and the restoration of political rights.

These are the tests against which the government's performance will be judged. Party management cannot substitute for effective administration.

Political parties must also accept that electoral support comes with continuing obligations. A victory at the ballot box does not grant permanent authority over voters or silence representatives who question decisions. Democratic credibility depends on open debate, institutional accountability and the willingness of leaders to answer criticism.

Kashmir's electorate has already shown its willingness to participate in democratic politics. Its representatives must show equal respect for that choice.

A party that demands loyalty from its legislators must first demonstrate accountability to the people whose votes brought it to power.

The Chair & Conscience of Kashmir Politics

Ruhullah has given up his parliamentary seat in the name of political conviction. Whether he can sustain that conviction beyond the rally in Budgam remains to be seen.



Gazi Muzamil

Kashmir politics has seen its share of defections, shifting loyalties and convictions rediscovered when power demands them. But surrendering a parliamentary seat won with nearly 3.57 lakh votes is an altogether different act.

On November 3, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi resigned from the National Conference and the Lok Sabha, raising a question that Kashmir's political class can no longer avoid: where does one draw the line when promises made to voters collide with the privileges of power?

At Behisht-e-Zehra Park in Budgam, during the 26th death anniversary of his father, Aga Syed Mehdi, Ruhullah asked the gathering to remember the time, 2:40 pm, as the moment he freed himself from the party. "I am signing my declaration of freedom," he said.

The posters around him carried a simpler message: "Wada kursi se bada hai." A promise is bigger than the chair.

There was something unusual about the gesture.

Ruhullah had won the Srinagar parliamentary seat in 2024 by 1,88,416 votes over PDP candidate Waheed Para. Such a mandate gives a politician considerable political capital, and most would find reasons to hold on to it.

His decision has therefore placed a difficult question before those who regard public office as a political possession rather than a public responsibility.

His departure, however, did not emerge from a sudden disagreement.

The distance between Ruhullah and the National Conference has been growing for years. In July 2020, he resigned as the party's chief spokesperson, arguing that statehood should be the minimum demand rather than the final political objective. His dissatisfaction concerned the direction the party had taken after August 2019 and its response to the constitutional changes imposed on Jammu and Kashmir.

The return of the National Conference to power in 2024 deepened the disagreement.

Ruhullah had campaigned vigorously on a manifesto promising the restoration of Articles 370 and 35A and the release of political prisoners. He subsequently questioned the distance between those commitments and the government's actions.

His December 2024 appearance alongside students protesting outside the Chief Minister's residence against the reservation policy was particularly revealing.

Here was an MP from the ruling party standing with young people protesting against his own government's decisions.

His absence from the NC campaign during the November 2025 Budgam by-election further exposed the growing rupture. The party lost a constituency it had held since 1977 to the PDP by more than 4,400 votes.

Parliament had also given Ruhullah a distinct political identity.

His interventions on political rights, restrictions on movement and speech, and the concerns of ordinary Kashmiris often departed from the carefully measured language associated with mainstream politics.

> **A politician** who asks Kashmiris to remember the hour of his resignation must also accept their right to remember the years that preceded it. November 3, 2026, may become the beginning of a different political chapter or another episode of public hope followed by disappointment. The answer will emerge from what Ruhullah does after leaving the chair, and whether the promises he has invoked continue to guide him when holding on to them becomes politically difficult.

Many people in the valley saw in his speeches an expression of frustrations they felt were being diluted in official statements.

When Farooq Abdullah publicly challenged him in August to resign and seek a fresh mandate if he believed his support belonged to him personally rather than the organisation, Ruhullah accepted the challenge. His decision has given substance to a disagreement that had remained unresolved for years.

Still, public admiration should not exempt him from scrutiny.

His resignation raises an uncomfortable question about 2010, when he served as a minister in Omar Abdullah's cabinet during one of Kashmir's bloodiest summers.

On June 11 that year, 17-year-old Tufail Mattoo was killed during protests in Srinagar. His death triggered months of unrest in which many civilians lost their lives. Ruhullah remained in the government and later contested elections on the National Conference ticket.

Sixteen years later, on November 3, he handed his resignation letter to Tufail's father, Mohammad Ashraf Mattoo, asking him to deliver it to Farooq Abdullah.

The symbolism was unmistakable.

It also invited an examination of his own political choices during that turbulent period.

A minister cannot automatically be held personally responsible for all the actions of a government. His position alone tells us little about what he knew, what authority he exercised or what constraints he faced.

Still, a politician invoking conscience as the reason for leaving power must explain why that conscience did not lead him away from the government in 2010.

The National Conference has seized on this contradiction, accusing him of using that painful chapter for political advantage. Its response may be partisan, but the question itself is legitimate.

The party, meanwhile, has its own explanations to provide.

The NC argues that restoring statehood does not mean abandoning the demand for special status and that it must work within the limitations of the Union Territory arrangement.

Such pragmatism may explain some of its decisions, but it cannot indefinitely replace political clarity.

If Articles 370 and 35A remain central to its programme, voters are entitled to know what practical steps the government intends to take.

The 2024 mandate rested substantially on constitutional promises and the restoration of political rights. Administrative performance alone cannot explain the expectations created by that campaign.

Personal attacks on Ruhullah and accusations of moral bankruptcy do little to answer questions about the government's own commitments. Equally, his resignation does not erase his earlier record.

Kashmir has seen new political voices emerge with enormous public enthusiasm, only to falter when the demands of political survival begin to compete with their stated principles.

Bureaucrat Shah Faesal's brief political journey remains a telling example of the distance between public expectation and political endurance.

Speculation about Ruhullah eventually joining the Congress would also test his credibility, particularly among supporters who associate the party with the erosion of Kashmir's autonomy.

He has spoken of building a movement rather than forming another political front. That statement will gain meaning through its organisation, membership and political programme.

A movement representing Jammu and Kashmir must speak beyond religious symbolism and the popularity of one leader. It must accommodate disagreement, include different political and social constituencies and articulate a programme that young people can recognise as their own.

The large gathering in Budgam showed the enthusiasm his departure has generated, particularly among younger Kashmiris. But public applause at a rally and an electoral mandate are different things.

The harder work begins when enthusiasm must become organisation, when supporters disagree and when political compromises tempt a leader to abandon the principles that brought people to his side.

Ruhullah has placed the chair and conscience on opposite sides of a political argument. His own history will remain part of that argument, just as the National Conference's record will remain open to public examination.

A politician who asks Kashmiris to remember the hour of his resignation must also accept their right to remember the years that preceded it.

November 3, 2026, may become the beginning of a different political chapter or another episode of public hope followed by disappointment.

The answer will emerge from what Ruhullah does after leaving the chair, and whether the promises he has invoked continue to guide him when holding on to them becomes politically difficult.

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The author is a research scholar at Kashmir University and can be reached at gazimuzamil102@gmail.com.

Don't Digitise Old Mistakes

Digitisation can modernise Jammu and Kashmir's Revenue Department, but without the knowledge of Patwaris, old mistakes risk acquiring a permanent digital address.



Mohammad Amin Mir

A land record in Kashmir is rarely just a document.

Behind a name in a Jamabandi may lie an inheritance, a family dispute, a division of ancestral property or a boundary remembered differently by two neighbouring households.

A mistake in such a record can follow a family for years, complicating a sale, delaying an inheritance and drawing people into litigation.

Digitising these documents is therefore a major administrative reform, but the government must get one thing right before declaring the exercise complete: the accuracy of the information being transferred to the screen.

The Revenue Minister's recent directions to expedite digitisation and verification of land records in Jammu and Kashmir have generated hope among government employees and the public. His emphasis on authenticity, accuracy and transparency, alongside plans to strengthen grassroots administration, revive the Settlement Wing and preserve historical documents, signals an important change in the department's priorities.

There is, however, a missing voice in this reform agenda.

The Patwari, who knows the land, the village and the history behind its records, should have a direct role in deciding how digitised records are verified and corrected.

Technology can make a document easier to access, but it cannot establish whether the information inside it is correct.

Scanning an old Jamabandi and uploading it to a digital platform may preserve its contents, but it can also reproduce mistakes that have survived for generations.

An incorrect entry does not acquire legal or historical authenticity simply because it appears on a computer screen.

This difference is especially important in Kashmir, where land ownership records often draw on documents prepared during different settlement exercises.

A Patwari working in a village has practical familiarity with old Jamabandis, mutations, Khasra Girdawari, Lathas and Massavis. He knows the history of ownership, inheritance and possession in his Patwar Halqa. He may also know why a particular survey number differs between two historical documents or why an old mutation never found its way into a subsequent Jamabandi.

Such knowledge rarely appears in a scanned file.

Discrepancies can take several forms. The area recorded in an old Jamabandi may differ from the measurement in a Massavi. A survey number may have been entered incorrectly. An inherited property may still appear under an earlier owner's name because a mutation was never incorporated. Names and ownership particulars may contain errors that need comparison with original documents.

Resolving these inconsistencies calls for more than software and clerical scrutiny. It involves examining historical records, verifying entries and, where necessary, conducting field-level checks through officials familiar with the land.

A system that overlooks this work risks giving old errors a new technological authority.

The Revenue Minister should convene a special consultation with representatives of the All Jammu and Kashmir Patwar Association and experienced Patwaris from different districts before finalising a comprehensive verification mechanism.

Their participation should go beyond carrying out departmental instructions. They must help design the process itself.

A practical system could begin with district-level verification committees involving experienced Patwaris, Girdawars, Naib Tehsildars and other competent revenue officers.

These committees could compare digitised Jamabandis with original Lathas, Massavis, previous Jamabandis and mutation registers on a village-wise basis.

Patwaris should have a transparent channel to flag discrepancies and submit supporting historical documents for examination by the competent authority.

The legal responsibilities of Patwaris, Girdawars, Tehsildars and Deputy Commissioners also need clear definition. Corrections affecting ownership or other legal rights must remain subject to decisions by the authority empowered under law.

Disputed entries should have a prescribed examination and correction procedure so that genuine errors do not remain frozen in the digital system indefinitely.

Public verification should form another part of the exercise.

Reading digitised Jamabandis at village level would give landowners an opportunity to identify mistakes before records receive final authentication. A farmer who discovers an incorrect name or land measurement should have a clear route to seek examination of the entry without making repeated visits to government offices.

The government's own concern about manpower shortages at the Patwari, Girdawar and Naib Tehsildar levels makes this consultation even more necessary.

A Patwari today handles traditional revenue duties alongside digitisation of Jamabandis, online mutations, AgriStack, Farmer IDs, SVAMITVA-related assignments and other government programmes.

These responsibilities demand technical skills, time and administrative support.

The department must provide computers, reliable internet connectivity, electricity and proper office accommodation in Patwar Halqas. Vacant posts need priority attention, while Girdawar circles and Patwar Khanas need stronger institutional support.

Regular training in digital record management, online mutations, scanning and data verification would help field officials work confidently with the new systems.

The preservation of historical documents also needs careful attention.

Lathas, Massavis, old Jamabandis and mutation registers form the documentary foundation of land ownership and revenue administration in Jammu and Kashmir. Their preservation in Mahafiz Khanas should go hand in hand with efforts to revive the Settlement Wing.

Missing, damaged or incomplete records must be reconstructed through authentic historical references and legally accepted procedures. Speculation has no place in a land record.

The success of this reform will eventually be judged by the landowner seeking a correct record, the family trying to settle an inheritance and the citizen hoping to complete a property transaction without spending months correcting an administrative mistake.

Accurate records can reduce disputes, limit unnecessary litigation and make public services more accessible.

The Revenue Department has an opportunity to build a digital system that future generations can trust. That work begins with recognising the people who understand the records beyond the entries on a page.

A Patwari's experience should inform the technology, the verification process and the legal safeguards governing corrections.

Jammu and Kashmir can take pride in modernising its land administration. But the real achievement will come when a landowner can open a digital Jamabandi and find the same accuracy that the government promises in its reform announcements.

A computer can preserve an entry for generations, but it takes informed human judgment to establish whether that entry was correct in the first place.

The author is a revenue offical based out of South Kashmir. He can be reached at miramin354@gmail.com.

Gurez Looks Like Paradise Until Someone Falls Ill

The death of a young mother and her unborn child lays bare the healthcare crisis in a Himalayan valley where winter isolation can turn medical emergencies into fatal journeys.



Amreen Qadir

When Haseen Begum went into labour on a cold Tuesday night, her family had little time to lose.

The young pregnant woman from Mazgund village in Tulail needed medical attention. They rushed her to the Primary Health Centre at Sheikhpora, expecting to find a doctor who could help her deliver safely.

The corridors were empty, and medical personnel were absent.

Her relatives put her in a vehicle and drove to the Sub-District Hospital in Dawar. Doctors examined her and discovered that her haemoglobin level had fallen dangerously low. She had developed hypovolemic shock, a life-threatening condition caused by a severe loss of blood or circulating blood volume. Her unborn child's heartbeat stopped around midnight.

Doctors decided to refer her immediately to District Hospital Bandipora, more than 80 kilometres away.

Between Dawar and Bandipora lay Razdan Pass, a mountain crossing that rises to 11,600 feet and becomes treacherous with the first snowfall.

By then, early winter snow had covered the pass, prompting authorities to suspend vehicular movement. The ambulance carrying Haseen waited while officials considered whether it could safely cross.

Road maintenance agencies expressed their willingness to facilitate the journey. Administrative clearance, however, remained elusive.

Officials cited the risk of another accident, pointing to an earlier incident in which a fire services vehicle had skidded on the snow-covered road. Sending an ambulance across, they argued, could endanger more lives.

Hours passed. The ambulance eventually crossed Razdan Pass and descended towards Bandipora the following morning.

Haseen was declared brought dead on arrival. Her unborn child had also died.

Her journey from Tulail to Bandipora revealed the brutal reality of winter in Gurez. A medical emergency that might receive immediate attention in a city can become a desperate race against distance, weather and administrative procedures in this remote Himalayan region.

Here, the closure of a mountain road can separate a patient from the hospital that might save her life.

For outsiders, Gurez is a picture of extraordinary natural beauty. Its snow-covered mountains, clear rivers and alpine landscapes have made it an increasingly popular tourist destination. Tourism campaigns celebrate the valley's remoteness as an attraction. But for its residents, that same isolation becomes a source of danger when winter closes the roads for nearly six months.

Haseen's death also revived memories of a young man from Kanzalwan who died earlier following a medical emergency. Together, these cold deaths have exposed the shortcomings of healthcare in a region where people depend on a handful of inadequately equipped facilities.

The absence of medical personnel at Sheikhpora was one failure. Another emerged at Dawar. Months before the tragedy, local representatives had celebrated the inauguration of a blood storage unit in Gurez. But when doctors needed blood to stabilise Haseen's dangerously low haemoglobin level, supplies were unavailable.

Health centres in these high-altitude settlements also struggle with doctor absenteeism, leaving patients especially vulnerable during emergencies at night.

Public anger erupted after her death. Markets shut down in Dawar, Tulail and surrounding areas as residents staged protests. A five-day hunger strike followed, with demonstrators demanding lasting improvements in healthcare. The agitation ended after the Department of Health Services issued an order deploying two specialists to the Community Health Centre in Dawar.

The announcement appeared to address one of the community's immediate demands. A closer look at the order, however, revealed the limits of the response.



THE NEXT WOMAN WHO GOES INTO LABOUR IN GUREZ SHOULD HAVE A DOCTOR WAITING FOR HER, a functioning hospital within reach and an ambulance free to cross Razdan Pass. Haseen Begum should never have had to die waiting for all three.

The department chose temporary rotational deputations instead of sanctioning permanent specialist positions for Gurez.

Such arrangements leave healthcare dependent on short-term administrative decisions. Obstetric emergencies, severe haemorrhage and obstructed labour demand immediate treatment.

A visiting specialist working without adequate surgical infrastructure, functioning blood supplies and a permanent medical team cannot provide comprehensive emergency care.

When the deputation expires, the region returns to its earlier dependence on limited facilities.

The decision has also stirred resentment in neighbouring Bandipora.

Health authorities ordered the transfer of key specialists from its district hospital to meet the staffing requirements in Dawar. Bandipora already faces shortages, and the transfers have prompted protests from residents, traders and civil society groups.

The irony has been particularly painful for local traders and community leaders who had organised blood donation drives to help patients in Gurez. Having supported the border population during its healthcare crisis, they now fear that their own hospital will become weaker.

Transferring doctors between understaffed hospitals merely moves the problem from one community to another. Both Gurez and Bandipora need additional medical personnel, supported by fresh recruitment and permanent appointments.

The consequences of this institutional failure fall especially heavily on women.

Men in remote mountain communities often migrate for seasonal work or enjoy greater mobility. Women remain in villages where access to prenatal consultations, nutritional assessments and routine screening for severe anaemia can be severely limited.

Villages in Tulail and Bagtore face particular difficulties during heavy snowfall, when even reaching Dawar becomes difficult.

Pregnant women may go without regular examinations, leaving conditions that doctors could identify early to develop into serious complications.

When labour begins, families must contend with inadequate local facilities and uncertain transport.

The psychological burden is considerable, as expectant mothers and their families enter winter knowing that a medical complication could become life-threatening if the roads close.

The possibility of reaching a hospital depends on weather conditions, available transport and the ability of different government departments to coordinate an emergency response.

This isolation demands a healthcare system designed specifically for high-altitude conditions.

Dawar, Tulail and Bagtore need fully functional operating theatres, modern life-support equipment, essential medicines and permanent specialist teams. Blood storage facilities must maintain adequate supplies of life-saving blood products.

Emergency transport needs similar attention. Purpose-built four-wheel-drive ambulances equipped for snow-covered roads should remain stationed in the region throughout winter. Authorities should establish automatic, pre-approved clearance for emergency vehicles crossing Razdan Pass, with civil administration, disaster management agencies, road authorities and medical teams working under a common protocol.

The government also needs to identify high-risk pregnancies early, establish winterised maternal shelters near district hospitals and decentralise emergency obstetric services. Permanent specialist appointments through fresh recruitment would strengthen Gurez without weakening the already understaffed hospital in Bandipora.

These measures demand a fundamental change in how authorities plan healthcare for remote mountain settlements.

Roads may remain closed for months, so local hospitals must have the personnel, equipment and supplies to function independently. Budgetary priorities must recognise that residents of border valleys need the same standard of medical care as people living in urban centres.

The repeated inauguration of buildings and facilities cannot demonstrate progress when doctors remain absent, blood supplies run out and operating theatres lack the capacity to handle emergencies.

Public healthcare must be judged by whether a patient receives treatment when she needs it.

The constitutional promise of equal protection goes to people living in the remotest corners of the country. Their access to healthcare cannot depend on geography or the willingness of officials to grant permission during a medical emergency.

The protests in Gurez and the growing discontent in Bandipora highlight years of frustration with temporary appointments, unfulfilled commitments and administrative measures that leave structural deficiencies untouched.

Winter will return to Gurez. Snow will settle on Razdan Pass, villages will become isolated and families will once again depend on the medical facilities within their reach. The valley will continue to attract tourists who come to admire its mountains and experience its remoteness.

But for the women who live there, the season brings a far more personal calculation. They must consider whether a doctor will be available, whether the hospital has blood and whether an ambulance can cross the mountain if complications arise.

Haseen Begum's family made that journey. They reached the hospital after the hours in which doctors might have saved her and her child had passed.

The next woman who goes into labour in Gurez should have a doctor waiting for her, a functioning hospital within reach and an ambulance free to cross Razdan Pass.

Haseen Begum should never have had to die waiting for all three.

— The author is the founder and chairperson of The LIFT Foundation, an NGO working in Gurez. She can be reached at amreenqadir@doonsrinagar.com.

The Untold History of Kashmir's Golf Greens

Beyond the mountain views and manicured lawns, Srinagar's Royal Springs holds a history that connects British leisure, Kashmiri participation, local culture and inherited faith.



Shereen Naman

My father walks to the golf course before the day begins, and the walk has become so fixed a part of his mornings that I grew up wondering about a game I never saw him play.

What was golf, and why did a stretch of cut grass draw a grown man back to it so faithfully?

I kept those questions to myself for years. When I finally visited Royal Springs as an adult, I found that the course had far more stories to tell than I had imagined.

I knew nothing of handicaps or swings. A golf cart took me along winding paths through green framed by trees and the Zabarwan hills, and the city fell away behind the slopes. It looked like a film set.

Within an hour, I had stopped asking about the sport and started asking who had imagined this landscape, how a pastime bound to British colonial leisure found its way into Kashmir, and how Kashmiris became part of its story.

The usual answer is the view.

Royal Springs, with its groomed fairways, landscaped greens and mountain backdrop, sits among the valley's most striking golfing landscapes, and golf tourism here is promoted through scenery, climate and setting.

The scenery is real. It is also the thinnest layer of the place.

The older layer begins with the heat of the Indian plains. British officials and travellers escaping it found temperate summers and open ground in the valley, and golf came with their recreational habits.

Historical accounts place the origins of the Kashmir Golf Club in Srinagar in the late nineteenth century. Memberships, clubs and social networks organised the sport, and they mirrored the hierarchies of the society around them. Golf here was never only a pastime.

Kashmiris were part of golf's early history too, as players and professionals. Their role complicates the idea that golf was simply a British game brought to the valley. Local people maintained the courses and taught others to play, but their contribution rarely finds a place in the popular history of the sport.

Royal Springs itself is a modern course, inaugurated in 2001, and belongs to a different chapter from the historic club, so the two histories should be kept apart.

The course lies beside a forest, and wildlife occasionally wanders onto the greens. A meticulously kept sporting ground becomes, for a moment, a clearing in a living landscape that has its own calendar.

The golfers play inside the mountains, and the mountains had no part in the arrangement.

Along the route, stone markers bear the names of walnut and cherry, the trees and fruit of the valley's orchards. A sport rooted in another cultural tradition speaks, in these inscriptions, in a Kashmiri vocabulary.

Who chose those names, and for what purpose, remains to be investigated. The cultural history of a landscape sometimes survives in its smallest inscriptions rather than its grand monuments.



KASHMIRIS WERE PART OF GOLF'S EARLY HISTORY TOO, AS PLAYERS AND PROFESSIONALS. Their role complicates the idea that golf was simply a British game brought to the valley. Local people maintained the courses and taught others to play, but their contribution rarely finds a place in the popular history of the sport.

Less conspicuous than the markers, an Aastaan-e-Sayyidaen stands within the course's interior, a shrine locally associated with one of Kashmir's thirteen prominent Sayyid lineages.

An astaan is a place of reverence and inherited memory, joining the physical landscape to faith and belonging. The land that hosts a modern sporting institution also holds ground whose meaning reaches well beyond recreation, and a casual visitor may never register it. Its precise history and its link to the lineage await documentation through local knowledge and historical records.

Here the tourism argument turns sharper.

Golf tourism joins sporting infrastructure, hospitality, destination marketing and cultural identity, and in Kashmir it cannot be separated from the mountains, the nearness of Dal Lake and the valley's singular natural environment.

The opportunity lies in presenting golf as part of a fuller account of the place, a pastime attached to its setting instead of floating free of it.

A visitor who learned the history, the ecology and the local culture would understand the destination more deeply than one who saw only a green against a ridge.

That fuller account holds obligations. Tourism has to grow in step with environmental protection, responsible land use and the preservation of heritage, because a landscape's worth exceeds the number of visitors it draws.

A course promoted on its scenery alone invites the very visitors least likely to ask what lies under the grass, and the land has more to say than the brochure allows.

The questions worth asking are the ones that call for patient research. Who were the earliest Kashmiri players and professionals? Who tended the greens and introduced others to the game? What lies in the clubs' archives, and what memories survive among the people who have lived and worked around them?

Such records exist in fragments, if they exist at all, and fragments fade with the people who hold them.

Royal Springs is more than a place to play golf. Its greens rest within a larger Kashmiri world formed by colonial encounters, natural abundance, cultural memory and spiritual inheritance, and Srinagar's history here cannot be reduced to a single game or a single era.

I went looking for the meaning of my father's morning habit and found a landscape that keeps absorbing new meanings while holding the traces of earlier ones.

His walk now looks to me like a daily passage through layers that nobody has finished recording.

— The author is a cultural activist by passion and scribe by profession. She can be reached at shereennaman332@gmail.com.

Wangchuk-founded HIAL's Maternity Benefits Case

Leh Labour Court to Pronounce Final Orders on Nov 7

Press Trust Of India

Leh: The Labour Court in Leh is scheduled to pass the final orders on Saturday in a case involving allegations of non-payment of statutory maternity benefits and unfair treatment of a former employee by activist Sonam Wangchuk-founded Himalayan Institute of Alternative Ladakh (HIAL).

The case, filed on June 27 by Amina Khatoon, who joined HIAL in 2023, concerns the alleged withholding of 26 weeks of her statutory maternity benefits, deactivation of her official email account and removal from workplace communication groups shortly after she gave birth in 2024.

She has also alleged that the institute withheld her experience certificate, adversely affecting her subsequent employment prospects.

After registration of the case, the first notice was issued to Wangchuk's wife and HIAL chief executive officer (CEO) Gitanjali Angmo.

Subsequently, after receiving no response, notices were issued by the Labour Court to the two on July 2, August 13 and August 28. The final notice was issued on September 8, sources in the Labour Court said.

Despite multiple hearings scheduled on June 29, July 7 and 13 and August 17, and notwithstanding the formal serving of the notices, the non-applicants appeared only once on July 13.

"They have failed to attend the remaining proceedings without providing any sufficient cause. The authority has noted that this continuous non-appearance reflects a deliberate non-compliance with the statutory proceedings initiated under the prevailing labour laws.

"The authority has now granted a last and final opportunity to the non-applicants to appear before the court on September 15. Take Notice that in the event of a failure to appear, the Authority shall proceed with the matter under Section 5 of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961," read the final notice issued by the court, adding that non-applicant no. 1 (Angmo) was strictly directed to attend the proceedings without fail.

A continuous failure to comply would result in the initiation of permissible coercive legal action, entirely at the non-applicant's own risk as to costs and legal consequences, the notice said.

However, in complete disregard of the final notice for appearance on September 15, Angmo refused to appear and record her statement before the court, prompting it to put up the matter for November 7 for final orders.

In her complaint filed before the court, Khatoon said she worked continuously throughout her pregnancy until proceeding on her contractually and legally mandated maternity leave on March 9, 2024.

Despite submitting all requisite medical and delivery documentation within the prescribed timelines, she alleged that the institution withheld 26 weeks of her statutory maternity salary without assigning any valid or lawful justification.

Khatoon claimed that within a month of childbirth, her access to official communication channels was withdrawn, while the management failed to clarify her employment or rejoining status. When she subsequently attempted to return to work, she was allegedly asked to await a response from the HR team, which never materialised.

She alleged that the sudden termination of access, coupled with absolute silence from the management regarding her rejoining status, inflicted severe "mental agony, anxiety and sleep deprivation" during an already vulnerable postpartum phase.

She also alleged that the delay in issuing her experience certificate cost her professional opportunities, including prospective employment with Engineers India Limited (EIL). The petition underscores that despite exhaustive follow-ups for several months via emails and messages addressed directly to Angmo, the HR team and HIAL founder Wangchuk, the management refused to provide any clear resolution or release the pending dues, prompting the worker to seek judicial remedy.

The complaint was brought before the office of the assistant labour commissioner (ALC), Leh, under Section 15 of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, and relevant provisions of the Code on Wages, 2019. The proceedings also invoke provisions of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.

Khatoon had approached the labour authorities seeking directions for the release of her pending maternity benefits and resolution of the disputed employment-related issues after months of allegedly unsuccessful follow-ups with the institute's management and its founder.

The labour dispute comes amid other controversies surrounding HIAL. In August 2025, the Ladakh administration cancelled the institute's 1,076-kanal land allotment, citing alleged failure to execute the lease deed, non-payment of licence fees and violations of land-use conditions.

On November 1, the Leh administration issued a notice to the HIAL CEO directing the institute to halt classes and activities at its newly opened Desert Flower School pending a final decision in a matter before the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. In the high court proceedings, the administration also levelled allegations against Wangchuk concerning the use of public land and mobilisation of staff and students of HIAL and Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL) for protests. These allegations remain subject to adjudication.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

AIIMS Awantipora

buildings had been completed, while the remaining infrastructure and operational arrangements were being taken up in phases.

The Phase-I infrastructure, including the OPD Registration Block, OPD Block, residential buildings and designated hostels, has been completed, with inventory verification and handover formalities underway.

Nadda reviewed infrastructure development, procurement of medical equipment and furniture, recruitment of faculty and staff, and preparedness for launching healthcare and academic services.

He directed HITES and the AIIMS administration to expedite procurement of medical equipment, laboratory instruments and furniture required for operationalising the institute.

The meeting was informed that procurement approvals had been issued for 180 medical equipment items worth Rs 59.41 crore, with notices of award already issued for 140 items.

On recruitment, Nadda called for expediting appointments of faculty and non-faculty staff to ensure adequate manpower before services commence.

The Ministry has approved the engagement of 652 personnel for OPD and related services, including hospital attendants, housekeeping and sanitation workers, and security staff. Of these, 150 posts have been earmarked for security personnel.

Academic activities, including MBBS classes, are expected to commence in the 2027-28 academic session.

Nadda also reviewed campus security, transport connectivity and other operational arrangements, stressing close coordination among AIIMS Awantipora, the Central Public Works Department (CPWD), HITES and the local administration to resolve pending issues.

He appreciated the efforts of CPWD and other agencies in completing major structures despite challenging conditions at the site.

The minister said timely completion and operationalisation of AIIMS Awantipora would strengthen access to tertiary and specialised healthcare in Jammu and Kashmir and reduce the need for patients to travel outside the Union Territory for advanced treatment.

AIIMS Awantipora MBBS

now the Union Health Minister has indicated that 100 students will soon begin their studies at AIIMS Awantipora," she said.

The Health Minister also stressed the need to make the Outpatient Department (OPD) operational at the earliest, saying it would provide specialised healthcare services to people of south Kashmir and reduce the burden on major hospitals in Srinagar.

She said the Omar Abdullah-led government was keen to see the premier institute become functional without further delay and noted that the Chief Minister had reviewed the project on several occasions.

Meanwhile, Itoo raised with Nadda the issue of Adnan Ahmad Rather, a final-year MBBS student from Sopore who died in Bangladesh, and sought his intervention for the early repatriation of his mortal remains.

She said she handed over the student's documents to the Union Health Minister and apprised him of the family's distress.

"The family is going through an extremely difficult time. His mother, who was accompanying him in Bangladesh, is also in a state of shock. I requested the Union Health Minister to ensure the mortal remains are brought back at the earliest," she said.

According to Itoo, Nadda assured all possible assistance and said he would take up the matter with the concerned authorities.

AIIMS Awantipora is among Jammu and Kashmir's major healthcare infrastructure projects and is expected to improve access to specialised medical services while strengthening medical education in the Union Territory.

Jhelum, Tributaries

water availability continues to decline," he said.

Springs In South Kashmir Dry Up

Arif said several local springs in south Kashmir had also dried up following continued dry conditions, adding to concerns over water availability for rural communities.

A study published in the journal Frontiers in Water, titled GIS-Based Inventory and Utility Assessment of Spring Resources in the Kashmir Himalaya, has also highlighted concerns over the region's water security.

The study mapped 649 springs across Anantnag and Kulgam districts during field surveys conducted in 2021 and 2022. It found that 76 springs, accounting for 11.7 per cent of those surveyed, were completely dry, while 8.5 per cent were seasonal and 79.8 per cent perennial.

Domestic requirements, including drinking, cooking and washing, accounted for the largest share of spring water use, the research found.

Researchers also noted that local communities had reported declining spring discharge and reliability over the preceding five to 10 years. However, the absence of long-term hydrological records prevented independent confirmation of these trends.

The findings underline the vulnerability of rural communities dependent on natural springs for household consumption and agricultural activities.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast generally dry weather from November 6 to 9, followed by spells of light to moderate rainfall and snowfall over higher reaches between November 10 and 13.

The department's gauge readings represent water levels at a particular time and should not be confused with seasonal averages or direct measurements of drinking water availability.

However, declining spring flows, low river levels and the prospect of further dry periods have renewed concerns over Kashmir's water security as the region enters winter (KNO)

MeT Predicts

remained above freezing across Kashmir, with Srinagar recording 4.0 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 1.5 degrees, Gulmarg 2.0 degrees and Kupwara 2.1 degrees.

The MeT department has advised farmers to continue harvesting operations until November 10 and ensure safe storage of crops. Travellers and transporters have also been advised to follow traffic advisories.

ECI Defers J&K Voter

Territory, with several areas, particularly the higher reaches, becoming difficult to access due to snowfall. Adverse weather conditions can also pose logistical challenges for electoral authorities conducting field-level revision activities.

The last revision of electoral rolls in Jammu and Kashmir was carried out in 2024. Since then, no fresh revision exercise has been undertaken in the Union Territory.

The proposed revision is also significant in view of the long-pending urban local body elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Municipal corporations, councils and committees across the UT have been without elected representatives, and updated electoral rolls are essential for conducting the polls.

The announcement of the revision schedule is therefore being awaited, as the exercise would provide an opportunity to update voter lists ahead of the next electoral process.

Education Must

the purpose of education should not be limited to securing marks or achieving academic excellence but must also involve developing well-rounded individuals with strong moral values and the ability to distinguish between right and wrong.

Recalling his association with the Diocese's educational institutions, particularly Burn Hall School in Srinagar, where he studied until Class 5, Omar shared memories of his school days and appreciated the institution's contribution to education and character-building.

He lauded the Diocese of Jammu-Srinagar Education Society for managing 24 schools across Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, educating around 28,000 students and providing employment to nearly 1,600 people.

"These schools produce civil service officers, police officers, doctors and business leaders. But more than anything else, they produce successful people who remain good people," he said.

Highlighting the importance of independent learning, Omar urged students to cultivate reading habits and use Artificial Intelligence responsibly and ethically. He said technology should enhance learning and understanding rather than replace individual effort, critical thinking and intellectual curiosity.

The Chief Minister congratulated students who excelled in the Class X and XII board examinations and commended employees completing 25 years of dedicated service. He also appreciated the Society's efforts in recognising distinguished alumni whose achievements, he said, could inspire younger generations.

The Society recorded an overall pass percentage of 99 per cent in the Class X and XII board examinations during the 2025-26 academic year.

He said that beyond professional and academic achievements, the most important responsibility was to remain good human beings and treat one another with kindness and compassion.

Minister for Education Shamim Firdous, in her address, recalled the contribution of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad in laying the foundation of the education system in independent India. She also highlighted the role of late Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah in giving a new direction and vision to education in Jammu and Kashmir.

She expressed hope that educational institutions would continue to uphold these values and contribute towards developing responsible members of society.

The Chief Minister also extended greetings on the forthcoming festival of Diwali, wishing people peace, happiness and humanity.

Rt. Rev. Ivan Pereira, Bishop of Jammu-Srinagar and President of DJSES, Rev. Fr. Sebastian Nagathunkal, Vice President of DJSES, and other officials of the Society were present on the occasion.

No Room For

General of Police Nalin Prabhat; DGP Prisons J&K Deepak Kumar; Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department, Chandraker Bharti; Special DG Coordination, PHQ, S.J.M. Gillani; ADG CID M.K. Sinha; Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor Govind Jaiswal; Additional Director, IB J&K and Ladakh, Pankaj Kumar Thakur; and other senior officials.

SC: 24-Hour Arrest

came in an appeal filed by four accused persons challenging the Tripura High Court's refusal to grant them bail in a case registered under various provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The accused were taken into custody around 2.30 pm on September 29, 2025, after the investigating agency allegedly recovered 11.03 kg of methamphetamine tablets from them.

However, their arrest was formally recorded only at 11.15 am the following day, and they were produced before a magistrate at 4.45 pm on September 30, more than 24 hours after they were first detained.

The bench noted that the investigating agency had failed to explain the 18-hour gap between the conclusion of the search and seizure operation and the formal recording of the arrest.

"18 hours in custody without judicial oversight is a long period, with misuse and abuse of authority a clear possibility," the bench said.

The court clarified that the only period that can be excluded while calculating the 24-hour deadline is the time reasonably required for travelling from the place of arrest to the magistrate's court.

Time spent on inquiry, investigation, search or seizure before the formal arrest cannot be excluded, it said.

Article 22(2) of the Constitution provides that every person who is arrested and detained in custody must be produced before the nearest magistrate within 24 hours of arrest, excluding the time necessary for the journey from the place of arrest to the court.

The Supreme Court disapproved of the views taken by the Orissa High Court in the Aryaman Pattanaik case, the Madras High Court in the Kannan case and the Kerala High Court in the Arun K Thomas case, which had permitted the period of detention before formal arrest to be excluded while calculating the constitutional deadline.

The bench said no period other than the time reasonably required for the journey to the magistrate's court could be excluded from the calculation.

"In the event such detention continues beyond 24 hours, before the person is produced before the magistrate, he shall be forthwith released from custody," it held.

The court further said the detaining authority must ensure that detention does not exceed a reasonable period, even within the constitutional 24-hour limit.

Emphasising the responsibility of judicial magistrates, the bench said they must record the actual date and time of detention and independently examine whether the constitutional deadline has been complied with.

"At the time of production, the magistrate is duty-bound to record the actual date and time of detention of the person produced before him when his liberty stood curtailed, and examine whether the 24-hour deadline has been complied with or not from the time of such detention. If there is a breach of 24-hour deadline, the concerned person shall be forthwith released from detention," the bench said.

The magistrates must also examine whether the duration of detention is reasonable in the circumstances and may refuse remand if the period is found to be excessive.

The Supreme Court also referred to instances of custodial violence during investigations, observing that some of the worst violations of human rights occur when police delay formally recording arrests or describe prolonged detention as interrogation.

Terrorists On Move,

their movements were constantly changing.

"There is one prominent local terrorist who orchestrated attacks in Anantnag and Kulgam, supported by a few foreign terrorists. We have observed their footprints, but putting a definitive number on them is not feasible because they remain in transit, present at one location today and moving elsewhere tomorrow," he said.

The IGP said terror threats, security alerts and recoveries of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) along the National Highway remained regular occurrences, necessitating security protocols to prevent attacks.

On frequent stoppages along the National Highway, he said the protocols had been formulated in view of past terror incidents and ongoing threats. However, he said the matter was being discussed with senior officers and paramilitary forces to minimise inconvenience to commuters without compromising security.

Kumar said the narco-terror nexus remained a major challenge, with a significant portion of the narcotics trade directly financing terrorist activities.

"Militancy and narcotics are deeply intertwined; a significant portion of the narcotics trade directly fuels and supports terrorism. So this is not unfamiliar territory for us, though it is a substantial challenge," he said.

He added that kingpins operating locally and across the border were using networks of overground workers (OGWs) to distribute illicit earnings under various pretexts.

Referring to the recent anti-terror operation in Budgam, Kumar said the terrorists were neutralised at high altitudes along the ridgeline connecting Poonch and Budgam.

He said specialised security forces had established dominance in the difficult mountainous terrain, adding that forces were prepared for different operational contingencies in the Pir Panjal range.

On the anti-drug campaign, the IGP said police had registered more than 1,500 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and arrested nearly 2,000 persons this year.

He said cash worth around Rs 1.10 crore had been recovered, while properties worth crores had been attached. Police had also frozen 567 bank accounts linked to drug-related activities, involving around Rs 1.31 crore.

Kumar said police were also targeting the financial networks behind drug trafficking, including those operating in downtown Srinagar, and had intensified action against suppliers and their associates.

Appealing to people to share information about drug peddling, he assured them that the identities of informants would remain confidential and that police would extend assistance to those seeking help with addiction.

"Anyone having information about drug peddling should come forward. If someone approaches a police station or a rehabilitation centre for help, we will facilitate them. Their identity will remain safe," he said.

The IGP also cautioned youngsters against becoming part of organised cyber fraud networks, particularly those using mule bank accounts to facilitate fraudulent transactions.

He said police had received complaints involving losses of over Rs 54 crore in recent cases, adding that around 13 to 14 per cent of the defrauded amount had been recovered and more than Rs 7 crore returned to victims.

"Cheating your own people is wrong. I appeal to the youth not to get involved in such activities or become part of these networks," he said.

Expressing concern over rash driving and reckless biking, Kumar urged youngsters to follow traffic rules, warning that violations endangered the lives of drivers, pedestrians and other road users.

He appealed to the youth to stay away from drugs, cybercrime and dangerous stunts on bikes and cars, assuring that police would provide all possible assistance to those willing to overcome addiction and lead normal lives.

Kumar, a 2007-batch IPS officer of the AGMUT cadre, assumed charge as IGP Kashmir Zone in August 2026, succeeding V.K. Birdi.

BPL Families Lured

of operating such financial networks during his stay abroad, including in China.

Investigators have found that around 20 bank accounts were allegedly operated in the names of the doctor and his wife, with 10 accounts each linked to them. Online gaming and other digital platforms were allegedly used to facilitate transactions and move money through multiple accounts.

Earlier, SSP Ganderbal Khalil Ahmad Poswal, while addressing a press conference on February 16 this year, had said police had identified 835 suspicious bank accounts linked to the racket, with transactions worth Rs 209 crore verified in 290 accounts.

He had said the amount involved could exceed Rs 400 crore after verification of the remaining accounts. Police had also arrested nine persons, including the Haryana-based doctor, in connection with the case.

Poswal had said the accused allegedly targeted BPL ration-card holders, offering them monthly commissions of Rs 8,000 to Rs 10,000 in exchange for their bank accounts and ATM cards.

The role of certain bank employees was also being examined for their suspected involvement in facilitating the transactions, officials said.

Police have cautioned people against sharing bank accounts, ATM cards, QR codes or banking credentials with strangers in exchange for commissions, warning that such practices could make them unwitting participants in organised cyber fraud networks.(KNO)

CAT Declines To

their gender, emphasising that people living in remote and tribal areas like Gurez cannot be denied access to specialised medical care.

The Tribunal noted that there was no specific landmark judgment imposing a blanket prohibition on posting or deputing a woman doctor to a difficult area. Medical hardship alone, it added, does not automatically invalidate an order of transfer or deployment.

"Can that be a ground to deny proper specialised medical care to the people living in remote/tribal areas like Gurez," the Tribunal observed while dealing with a plea filed by a woman Medical Officer challenging her deployment to CHC Dawar, Gurez.

The Bench observed that transfer and deployment are exigencies of service and fall within the administrative domain of the competent authority. Courts should ordinarily refrain from interfering in such decisions unless an order is found to be motivated by mala fides, issued by an incompetent authority or passed in contravention of service rules, it observed.

The Tribunal, however, underscored that the power of transfer must be exercised honestly, bona fide and reasonably in the interest of public service, without being influenced by extraneous considerations, ulterior motives or colourable exercise of power.

Highlighting the State's constitutional responsibility towards healthcare, the Tribunal observed that the right to health and medical treatment is an integral facet of the right to life and that the Government is duty-bound to ensure adequate medical facilities for its citizens.

It noted that healthcare needs in the country remain immense, particularly in view of poverty and the lack of medical facilities in rural and tribal areas, requiring the Government to play a major role in ensuring access to treatment.

"The issue with regard to healthcare, being paramount and touching the very existence of humankind, deserves all attention," it observed.

The observations came in a case filed by Dr. Nusrat Nabi, who challenged the Health Department's October 24 order deploying her to CHC Dawar, Gurez, on a temporary basis to ensure the availability of gynaecology services in the area during the forthcoming winter season.

The authorities argued that the doctor was herself a permanent resident of Gurez and that the deployment was necessitated by the need to strengthen specialist healthcare in the remote area. They also referred to the recent death of a pregnant woman while being taken to a hospital in Bandipora, with the baby also stillborn amid referral delays.

While declining to interfere with the deployment order, the Tribunal directed the authorities to consider and decide the doctor's pending representation seeking reconsideration on medical and humanitarian grounds within seven days.

It ordered that she shall not be disturbed from her present place of posting at SDH Chadoora during this period and directed the authorities to pass a speaking order on her representation.

NC Dissent: CM Omar, Farooq To Meet Aggrieved MLAs Today

Legislators Hold Five-Hour Meeting, Decide To Raise Reshuffle Grievances With Leadership

Observer News Service



SRINAGAR: With discontent continuing to simmer within the ruling National Conference (NC) over the recent cabinet reshuffle-cum-expansion, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and party president Dr Farooq Abdullah are scheduled to meet aggrieved legislators at the latter's Gupkar residence here on Friday morning.

The meeting comes after a nearly five-hour gathering of NC legislators at the residence of MLA Pampore Justice (retd.) Hasnain Masoodi in Sanat Nagar on Thursday, where the members discussed their grievances and the issues they intend to raise with the party leadership.

Sources revealed that 16 legislators, including 15 NC MLAs and an Independent legislator, attended the meeting physically, while four others joined virtually.

The meeting, which continued until around 10 pm, focused on the recent cabinet reshuffle and the demands raised by legislators from different regions.

Sources said Jammu-based legislators targeted Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, while their counterparts from Kashmir demanded the replacement of ministers who have completed two years in office.

The legislators also decided to raise all the issues outlined in a memorandum submitted to the party leadership, sources said.

Omar Abdullah and Farooq Abdullah are scheduled to meet the aggrieved legislators on Friday morning at the Gupkar residence of the NC president. The meeting is being viewed as an attempt by the party leadership to address the growing resentment and defuse tensions within the ruling party.

Both leaders arrived in Srinagar on Thursday afternoon. While Omar Abdullah flew in from Jammu, Farooq Abdullah returned to the Valley from New Delhi, sources said.

The discontent among NC legislators had surfaced following the recent cabinet reshuffle-cum-expansion, with a section of party MLAs expressing dissatisfaction over the changes and seeking a greater say in the functioning of the government.

The legislators had earlier deliberated on their concerns and prepared a memorandum outlining their demands, including changes in the ministerial team and issues relating to the functioning of the government.

The Friday meeting is expected to provide an opportunity for the party leadership to hear the legislators' concerns and discuss their demands amid continuing differences over the cabinet reshuffle.(with KNO inputs)

Mehbooba Re-Elected PDP Chief For Fifth Term



SRINAGAR: Saying that people who have suffered for years need healing rather than political victories, Mehbooba Mufti was on Thursday unanimously re-elected as president of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for fifth term.

"Those who are hurting do not need victories. They need healing," Mehbooba said in a social media post, as per KNO. "My heart is heavy and full at the same time. I am grateful. You have trusted me for the fifth time and I do not take that lightly. But I also carry the pain of people who have given so much and been heard so little," she said.

The proposal to re-elect Mehbooba was moved by former minister and senior party leader Abdul Rehman Veeri and seconded by senior leader Mohammad Khurshid Alam.

According to the party, all members of the electoral college present at the meeting unanimously supported her candidature, while members from Jammu participated online and extended their support.

Reflecting on the suffering of families who have lost their loved ones, Mehbooba said she had walked through lanes where mothers still kept lamps lit for sons who never returned and met fathers who had carried too many coffins but received too few answers.

She also referred to the uncertainty among young people, saying their question about whether tomorrow would be different from yesterday was one she heard and felt. "This is the party we built together, to answer our people's pain, so that no one has to die searching for answers," she added.

Mehbooba has been leading the PDP since 2003—(KNO)

J&K Geo-Tags 30,000 Chinar Trees, Installs QR Plates on 13,500 Heritage Trees

Observer News Service



SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has geo-tagged nearly 30,000 Chinar trees and developed a digital database to document their location and details, while QR-enabled metal identification plates have been installed on 13,500 prominent Chinar, Peepal and Bargad trees across the Union Territory.

Of the total QR-enabled plates installed, 10,000 have been affixed to prominent Chinar trees in Kashmir, while 3,500 have been installed on Peepal and Bargad trees in the Jammu division.

The progress of the initiative was reviewed during a meeting of the Wildlife Protection Department and the J&K Forest Research Institute (JKFRI), chaired by Forests, Ecology and Environment Minister Altaf Ahmad Wani at the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force (PCCF/HoFF) in Jammu.

Officials briefed the Minister that geo-tagging of approximately 30,000 Chinar trees had been completed, with their details incorporated into a dedicated digital database. The second phase of the programme will extend the exercise to the remaining Chinar, Bargad and Peepal trees across Jammu and Kashmir.

Wani appreciated the initiative and stressed the importance of safeguarding the region's rich natural heritage, describing its conservation as a shared responsibility of the government and the public.

The Minister also called for greater involvement of concerned MLAs in development projects undertaken in their respective districts. He said elected representatives were better acquainted with local needs and ground realities, adding that their participation would strengthen transparency and ensure effective implementation of works.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment, Sheetal Nanda; PCCF/HoFF, J&K, Sarvesh Rai; Chairman, PCC, Vasu Yadav; Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K, and Director, JKFRI, Dr Suneesh Buxy; Regional Wildlife Wardens, Divisional Forest Officers and other senior officers.

JKFA To Hold Fresh Elections On Nov 25 Following Court Order

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR- The Jammu and Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) will hold fresh elections on November 25 following a court order directing the Sports Council to conduct the polls.

The court of the 4th Additional Sessions Judge, Srinagar, last week directed the Secretary of the Sports Council to hold elections for the JKFA within three weeks.

The election for a new executive body of the JKFA is necessary to bring the football governing body of the Union Territory in line with the AIFF constitution and the National Sports Governance Act, 2025, which came into force on January 1, 2026.

"The Hon'ble court has directed the Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, to appoint a returning officer for holding elections within three weeks," Advocate Sameer Hamid, who was representing petitioners Fayaz Ahmad Sofi and others, said.

Sofi, a former office-bearer of the association, said the Secretary of the Sports Council called a meeting of stakeholders on November 2, where the election date was decided.

"The meeting was attended by a delegation of the AIFF and more than 150 football stakeholders representing different District Football Associations, zones and football institutions from the Kashmir Valley and Jammu Province.

"During the consultative meeting, discussions were held regarding the election process, eligibility of voters and other relevant matters concerning the smooth and transparent conduct of elections," Sofi said.

Besides Sofi, former India player Abdul Majeed Kakroo was also a petitioner in the case filed in 2023 seeking the holding of long-overdue elections.

Azad Dismisses Reports Of Political Realignment

SRINAGAR: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Thursday dismissed reports of a possible political realignment with other leaders, including MLA Ruhullah Mehdi and Baramulla MP Engineer Rashid, terming speculation about forming a new political party or contesting the forthcoming parliamentary elections as baseless.

Azad expressed concern over the circulation of unverified information on social media and news channels, saying fabricated claims were being presented as facts and subsequently put to political leaders for reactions.

"For the past two days, I have received dozens of recordings from people asking what is happening in Kashmir and whether I am forming a party with Ruhullah Sahib or someone else. All this is completely wrong," he said.

Azad clarified that he had neither initiated discussions with any political leader nor received any communication regarding a possible alliance or the formation of a new political outfit.

"I have not spoken to anyone. I am not in touch with anyone regarding any such arrangement. Nobody has approached me, and I have approached nobody," he said.

Dismissing reports suggesting that he had already reached Kashmir for political consultations, Azad said he was currently in New Delhi and had not even planned a visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

"I am sitting in Delhi and some channels are saying I have reached Kashmir. I have not even made a programme to visit Kashmir or Jammu. Yet they have already sent me there through their channels," he remarked.

He also rejected reports suggesting that he was considering contesting the forthcoming parliamentary elections, describing them as entirely false and without any factual basis.

Clarifying his willingness to engage with political leaders, Azad said his ability to speak with anyone should not be interpreted as an indication of political negotiations or alliance-building.

"I can talk to anyone. I am not an enemy of anybody. But that does not mean the stories being circulated are true," he said.

Azad urged media organisations to exercise responsibility and verify information before publishing speculative reports, cautioning against creating unnecessary political narratives based on rumours rather than facts. (Observer News Service)

Fire Services Issues Winter Fire Safety Advisory

Observer News Service



SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES) Department on Thursday issued a winter fire safety advisory, urging people to take precautionary measures while using heating appliances, Bukharis, Kangris and LPG heaters to prevent fire incidents, suffocation and loss of life and property.

In an advisory issued for the general public, the department said the use of heating appliances increases considerably during winter, and their improper use or careless handling could lead to fire incidents and other hazards.

The department advised people to use standard-marked heating appliances and electric blankets, ensure they are properly checked before use, and switch off and unplug electric heaters before going to bed or leaving home.

The advisory called for proper ventilation while using LPG heaters, Bukharis and other fuel-burning appliances, warning against leaving LPG heaters running while sleeping or when rooms are unattended.

People have been advised to regularly check LPG pipes, regulators and connections for leakage or damage and switch off cylinder valves and stove knobs when not in use.

The advisory urged people to handle Kangris carefully, keep them in stable positions and away from bedding, curtains and other combustible materials. It cautioned against burning or storing charcoal in enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces and advised ensuring that ashes and embers are completely extinguished before disposal.

The department has warned against overloading electrical sockets and extension boards, advising people to use properly rated safety devices and get defective wiring repaired by qualified electricians. It advised them to keep electrical wires away from hot surfaces, water and damp areas.

People have also been advised not to store dry grass, firewood, hay, paper and other combustible materials inside residential houses or near heating appliances. The advisory stressed that people should not leave cooking unattended and should keep combustible materials away from open flames.

The department also cautioned against drying clothes and blankets over or near heaters and Bukharis, and urged people not to throw burning cigarette butts or matchsticks carelessly.

It advised households to keep suitable fire extinguishers and buckets filled with water or sand readily available near heating and cooking areas, while ensuring that staircases, corridors and escape routes remain clear.

J&K Bank Takes Customer Care Town Hall Series To Anantnag



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Taking forward its Customer Care Town Hall series, J&K Bank on Thursday held second meeting through its Zonal Office in Anantnag. The meeting brought around 150 customers and all Branch Managers of the Zone together with senior Bank officials for a direct dialogue on service delivery, grievance redressal and safe digital banking.

General Manager (Customer Care) Narjay Gupta chaired the meeting in the presence of General Manager & Divisional Head (Kashmir) Arshad Qadri and Chief Risk Officer Altaf Hussain Kira. Zonal Head (Anantnag) Khavar Meraj Handoo, In-Charge (Transaction Monitoring Cell) Bilal Ahmad Kuchay, Cluster Heads of the Zone, Lead District Managers of Anantnag and Kulgam and other senior officials were also present.

Customers shared their experiences, raised concerns about banking services and sought clarity on grievance redressal and the safe use of digital banking channels. The discussion also covered mule accounts and the risks of allowing others to use one's account to receive or transfer funds.

Addressing the participants, General Manager (Customer Care) Narjay Gupta said, "By listening to customers alongside our Branch Managers, we can see where our processes need to work better and act on that feedback at the branch level. That is how we address grievances, make banking simpler, safer and more responsive to the people we serve."

"The Town Hall forms part of J&K Bank's wider initiative to strengthen customer connect and build greater trust through direct engagement", he added.

Ladakh Administration Notifies Delimitation Of LAHDC Constituencies

LEH: Ladakh administration on Thursday notified the delimitation of 100 constituencies of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDC) in eight districts, specifying the panchayat halqas and villages or wards falling under each constituency.

The move paves the way for elections in the region.

The delimitation was notified through an order issued by the revenue department, in accordance with the final recommendations of the State Election Commission, Ladakh, dated November 5, 2026.

The exercise covers the districts of Leh, Sham, Changthang, Zanskar, Nubra, Kargil, Drass and Sankoo.

"In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 5(1) of the LAHDC Act and in pursuance of the final recommendations of the State Election Commission, the administration of the Union Territory of Ladakh hereby determines and notifies the delimitation of constituencies of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils, comprising the districts of Leh, Sham, Changthang, Zanskar, Nubra, Kargil, Drass and Sankoo," the notification said.

As per the notification issued by Commissioner-Secretary Shurbir Singh, Leh district has 22 constituencies, Sham 9, Changthang 10, Zanskar 9, Nubra 9, Kargil 21, Drass 7 and Sankoo 13. (Press trust Of India)

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR BATAMALOO/ LAWAYPORA EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS

SDA COMPLEX BEMINA SRINAGAR

In the case of : Mohammad Nidayat Ullah S/o Abdul Rashid Baba, R/o Hamdan Abad, Lane No. Aribagh, B.K. Pora Srinagar

.....Petitioner/ Decree Holder through Advocate Mir Rashad.

VS

1. Sikander House Building Corporation Ltd Through its Secretary Sikander Khursheed Dar, Darish Kadal Chowk Karan-Nagar Srinagar.
2. Al Mehmood Builders Ltd, Through its Managing Director, Sikander Khursheed Dar, Darish Kadal Kak Saria Srinagar.
3. Sikandar Khursheed Dar S/o Khursheed Ahmad Dar R/o H. No. 15 Chinar Colony, Baghat Srinagar.

..... Respondents / Judgement Debtors through Nemo.

AUCTION NOTICE

In compliance to the directions of Hon'ble Court of Additional District Judge and Tehsildar Central Srinagar, it is hereby notified for the information of public that an open auction for land measuring 12 Marlas and 224 sqfts falling under survey No.1211/104 situated at Mujgund shall be conducted on 7th of November, 2026 at 11:30 A.M. for execution of the Court order vide order dated:03-10-2026 for the recovery of amount Rs:32.00 lacs alongwith the interest.

All interested parties are requested to contact on this number (Shri Tanveer Ahmad Bhat Jr. Assistant 9541465972) on or before 7th Nov, 2026 for any kind of query.

No: 1101/MN/LW/CS/26 Dtd 31-10-2026
Dated: 31-10-2026

Naib Tehsildar/
Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Central Srinagar

DIPK-7390-26
DT: 05/11/2026

IN THE COURT OF ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE (BANK CASES) SRINAGAR

DESIGNATED COMMERCIAL COURT

Present: Ms. Kusoom Pandita, J

In the case of:- Ellaqai Dehati Bank, B/o Zahura Srinagar. (Plantiff)

V/s.

Irfan Ahmad Dar & others (Defendants)
Notice to:- 1) Irfan Ahmad Dar & Showkat Ahmad Dar Sons of Ghulam Nabi Dar
Both Residents of Dobighat Hazratbal Srinagar.
Suit for Recovery of Rs. 160.591/-

PUBLICATION

GENERAL NOTICE (U/O: 5 Rule 20 CPC)

Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the defendant(s)/respondent(s) above named are not being served by the ordinary mode of service. Hence, this proclamation under Order 5 Rule 20 CPC is hereby issued against him/them who should appear personally or through their counsel on 28-11-2026 at 10 a.m.

Take notice that in default of his/their appearance on the day before mentioned, the above said case will be heard and determined in his/their absence according to law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 24th October 2026.

Sd/-
Additional District Judge (Bank Cases)
Srinagar.
Designated Commercial Court

DIPK-7398-26
DT: 05/11/2026

Ronaldo Announces Retirement from International Football

AP

LISBON: Cristiano Ronaldo won't play for Portugal anymore, ending on Thursday a career that spanned six World Cups and included a European title and the men's all-time international scoring record.

His announcement marked the end of a lauded career that began more than two decades ago before Euro 2004 and finished with him walking out on the national team after falling out with coach Jorge Jesus.

"To the Portuguese people, the day has come for me to hand back the No. 7 shirt of our national team," the 41-year-old Ronaldo said in a long video message on social media.

"I never felt it belonged to me alone but for 23 years I had the privilege and the responsibility of wearing it, defending it and carrying it with me into stadiums all around the world.

"Today the time has come to pass it on to the future. It was not an easy decision because some decisions are not made with the mind alone. They are also made with the heart. A journey that began in August 2003 and changed my life forever has come to an end."

Ronaldo will keep playing at club level, which he is expected to finish at the end of this season with Al-Nassr in Saudi Arabia.

He is in pursuit of his 1,000th career goal and sits on 985. Of those, a record 146 goals came in 234 appearances with Portugal.

Portugal plans tribute

While long-time peer Lionel Messi finished his career with Argentina last month after a much anticipated farewell match, Ronaldo's final appearance with Portugal has ended up being on Sept. 24 in a 1-0 home win over Wales in the Nations League.

Jesus kept him on the bench for the following match and said he didn't plan to start him in the next one, so Ronaldo decided to leave the team's training camp. Jesus later said Ronaldo would be welcome back and the decision to return was up to him.



The Portuguese soccer federation released a statement expressing "deep gratitude and immense admiration" for Ronaldo's service to the country.

"Cristiano Ronaldo has raised Portugal's profile and inspired generations of young people who dream of following in his footsteps; for many of us, he is the greatest player of all time!" the federation said.

It said it intends to organize a tribute to Ronaldo "in which the fans and the country can one more time applaud and celebrate a player who has given us so much." Ronaldo helps Portugal reach new level

Before Ronaldo debuted for Portugal by replacing Luís Figo in a 2003 friendly against Kazakhstan, Portugal had never won any major trophies.

Then he and successive generations of talented teammates made Portugal a regular presence at major tournaments.

Ronaldo's Soccer Career by Numbers

Cristiano Ronaldo's record-setting, 23-year international career is over after the superstar striker announced his retirement from playing for Portugal.

Here's a look at some of his numbers and statistics:

6 Ronaldo is the only male player to score at six different World Cups. He played in every tournament since 2006, just like his great rival Lionel Messi. Unlike Messi, Ronaldo never lifted soccer's greatest prize.

10 The number of hat tricks Ronaldo scored for Portugal. He was the first man to reach that figure in international soccer, doing so in 2021 with a three-goal display against Luxembourg.

11 The number of goals scored by Ronaldo at World Cups, putting him tied for ninth on the all-time list. His best scoring tournament was in 2018 in Russia, where he netted four times — including a hat trick against Spain in group play — before Portugal exited in the last 16.

23 Ronaldo scored at least one international goal for 23 straight calendar years. That streak started in 2004 when he netted his first goal for Portugal against Greece at the European Championship. His last goal was a penalty against Croatia at this year's World Cup.

146 The number of goals by Ronaldo in international matches, a record in men's soccer. That's 20 more than his nearest rival on the all-time list, Lionel Messi.

Centre Forms Panel to Review UGC Equity Rules

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI, NOV 5 (PTI) The Centre on Thursday informed the Supreme Court that it is setting up a special committee to re-examine the University Grants Commission's (UGC) 2026 regulations aimed at promoting equity in higher education institutions.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi was told by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the government was examining ways to address the concerns of students and ensure that no section of the student community feels excluded, threatened or apprehensive under the regulatory framework.

"The government is contemplating appointing a committee," the law officer said.

The CJI stressed the need to protect the interests of every student and adjourned the batch of petitions for four weeks.

He said the concerns, welfare and well-being of the younger generation should remain at the centre of the deliberations.

Recently, Sunil Ambekar, the national publicity chief of the RSS, said the Sangh has already described the UGC circular as "imbalanced".

"Our position is that whatever happens next on this issue should be balanced, and the government must ensure this," he had said.

The matter in the top court arose in Abeda Salim Tadvi v. Union of India and connected cases.

The 2019 petition was filed by the mothers of Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi, who died by suicide after allegedly facing caste discrimination on campuses.

It sought stronger safeguards against such discrimination in higher education institutions.

The UGC notified the 2026 Regulations in January after consultations, superseding the 2012 framework.

In January, the Supreme Court stayed the 2026 Regulations, observing that they appeared prima facie vague and capable of misuse.

Musk's $445M Midterm Gamble Backfires

AP

AUSTIN (US): Elon Musk spent at least USD 445 million in a gambit to help Republicans keep control of Congress, an amount roughly equivalent to someone on a USD 100,000 annual salary saving every penny for 4,400 years. To the world's first trillionaire, it's a pittance, but the billions of dollars' worth of business his companies do with the federal government is not.

And on Tuesday night, a Republican Party that had embraced Musk lost again and again, ceding control of Congress to a Democratic Party leery of the world's richest person and keen to put his companies and his work at the Department of Government Efficiency under a microscope.

Nobody may have suffered bigger losses Tuesday than President Donald Trump. But few others had more on the line than Musk, who gambled big and came up holding the midterm's worst return on investment. Democrats in Congress were already queuing to get their shot at Musk, with possible subpoenas and investigations.

As the bloodiest election for Republicans in recent history wore



on, Musk joked on X, the social media site he owns. "Guess my election-interfering space lasers didn't work this time," he wrote with a shrug emoji.

Musk now faces new threats to his bottom line in places including Texas, where he has based himself and several of his companies. Musk spent at least $5 million to try to reelect Republican Gov Greg Abbott, who lost.

Democrats also secured control of the Texas House and the US Senate, partly by beating Texas Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton, who effectively benefited from $158 million of Musk's spending but lost his Senate race against Democrat James Talarico.

Saudi Arabia Extends USD 3 Bn Aid to Pakistan

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD, NOV 5 (PTI) Saudi Arabia has extended the USD 3 billion financing facility for Pakistan for a "reasonable period", according to Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb.

Saudi Arabia helped Pakistan with a USD 3 billion financing facility in April this year as Islamabad had to repay USD 3.5 billion to the United Arab Emirates. Initially, it was provided for three months.

"It has been extended, and for a reasonable period," Aurangzeb told journalists outside the Parliament on Wednesday.

"You don't need to worry as to for how long, given the kind of strategic relationship we have," Dawn quoted him as saying in response to a query that the financing facility had already matured on October 31.

Saudi Arabia had also provided another USD 5 billion to bridge the financing gap, and it had already been extended until 2028, Aurangzeb said.

When asked if Pakistan had also sought additional support, the minister denied it, saying



this was not needed as foreign exchange reserves covered more than three months of imports and would be strengthened to provide a four-month import cover by the end of the year through capital markets, according to Dawn.

Responding to another question about the prospects of the USD 10 billion Exchange Stabilisation Support Facility (ESSF) requested from the US in July this year, he sought to lower expectations that he himself had raised over the past several months.

"What we asked for back in July and were looking at was the market access. We have got the market access," he said, referring to the USD 3 billion bond Pakistan issued in September against orders worth USD 6 billion.

"If that (ESSF) materialises, fantastic, it will be a liquidity support facility.

Bomb Threats Disrupt Flights Across Europe

AP

PARIS: Multiple flights in Europe made emergency landings on Thursday after being diverted because of bomb threats, authorities said.

Finnair said that Flight 1761 from Helsinki to Rome was targeted by a bomb threat, but nothing out of the ordinary was found on the plane after it landed normally in the Italian capital, Finnish broadcaster Yle reported.

Three Ryanair flights bound for Sofia, Bulgaria, had to make emergency landings because of bomb threats on board. Two of the flights, one from Copenhagen, Denmark, and the other from Madrid, landed safely at Sofia's Vasil Levski Airport, airport officials told reporters.

The third flight, from London's Stansted Airport to Sofia, had been diverted and landed safely at the airport in Plovdiv, Bulgaria's second-largest city, Plovdiv Airport CEO Krassimir Peshev said.

