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ANOTHER MEAT SCARE

1,600 Kg Rotten Meat Seized At Budgam Station



Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a major food safety scare, around two tonnes of rotten meat have been seized at Budgam Railway Station over the past two days, with Police registering an FIR in connection with the first seizure and launching an investigation to identify those responsible for transporting the consignments.

Officials said approximately 1,600 kg of buffalo meat was seized on Friday after Railway Police alerted the Food Safety Department about a foul smell emanating from the consignment. The meat was found in a highly deteriorated condition and declared unfit for human consumption.

Station House Officer Railway Police Budgam, Benazir Iqbal said that the consignment was inspected by the Veterinary Department, whose doctor issued a certificate declaring the meat unfit for human consumption due to its deteriorated condition and potential health risks.

She said the seized meat was disposed of in the presence of the Tehsildar, Executive Officer Municipal Committee Budgam and Food Safety Department officials.

An FIR (No. 05) has been registered under Section 271 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), while further investigation is underway to identify those responsible for transporting and handling the consignment.

Iqbal said the consignment was unmarked and had not been booked in the name of any identifiable person. Police are also | More on P6

AI Will Give Speed, Humans Must Provide Direction: LG

» Says technology must serve human welfare; calls upon graduates to turn demographic dividend into responsibility

» 130 of 163 gold medals go to women at Cluster University convocation

Observer News Service



Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said artificial intelligence would provide speed and access to data, but humans must provide direction, stressing that technological advancement must be guided by civilisational values, accountability and human welfare.

Addressing the first convocation of Cluster University of Jammu, Sinha said the relationship between artificial intelligence and humans would be one of partnership rather than competition, adding that while AI would transform the way people work, determining the purpose of that work would remain a human responsibility.

"AI will have speed and data, but humans will provide direction, compassion and the courage to ask new questions. AI should be guided by civilisational norms, values and accountability, and its development should rest on human welfare, not just profit and productivity," he said.

Emphasising | More on P6

Week-Long Dry Weather From Today: MeT

Gulmarg freezes at minus 1.6°C

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience a week-long spell of generally dry weather from Sunday, November 15, following fresh rainfall in the plains and snowfall in higher reaches, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said on Saturday.

According to the latest weather | More on P6

Move Beyond Job Seeking, Become Entrepreneurs: CM



Observer News Service

Jammu: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday urged graduating students to move beyond conventional career paths and become entrepreneurs, innovators and value creators, saying sustainable prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir would depend on the ability of young people to generate employment | More on P6

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BANK OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION
(UNIT KASHMIR)
AIJKBOF JKBOA
A CONSTITUENT UNIT OF AIJKBOF (AFFILIATED TO AIBOA)
2ND FLOOR, J&K BANK BRANCH TRC, SRINAGAR
JAMMU & KASHMIR
Email:- jkboakashmir@gmail.com Website:- www.jkboakashmir.com

PRESS RELEASE

JKBOA-K AND KCCI REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING BANKING–BUSINESS RELATIONS AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH



A delegation of J&K Bank Officers Association–Kashmir (JKBOA-K), led by its President Mr. Zubair Rasool Mir, held a cordial and productive meeting with the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) delegation headed by its President Mr. Javaid Ahmad Tenga.

The meeting witnessed meaningful deliberations on strengthening the longstanding relationship between J&K Bank and the business community, addressing genuine concerns of traders, improving customer service and facilitating a more supportive banking environment for economic growth.

The Association particularly highlighted J&K Bank's RAHAT SOTS 2026, describing it as a welcome, simplified and timely opportunity for eligible borrowers to resolve stressed loan accounts and make a fresh financial beginning. JKBOA-K appealed to the trading community to actively participate and help spread awareness about the scheme so that its benefits reach deserving borrowers.

Speaking on the occasion, President JKBOA-K Zubair Rasool Mir emphasized that "J&K Bank belongs to the aspirations of the people of this region, and its dedicated workforce has always stood shoulder to shoulder with the business community through periods of prosperity as well as economic hardship. Our officers and employees are the real strength behind the Bank's enduring public trust, and their commitment to serving the people remains unwavering."

KCCI President Javaid Ahmad Tenga emphasized the importance of continued engagement between the trading community and the Bank. He highlighted the need for accessible, responsive and empathetic banking services, particularly for businesses facing financial challenges, and underscored the value of constructive dialogue in addressing genuine concerns.

The Association reiterated that a strong banking institution, a respected and motivated workforce, and a prosperous business community are mutually dependent. It reaffirmed its commitment to protecting the dignity and legitimate interests of bank employees while promoting customer-friendly banking, responsible business growth and greater financial inclusion.

Both delegations expressed their resolve to strengthen cooperation in the larger interest of J&K Bank, its customers and the economic prosperity of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Sd/-
(John Mohammad Sofi)
General Secretary

Abass Advt.

CRPF Chief Orders Intensified Ops Across Kashmir

Calls for stronger coordination; felicitates troops for Budgam anti-terror operations.

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: entral Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Director General Gyanendra Pratap Singh on Saturday directed officers to intensify counter-insurgency operations across Kashmir, strengthen the security grid and maintain heightened operational readiness to neutralise terrorists and their support networks.

Singh chaired an operational and security review meeting at the CRPF Group Centre in Srinagar, three days after terrorists opened fire on a CRPF party in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, leaving three personnel injured.

The meeting was attended by Special | More on P6

Kulgam Attack: Manhunt For Terrorists Enters Day 4

DGP Visits Operation Sites; 500 OGWs Questioned, NIA Joins Probe

Agencies

Srinagar: The massive search operation to track down the terrorists involved in the firing on a party of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in South Kashmir's Kulgam district continued for the fourth consecutive day on Saturday.

An official said that dog squads were pressed into service to assist search teams. Security has also been tightened along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and



adjoining areas to prevent any suspicious movement.

Meanwhile, Director General of Police (DGP) J&K, Nalin Prabhat visited multiple | More on P6

After 22 Yrs, Terror Returns To Kishtwar Village

Families of the two Special Police Officers (SPOs) killed by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district have demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the killings, alleging security lapses and seeking immediate strengthening | More on P6

HC Rejects Govt Appeal Over Post-Article 370 Detentions

'Late Deposit Of Balance Amount Cannot Revive Right To Defend Summary Suit'

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that delayed deposit of the balance amount could not revive the Government's forfeited right to defend a recovery suit, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh dismissed its appeal against a Rs 57.23 lakh decree awarded to contractors for electrical works at the MLA Hostel, including works undertaken after the abrogation of Article 370 to facilitate political leaders confined there.



A bench of Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, while dismissing the government's appeal, upheld the judgment and decree dated August 12, 2023, passed by the Additional District Judge (Bank Cases), Srinagar, holding that the government had failed to comply with the condition imposed for granting it leave to defend the recovery suit.

The dispute arose from electrical works allegedly executed by the contractors at the MLA Hostel during 2019-2020. The contractors had instituted a summary recovery suit under Order XXXVII of the Code of Civil Procedure | More on P6

CHILDREN'S DAY TRAGEDY

9-Yr-Old Killed In Kupwara School Wall Collapse

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A nine-year-old girl student was killed after a boundary wall collapsed at a government school in Kupwara on Saturday, turning Children's Day into a tragedy for her family and the school community.

The incident took place at Government Upper Primary School (UPS) Bandpora in Drugmulla zone during the lunch break, when students were playing in the school lawn.

According to an official communication issued by the Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK), the school has an enrolment of 175 students. During the lunch break, some students reportedly moved towards the rear side of the school building, where a boundary wall adjoining the premises suddenly collapsed.

The girl, a Class 3 student and resident of Najar Mohalla, | More on P6

Replacing Sodium In Salt With Potassium Could Prevent Lakhs Of Deaths, Disease In India: Study

Press Trust Of India



> **Worldwide replacement of all** salt could prevent 2.96 million deaths, 10.17 million new cases and 69.43 million disability-adjusted life years each year from cardiovascular disease and chronic kidney disease

Potassium-enriched salt, made by replacing some of the sodium chloride in regular table salt with potassium chloride, could avert about four lakh deaths and more than 15 lakh cases of cardiovascular and kidney disease in a year in India, a study has estimated.

Globally, almost thirty lakh deaths and one crore new cases of cardiovascular and kidney disease could be prevented each year, the study that looked at 193 countries and is published in the journal Nature Health found.

Bruce Neal, senior professorial fellow at The George Institute for Global Health, Australia, said the health gains of switching to potassium-enriched salt would be widespread and could avert as many as one in ten cardiovascular deaths in most countries.

"Consuming too much sodium and not enough potassium are well established causes of high blood pressure -- a major risk factor for life threatening conditions like strokes, heart attacks and kidney disease. Switching to potassium-enriched salt addresses both these dietary issues at the same time, with substantial health benefits," he said.

Potassium-enriched salt looks, tastes, and cooks like regular salt. The World Health Organization (WHO) suggests replacing regular table salt with lower-sodium salt substitutes containing potassium.

It says reducing sodium intake is a cost-effective method to improve health and decrease burden of noncommunicable diseases.

"While a global shift from regular salt to a potassium-enriched substitute is aspirational, this is a starting point to get countries thinking about the opportunity -- with much greater potential and at much lower cost than many drug-based treatments," Neal said.

The study examined a range of hypothetical scenarios, from a full global switch of all salt to more targeted use among people with diagnosed and treated high blood pressure.

Even the most limited level of switching still showed major health gains, the researchers said.

Switching only regular table salt at home to potassium-enriched salt could prevent 18.5 lakh deaths and about 62 lakh cases of cardiovascular and chronic kidney disease, while switching salt only in processed and restaurant foods could prevent 15.6 lakh deaths and 54.6 lakh cases of cardiovascular and chronic kidney disease, they estimated.

However, switching both regular table salt at home and salt in processed and restaurant foods could together avert nearly thirty lakh deaths and over one crore cases of cardiovascular and chronic kidney disease, the team found.

"Worldwide replacement of all salt could prevent 2.96 million deaths, 10.17 million new cases and 69.43 million disability-adjusted life years each year from cardiovascular disease and chronic kidney disease," the authors wrote.

A concern the researchers cited was the risk of high potassium levels (hyperkalaemia) in people with advanced kidney disease.

The study found, however, that even among patients with advanced kidney disease the benefits outweighed the risks.

"People with serious kidney disease and those taking medications that significantly raise blood potassium levels need to take precautions. Risks for this group can be managed effectively through patient education, product labelling, and clinical oversight," nephrologist Vivek Jha, senior professorial fellow at The George Institute in India, said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sehrish Jan D/o Javaid Ahmad Halwai R/o Khanda Bhawan Nawakadal Srinagar do hereby inform general public that I had opened my Bank Account vide account no. 0249040100028477 and my name has been recorded in my said bank account maintained at J&K Bank, Branch Nawakadal, Srinagar, as Sehrish Javaid, Now I want to change and make correction in my name in said account No. 0249040100028477, as Sehrish Jan as per the academic and other Documents . If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may contact the Branch Head, J&K Bank, Nawakadal, Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the said period no objection shall be entertained and bank shall correct my name accordingly.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that i ALTAF AHMAD SHEIKH have applied for the fresh "D" class contractor. If any body having any objection regarding the same they may submitt their objection written to the Cheif Engineer Civil investigation wing JKPD, Bemina within a period of 7 days from the date of this notice. No objection will be entertained after that.
ALTAF AHMAD SHEIKH
S/O GHULAM NABI SHIEKH
R/O GORIPORA BEERWAH BUDGAM . mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that i ISHFAQ SULTAN BHAT have applied for the fresh "D" class contractor. If any body having any objection regarding the same they may submitt their objection written to the Cheif Engineer Civil investigation wing JKPD, Bemina within a period of 7 days from the date of this notice. No objection will be entertained after that.
ISHFAQ SULTAN BHAT S/O MOHAMMAD SULTAN
R/O SHOPRIBAGH BUDGAM . fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that i RAM PYARI have applied for the fresh "D" class contractor. If any body having any objection regarding the same they may submitt their objection written to the Cheif Engineer Civil investigation wing JKPD, Bemina within a period of 7 days from the date of this notice. No objection will be entertained after that.
RAM PYARI W/O BALI RAM SHARMA
R/O PANYA DAGIR JAMMU . fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Romey Jaan, M/o minor Maliha Hilal, W/o Hilal Ahmad Ahanger, R/o Natipora Astan Mohalla, Srinagar, do hereby inform the general public that the name of my minor daughter has been wrongly recorded in her Birth Certificate as Maliha Firdous D/o Firdous Ahmad Dar, with the mother's name recorded as Maqsooda, R/o Baghi Mehtab, Srinagar.
Whereas, her actual and correct name is Maliha Hilal D/o Hilal Ahmad Dar, and her mother's correct name is Romey Jaan, R/o Natipora Astan Mohalla, Srinagar. Her correct date of birth is 04-11-2016.
Now, I have applied before the concerned Municipality Department for correction of her name, parentage and address in the Birth Certificate and for issuance of a corrected Birth Certificate. Any person having objections, if any, in this regard may file the same before the concerned office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.
Romey Jaan
M/o Maliha Hilal (Minor)
R/o Natipora Astan Mohalla, Srinagar, Kashmir.

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

(SUB OFFICE KUPWARA)

PUBLIC NOTICE



I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class 9th) under Roll No. 5835325 session :-Regular Year: 2021 through The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the school Against My Parentage as ASHAQ HUSSAIN KHAN Instead of ASHIQ HUSSAIN KHAN PATHAN.
Now I have applied for correction in The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School
Education, New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, sub Office Kupwara within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.
This is published for the information of the general public.
The correct particulars be recorded as under:-
Name:- ASHIYA BANO
Father's Name:- ASHIQ HUSSAIN KHAN PATHAN
Mother's Name:- ZARINA BAGUM
Date of Birth: 08-02-2008
Residence: ZIRHAMA KUPWARA
Mobile No.- 8491877723 fko

MANAGING BODY OF FLOWER KIDS PUBLIC SCHOOL
SADAT MOHALLA, GARIND KALAN, DISTT BUDGAM

NOTICE

S.No	Name of the Member	Parentage	Residence
1	Syed Zahoor Ahmad Almosvi	Syed Mohd Jaffar	Garind Kalan
2	Azra Rasool	Gh Rasool	Garind Kalan
3	Syed Imran Hussain	Syed Ali	Garind Kalan
4	Sajad Hussain Khan	Gh Hussain Khan	Garind Kalan
5	Syed Mehdi Hussain	Syed Yaseen	Wahabpora
6	Irfan Hussain Mir	Mohd Yousuf Mir	Garind Kalan
7	Ashraf Hussain Khan	Mohd Jaffar Khan	Garind Kalan

Anybody having any objection shall be filed in writing in the office of the CEO Budgam within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

President Managing Body

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as MOHMMAD UMAR RESHI While as my actual name is UMAIR FAROOQ C/O FAROOQ AHMAD RESHI R/O MANZHAR HAIHAMA KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222 Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.
UMAIR FAROOQ
C/O :- FAROOQ AHMAD RESHI
R/O :- MANZHAR , KUPWARA fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Showkat Ahmad Bhat R/o Wailoo Kralpora, Tehsil Kunzer, Post Office Kunzer, District Baramulla, do hereby inform the general public that my son's name has been wrongly recorded as Anaam Showkat in his Aadhaar Card bearing No. 5105-1597-5187, whereas his actual and correct name is Ainam Showkat Bhat.
Now, I have applied for correction of the said name and publication of the requisite notice in the Government Gazette. Any person having objections, if any, in this regard may file the same before the concerned office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.
Sd/-
Showkat Ahmad Bhat
F/o Ainam Showkat Bhat
R/o Wailoo Kralpora, Tehsil Kunzer,
District Baramulla
Mobile: 7006446686 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name and parentage has been wrongly written in my driving licence bearing DL No: JK0420150028421 as Mohd Yaseen Mir S/o Mohd Qasim Mir while my correct name and parentage as per adhaar card is Mohamad Yassin Mir S/o Mohamad Qasim Mir . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the ARTO Budgam within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohamad Yassin Mir
S/o Mohamad Qasim Mir
R/o Kalipora Budgam bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Naseema Bano to Naseema Begum. In future I will be knwon as Naseema Begum. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Branch Manager Jkbank shadipora within seven days.
Naseema Begum
W/o Altaf Hussain Dar
R/o Sarai Dangerpora
FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Zubair Ahmad Rather S/o Abdul Ahad Rather R/o BURAN PATTAN father of AAYAT ZUBAIR a student of class 6th of Al Huda Public School Pattan having Date of Birth 01-03-2015 (recoded in school admission records after first correction from 01-03-2018). I here by state that actual and correct date birth of my daughter is 01-03-2017 as per the Date of Birth Certificate issued by SRINAGAR MUNCIPAL Corporation 21-07-2026 I want get same corrected in the school records
As such if any person having any objection in this regard He/She can submit his objection in the office of Zonal Education officer Pattan / Principal of Al Huda Pubic School Pattan within 7 days from the date of publication of this public Notice
ZUBAIR AHMAD RATHER
Father of AAYAT ZUBAIR
R/O BURAN PATTAN
fko

Contact No. 0194 3100263

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECH. CITY DRAINAGE DIVISION SRINAGAR.

Abstract of E-NIT_No._ 07_CDM _ OF _2026-27
D A T E D :- 13 -11-2026

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited in two-Cover system (Technical and financial) on percentage basis from Registered, Resourceful, Reputed and Experienced firms/contractors for execution of below mentioned work:-

Accord of Administrative Approval : ORDER No:-245-DHPM OF 2026 Dated:- 29-10-2026, issued by the Director Floriculture (P)&M), J&K under endorsement No.DHPM/201/AAA/MAC/2026-27/3216-21 Dated:-29-10-2026
Head of Account : MAC Budget 2026-27
Position of Funds : Approved

S. No.	Name of Work	Advt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Earnest Money	Cost of tender document (Non-refundable)	Time of Completion
1.	Machinery component for the installation of New Dewatering Pump at F&V Market Parimpora Srinagar.	42.50	Rs.85000.00	Rs.2000.00	03 Months

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, 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 schedule of dates given below:-

01.	**Period of downloading of bidding documents /sale of tender documents.**	**14-11-2026 from 10.00 A.M**
02.	**Bid submission start date**	**16-11-2026 from 10.00 A.M**
03.	**Bid submission end date**	**03-12-2026 upto 6.00 P.M**
04.	**Date & time of opening of Cover Ist (Technical) bids on line.**	04-12-2026 at 02.00 P.M **OR** Any other subsequent date convenient to the opening authority.
05.	List of Documents to be uploaded:- i. Scanned copy of Cost of tender document in the shape of Bank Receipt. The amount should be deposited in the Srinagar Municipal Corporation bank account in J&K Bank titled F.A/Chief Accounts Officer SMC Srinagar, A/C No. CD/0216010200000007, Branch: Balgarden Karanagar Srinagar, IFC Code: JAKA0GARDEN with NIT No. The tender document fee should be deposited between the date of issuance of NIT upto end date of submission of bid. The same can also be paid/deposited through online mode via NEFT/RTGS or other options. ii. Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit in shape of Bank Receipt The amount should be deposited in the Srinagar Municipal Corporation bank account in J&K Bank titled F.A/ Chief Accounts Officer SMC Srinagar, A/C No. CD/0216010200000007, Branch: Balgarden Karanagar Srinagar, IFC Code: JAKA0GARDEN. The tender document fee should be deposited between the date of issuance of NIT upto end date of submission of bid. The same can also be paid/deposited through online mode via NEFT/RTGS or other options. iii. Scanned copy of Valid GST Registration/PAN Card. iv. Scanned copy of experience certificate of similar nature of work. (Issued by the authority not the blow the rank of Executive Engineer). v. Scanned copy of turnover for last 03 financial years. vi. Scanned copy of acceptance of all technical, commercial terms and conditions as per format Annexure "B".	
07.	**Bid Opening Authority**	**Executive Engineer Mech. City Drainage Division SMC Srinagar.**

1. The bids shall be submitted in electronic format on the website www.jktenders.gov.in upto said bidding schedule with Digital Signature and no bid will be accepted in physical form.
2. **The Executive Engineer Mech. City Drainage Division SMC Srinagar reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders or any tender in part or whole without assigning any reasons thereof.**
3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of tech. bids.
4. **Linked bank account with GSTIN:** The contractor/bidder shall disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission, no payment shall be released by this division to any other bank account except one linked with the GSTIN registered number of the successful bidder (**As per Circular No.01(Adm) FD of 2025 Dated:- 08-07-2025).**
5. **Performance Security:** The successful bidder has to deposit an amount equal to 5% of the allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of bank receipt to be deposited in the Srinagar Municipal Corporation bank account titled F.A/Chief Accounts Officer SMC Srinagar No. CD/0216010200000007, J&K Bank Branch: Balgarden Karanagar Srinagar, IFC Code: JAKA0GARDEN Srinagar before issuance of formal allotment order and the same shall be retained till successful completion of work and checking the performance of the equipments upto expiry of DLP of three years.

   OR

   Retention of 5% of allotted cost of contract as performance security to be deposited by the firm in the shape of CDRFDR/Bank Guarantee , before issuance of formal allotment order, till the satisfactory performance of the equipments from the date of commissioning of Scheme/work upto completion of DLP of three years is observed.
6. **Additional Performance Security (in case of un-balanced Bid by the Successful bidder L1)**: - In case of un-balanced bid, the successful bidder L1, shall have to deposit the additional performance security amount in the shape of bank receipt in the Srinagar Municipal Corporation bank account titled F.A/ Chief Accounts Officer SMC Srinagar A/C No. CD/0216010200000007, J&K Bank Branch: Balgarden Karanagar Srinagar, IFC Code: JAKA0GARDEN Srinagar as per the Circular issued by J**&K Finance Department Dated:-08-08-2025 vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158** before award of contract.
7. All other terms and condition shall remain same as laid down in the PWD form No. 25.

For further details, terms and conditions log on www.jktenders.gov.in

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECHANICAL. CITY DRAINAGE
DIVISION SMC SRINAGAR

CDM/2101
DATED :- 13-11 -2026

DIPK-7691/26
dated: 14-11-2026

GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THEEXECUTIVE ENGINEER LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

P h. No. 0 194-2458118
CORRIGENDUM

Corrigendum to NIT No. 57 of 2026-27 dated: 11-Nov-2026. Please read the Condition No. 7 as the successful bidder shall either have its own operational batching plant with documental proof are submit a valid Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the owner of an operational batching plant for the supply of Design Mix Concrete required for execution of the work. In case of an MOU, the bidder shall submit a copy of the duly signed MOU along with the relevant document establishing the ownership and operational status of the benching plant.

Instead of
The successful bidder shall either have its own operational batching plant with documental proof are submit a valid Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the owner of an operational batching plant for the supply of Design Mix (M20) Concrete required for execution of the work. In case of an MOU, the bidder shall submit a copy of the duly signed MOU along with the relevant document establishing the ownership and operational status of the benching plant.
Additional Condition: The Document Fee & EMD of the previous participants vide NIT No. 46 of 2026-27 shall remain valid and be considered applicable for the participation in the present NIT.
Rest all shall remain same.

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION,
SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

NO: SMC/EELRWD/2451-2459
DIPK-NB-2130/26
Dated: - 14/Nov/2026.

GMC Observes World Diabetes Day with Awareness, Screening, Community Outreach Programmes

Organises 3rd Edition of Diabetes Run

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Endocrinology, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, in collaboration with Super Speciality Hospital (SSH), today observed World Diabetes Day through a series of awareness, screening and community outreach programmes under the global theme "Early Action on Diabetes."

The programme was held under the guidance of Principal/ Dean, GMC Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan described diabetes as one of the fastest-growing public health challenges and stressed that prevention through healthy lifestyle choices remains the most effective strategy. She said the theme underscores the importance of early diagnosis, regular screening and timely treatment to prevent complications. She urged people to adopt healthy eating habits, maintain an ideal body weight, avoid tobacco and engage in at least 30 minutes of physical activity daily to reduce the risk of diabetes and its cardiovascular, kidney and eye-related complications.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Hayat Bhat, Head, Department of Endocrinology, advised that every adult should undergo blood sugar screening at least once, while individuals with risk factors such as family history, obesity, hypertension, sedentary lifestyle or gestational diabetes should be screened regularly. He emphasized that uncontrolled diabetes can silently damage the heart, kidneys, eyes and nerves, making early detection, strict glycaemic control, balanced nutrition, regular exercise and adherence to treatment essential.

SWD Srinagar Celebrates Children's Day 2026 at Anganwadi Centre Hazratbal

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Social Welfare Department (SWD), through SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) Srinagar, celebrated Children's Day 2026 at an Anganwadi Centre in Hazratbal with great enthusiasm and active participation of children, Anganwadi workers and local community members.

The programme was organized with the objective of promoting child welfare, recognizing the importance of childhood and creating awareness about the rights, health, nutrition, education and overall development of children.

On the occasion, various fun-filled and recreational activities were organized for children, providing them with an opportunity to showcase their talents and enjoy the spirit of the celebration. The children participated enthusiastically in the activities, making the event joyful and memorable.

The programme also highlighted the importance of providing children with a safe, healthy, nurturing and supportive environment. Emphasis was laid on the role of parents, caregivers and the community in ensuring proper nutrition, early childhood care, education and holistic development of every child.

The Department reiterated its commitment towards strengthening community-level initiatives for child welfare through Anganwadi Centres and Mission POSHAN, ensuring that every child receives the care, protection and opportunities necessary for a healthy and bright future.



Women row boats during a race at Dal Lake in Srinagar. The traditional women's boat race was organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Water Sports Kayaking and Canoeing Association. KO Photo : Abid Bhat

Paras Srinagar Launches Holistic Paediatric Services, Signs MoU with SKIDS

New NICU and PICU facilities, comprehensive child screening initiative and strengthened maternity care mark a major step towards integrated maternal and child healthcare in Kashmir

Observer News Service



Srinagar: Reinforcing its commitment to healthier beginnings and a stronger future for children, PARAS Health Srinagar on Saturday unveiled its Holistic Paediatric Services on the occasion of Children's Day, marking a significant expansion of specialised newborn and child healthcare in Kashmir. The launch includes dedicated Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) facilities, alongside a strategic collaboration with Bengaluru-based SKIDS Health to strengthen comprehensive screening and early identification of health and developmental concerns among children.

The initiative represents an important step towards building an integrated maternal and child healthcare ecosystem, bringing together specialised medical expertise, advanced critical care, preventive screening and family-centred support under one roof.

As part of the launch, PARAS Health Srinagar also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SKIDS Health, a Bengaluru-based healthcare organisation founded by physician-scientist and paediatrician Dr Satish Prasad Rath. The collaboration aims to introduce comprehensive screening of children across multiple health and developmental domains, strengthening early identification, timely assessment and appropriate clinical intervention.

The partnership seeks to promote a more holistic approach to childhood healthcare, recognising that a child's well-being extends beyond the treatment of illness to include early screening, developmental assessment, preventive care and timely medical support.

- 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

04 Jumada al-Sani
1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 38
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	3: 50
Magrib	5: 31
ISHA	6: 55

This Day In History

- 655 - Battle of the Winwaed: Penda of Mercia is defeated by Oswiu of Bernicia.
- 1315 - Battle of Morgarten: Swiss beat duke Leopold I of Austria
- 1527- Treaty of Schoonhoven: Henry of the Palatinate, Bishop of Utrecht, cedes lands to the Habsburgs in return for security help against resistant citizens
- 1533- Spanish expedition led by Francisco Pizarro captures the Inca capital of Cusco after defeating an Inca army led by general Quisquis
- 1715- Barrier Treaty, Austria cedes area to Netherlands
- 1720- Pirates Anne Bonny, Mary Read and Calico Jack are captured by Capt. Jonathan Barnet and brought to the Spanish Town of Jamaica, for trial
- 1813- Allied troops occupies Groningen
- 1837- Isaac Pitman introduces his shorthand system of writing, Pitman shorthand
- 1854- In Egypt, the Suez Canal, linking the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea, is given the necessary royal concession.
- 1869 - Free postal delivery formally inaugurated
- 1904- King C. Gillette patents the Gillette razor blade
- 1914- Italian socialist Benito Mussolini founds newspaper Il Populo d'Italia
- 1920- League of Nations holds first meeting in Geneva
- 1932- Walt Disney Art School created
- 1934- Nobel for chemistry awarded to Harold C Urey (deuterium)
- 1936- Nazi-Germany & Japan sign Anti-Komintern pact
- 1954 - 1st regularly scheduled commercial flights over North Pole begins
- 1955 - Poland & Yugoslavia sign trade agreement
- 1969 - An estimated 2 million people take part in the Vietnam War Moratorium demonstration across the United States
- 1971 - Intel advertises 4004-processor
- 1972 - Small Astronomy Satellite Explorer 48 launched to study gamma rays
- 1973 - Egypt & Israel exchange prisoners of war
- 1974 - International Energy Agency formed in Paris within OECD framework in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis
- 1976 - Syrian army conquers Beirut
- 1979 - ABC-TV announces it would broadcast nightly specials on Iran hostage
- 1979 - Iran cancels all contracts with U.S. oil companies
- 1980 - 30th NASCAR Sprint Cup: Dale Earnhardt wins
- 1982 - Funeral service held in Moscow's Red Square for Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev
- 1983 - Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus proclaimed
- 1988 - Soviet space shuttle makes unmanned maiden flight (2 orbits)
- 1990 - US President George H. W. Bush signs Clear Air Act of 1990
- 1995 - Space shuttle Atlantis docks with orbiting Russian space station Mir
- 2000 - A chartered Antonov AN-24 crashes after takeoff from Luanda, Angola killing more than 40 people
- 2000 - New state of Jharkhand comes into existence in India
- 2002 - Hu Jintao becomes the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China
- 2003 - First day of the Istanbul Bombings takes place, followed by additional bombings on November 20th
- 2005 - Boeing formally launches the stretched Boeing 747-8 variant with orders from Cargolux and Nippon Cargo Airlines
- 2007 - A devastating Cyclone named Sidr hit Bangladesh, killing an estimated 5000 people and destroyed the world's largest mangrove forest, Sundarbans.
- 2012 - At least 95 people are killed in Syrian conflicts
- 2013 - Sony launches the Playstation Four, selling one million units on the first day
- 2014 - Vladimir Putin's press secretary says media reports that the Russian president plans to leave the G20 Summit in Brisbane early are nonsense Vladimir Putin
- 2014 - World leaders gather in Brisbane for G20 Summit, which will focus on economic growth
- 2014 - The parents of 43 Mexican students who disappeared start a nationwide bus tour in protest at the government's handling of the case
- 2014 - A 7.3 magnitude earthquake strikes under the Molucca Sea in eastern Indonesia, triggering a tsunami warning

Subject: Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & style" M/s Azure Skies Holidays Situated at Near Guzar Masjid Qalamdanpora Fatehkadal Srinagar -190002

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, I Tawsiya khursheed D/o Khursheed Ahmad Lala R/o Braripora Nawakadal Srinagar Kashmir intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style"M/s Azure Skies Holidays situated at Near Guzar Masjid Qalamdanpora Fatehkadal Srinagar 190002, Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile Certificate, QualificationCertificate, Pan Card. Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), CharacterCertificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000), SitePlan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (LetterHead/Visiting Card), Photograph of the unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passportsize photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior toRegistration of my unit as an Excursion Agency / Adventure tour operator.Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, beforemy case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration (e-mail Id :- ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local Newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

Media Line Ads

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that i ALTAF AHMAD SHEIKH have applied for the fresh "D" class contractor. If any body having any objection regarding the same they may submitt their objection written to the Cheif Engineer Civil investigation wing JKPD, Bemina within a period of 7 days from the date of this notice. No objection will be entertained after that.

ALTAF AHMAD SHEIKH
S/O GHULAM NABI SHEIKH
R/O GORIPORA BEERWAH .

mcb

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

FATIHA KHWANI



With deep grief and sorrow, we inform you of the passing of

Mehraj ud Din Mir Mahraza

S/o Gh. Mohammad Mir Mahraza

R/O : Gulab Bagh, Near Bus Stop, Rose Colony

The Fatiha Khwani will be held on:

Tuesday, 17 November 2026

10:30 AM

Graveyard near Syed Sahab Shrine, opposite Main Gate of Gani Memorial Stadium, Rajouri Kadal, Srinagar

May Allah (SWT) forgive him and grant him a place in Jannat-ul-Firdous. Aameen.

Grieved: Mir Mahraza Family | Mob: 9682658621, 9906421136

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

FRESH NIT 130 (2nd Call NIT 111) OF R&B/Anantnag/2026-27 /E-TENDERING/10242-51, DATED 14-11-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders in 02 cover system are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of School Building for Boys Middle School Naibasti Anantnag.	137.76 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 116.75 + (18% GST Amount 21.01)	2600	275520/-	02 Working Season	District Capex Budget (Education Sector) 2026-27	AAY Class Only

Project Authority : District Development Commissioner, Anantnag.
Position of AAA : Accorded vide Order No. 398 -DDCA of 2026, Dated 18.08.2026.
Position of TS : Accorded vide Order No. SEA (R&B) 71 of 2026-27, Dated 06.10.2026

1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms-and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental websitewww.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated		
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice		14-11-2026	
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From	14-11-2026	(04:00 PM)
		To	23-11-2026	(04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From	14-11-2026	(04:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To	23-11-2026	(04:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)		24-11-2026	(10:30 AM)
		In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag.		

1. Bids must be accompanied with a Receipt of cost of Tender document/Tender Fee deposited in a **Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, Bidder Name, NIT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned on the Receipt** (The Date of transaction should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) **and Receipt of EMD (2% of advertised Cost), also** deposited in a **Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, Bidder Name, NIT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned on the Receipt. (The Date of receipt of EMD and Tender Fee should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date). The same EMD/Tender Fee receipt should not be used in more than one Tender/Bid.**
2. **All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost). Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.**
3. The Bid security amount of the successful Bidder shall, upon completion of the bidding process be transferred from single Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account to Performance Security Deposit Head on Authorization from HoD during the currency of contract agreement including defect liability period. . In addition, the differential amount of performance security shall be deposited by the Successful Bidder in Performance Security Deposit Head. Failure to produce differential amount of Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **bids of Responsive bidders** shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of **Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag**
5. The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid**
6. **Instruction to 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 vendors.
   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 mentioned in Para-1.
   e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
   f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

DIPK-7702/26
dated: 14-11-2026

(Er. Mohammad Waseem)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag

Beyond Land to the Tiller

While land-to-the-tiller reforms transformed agricultural ownership, Section 6 addressed the residential rights of landless workers and other vulnerable rural families.



Mohammad Amin Mir

Kashmir's land reforms are usually remembered for one historic idea: those who cultivated the land should own it.

But there was another group whose lives were closely tied to the land, even though they did not own the fields or the ground beneath their homes.

These were agricultural labourers and other rural families who spent generations living on property belonging to landlords or employers.

Their houses were part of the village, but their legal claim to the land beneath them remained uncertain.

Section 6 of the Jammu and Kashmir Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976, sought to address this problem.

It recognised that the history of land reforms was also about protecting the homes of certain people whose lives and livelihoods had long been connected with agriculture.

Nearly five decades later, this provision remains important for families with old residential claims and for the revenue authorities responsible for examining them.

The roots of this legislation go back to the political changes of 1947.

At the time, land ownership was concentrated in the hands of powerful proprietors, while much of the rural population depended on tenancy, agricultural labour and cultivation for a living.

A cultivator could spend a lifetime working another person's fields without having secure rights over the land.

The first major changes came in April 1948, when the government abolished feudal arrangements such as Jagirdari, Muafi and Mukarrari.

Measures introduced in October that year gave tenants-at-will greater security of tenure.

The Big Landed Estates Abolition Act, 1950, took the reforms further by setting limits on landholdings and transferring surplus land to those who cultivated it.

Further tenancy reforms followed in 1955, 1960, 1965 and 1970.

Together, these measures changed the relationship between landowners and cultivators.

A historical account published in the Government of India's Yojana magazine in May 1973 also traced this reform process to the measures introduced in 1948.

The 1976 Act addressed another problem that had received less attention.

In village society, agricultural workers and economically weaker families often lived in houses built on land owned by proprietors or employers. Some had spent years serving the landowner while raising families in these homes. Their residence depended heavily on the owner's willingness to let them stay.

Section 6 sought to give legal protection to certain people in this position.

Its scope was specific: it applied to a dwelling house occupied on September 1, 1971, by a person belonging to one of the categories listed in the Act.

These included tillers, members of Scheduled Castes, landless agricultural labourers, Gujjars, Bakarwals, Gaddis and landless labourers engaged in occupations connected with agriculture.

Where these conditions were met and the occupant did not own the site, the owner's rights, title and interest in the dwelling house, its site and the land attached to it were deemed extinguished and vested in the Government with effect from May 1, 1973.

The retrospective date gave legal effect to the provision from a time before the Act itself came into force.

The legislature also recognised that different families could have different claims.

The first proviso protected a dwelling house constructed at the expense of the occupant or a predecessor-in-interest. Such a house would not vest in the Government under this provision.

The former provides for the vesting of the relevant property in the Government, while the latter sets out how ownership rights can subsequently vest in a qualifying occupant.

This remains subject to the conditions under Section 6(2) and payment of the prescribed levy under Schedule III.

Establishing occupation, therefore, is only one part of the legal process.

The responsibility of the Revenue Department is considerable. In many villages, houses have remained within families for generations, while old revenue records may continue to show another person's name as the owner. Such cases call for careful examination of Jamabandies, village maps, field records and other available documents.

Officials must establish whether the house existed and was occupied on September 1, 1971, whether the occupant belonged to a qualifying category and whether the site was owned by that person.

They must also examine who paid for the construction, whether the ten-year occupation condition was fulfilled, whether the total area falls within the four-kanal ceiling and whether ownership was subsequently granted under Section 8(3), subject to the prescribed levy.

A present-day revenue entry cannot replace this examination. Equally, a genuine claim should not be dismissed simply because the relevant records are old or incomplete. Decisions must rest on evidence and the conditions laid down in the Act.

> **A family that had spent** years living in a house connected with its work could establish a claim under the conditions laid down by the law.

The second proviso dealt with long-standing occupation. A person who had remained in continuous occupation of the house for ten years by the commencement of the Act was deemed to have acquired ownership of the dwelling house in return for services rendered to the owner of the land beneath and adjoining it.

This was an important recognition of the relationship between residence and labour.

A family that had spent years living in a house connected with its work could establish a claim under the conditions laid down by the law.

However, occupation alone did not create an automatic right to ownership. The prescribed categories, dates and other statutory conditions had to be established.

The Act also placed a ceiling on the land covered by Section 6.

Under subsection (2), the aggregate qualifying area beneath and attached to the dwelling house, when considered with the specified areas beneath other buildings and exempted lands under Section 3, could not exceed four kanals for the individual and the family collectively.

Revenue authorities must therefore examine the total qualifying area rather than look at the house site in isolation.

Section 6 also needs to be read alongside Section 8(3).

Kashmir's land reforms changed the lives of cultivators by recognising their rights over agricultural land. Section 6 addressed a different but closely related concern: the position of families whose homes stood on land they did not own.

A house was where children grew up, families worked and generations established their lives. Its legal status could influence the future of an entire household.

The provision was an attempt to bring these long-standing residential relationships within the protection of the law. Its proper implementation now depends on revenue officials examining old claims with care, while respecting the rights of all parties.

A village house may appear as a small structure on a revenue map, but its history can go back several generations.

The law must look beyond the name recorded against the land and establish whether the people who lived there qualify for the rights that Section 6 was written to recognise.

—

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

The Toxic Side of Diabetes

Emerging research links air pollution, contaminated water and industrial chemicals to Type 2 diabetes. But separating genuine health risks from early scientific claims will require better research and stronger public safeguards.



Dr Syed Riyaz Ahmed

When someone develops Type 2 diabetes, doctors usually look at their diet, body weight, physical activity and family history. These are well-established factors that help explain why the disease develops.

Genetics, ageing, excess body fat, an inactive lifestyle, diet and social conditions remain the main risk factors. However, scientists are now looking at another possible influence: the chemicals people breathe, drink, eat and come into contact with at work may also affect their chances of developing diabetes.

This takes the discussion beyond the doctor's consulting room, towards polluted streets, agricultural fields, industrial areas and even household kitchens. It raises an important public health question: how much does environmental pollution contribute to the growing number of diabetes cases?

Research is beginning to provide some answers, although the strength of the evidence differs from one pollutant to another.

Scientists studying endocrine-disrupting chemicals have found reasons for concern. These substances interfere with the body's hormone system, which helps control metabolism.

Laboratory experiments suggest that some chemicals may encourage the development of fat cells, interfere with insulin production and function, and trigger inflammation and oxidative stress.

These findings help explain how chemical exposure could potentially increase diabetes risk.

However, laboratory findings need careful interpretation.

Some experiments use chemical concentrations much higher than those people normally encounter. A reaction observed in an animal or an isolated cell also does not prove that the same effect occurs in humans. Scientists need stronger human evidence before drawing firm conclusions.

Studies involving people provide more convincing reasons to examine this connection, particularly in the case of air pollution and arsenic.

A 2018 study by Bowe and colleagues, published in The Lancet Planetary Health, examined 1.7 million US veterans. It found that people exposed to higher levels of fine particulate matter, known as PM2.5, faced a greater risk of developing diabetes.

The researchers estimated that air pollution contributed to around 3.2 million new diabetes cases worldwide in 2016.

This finding gives polluted air significance beyond its well-known effects on the lungs. Traffic emissions, industrial activity and the burning of solid fuels release tiny particles that people breathe during ordinary daily activities. When exposure continues over long periods, polluted air can become a serious public health concern.

The study found a strong association, although this does not mean that air pollution alone causes diabetes in everyone exposed to it.

Arsenic is another concern, particularly in areas where groundwater contains high concentrations of the substance. Research reviewed by Maull and colleagues in 2012 linked high levels of arsenic exposure to diabetes.

Parts of eastern India and Bangladesh face this problem, making contaminated groundwater an important environmental health issue. Families using unsafe water may therefore face health risks beyond the immediate effects of arsenic poisoning.

The evidence involving other chemicals is less clear.

Persistent organic pollutants, which can enter the food chain through fatty foods and remain in the environment for many years, have shown possible links with diabetes.

Research on PFAS, often called forever chemicals, has also attracted attention. These substances are found in drinking water, food packaging and treated fabrics.

A 2022 US study by Park and colleagues, published in Diabetologia, found that middle-aged women with the highest combined exposure to PFAS were more likely to develop diabetes. Earlier studies, however, reported mixed results.

This suggests a possible connection, but scientists need more research to understand how strong it is.

The evidence surrounding BPA and phthalates is even less certain. These chemicals are commonly associated with food packaging, plastics and personal-care products. However, the body removes them within hours or days.

A single urine sample, therefore, cannot reliably show how much a person has been exposed to over several years. Pesticides are another concern, particularly for agricultural workers, although research has yet to establish a clear connection with diabetes.

These differences are important because finding a link between chemical exposure and a disease does not automatically prove that one causes the other.

Body weight and changes in the way the body stores chemicals can influence exposure measurements. Diet, income, occupation and body fat can also affect both chemical exposure and diabetes risk, making it difficult to identify the effect of an individual substance.

The challenge becomes greater when people encounter several chemicals at the same time.

Research focusing on one substance may miss the combined effects of different exposures. Limited exposure measurements and publication bias, which makes studies reporting positive findings more likely to appear in scientific journals, create further difficulties.

There is also a question of who faces the greatest risk.

Agricultural and industrial workers, people living near contaminated sites, residents of heavily polluted cities and households using solid fuels for cooking often experience greater environmental exposure.

These communities may also have fewer resources to protect themselves.

A worker handling pesticides may have little control over workplace safety, while a family dependent on contaminated groundwater may have no easy alternative source.

Public discussion can sometimes make the science harder to understand.

Headlines often report relative risk without explaining what the numbers mean. If six out of 1,000 people develop diabetes in a year, a 50 per cent increase would raise that figure to nine.

The increase becomes significant when millions of people are exposed, although age and family history may still be stronger predictors of an individual's risk.

Governments have an important responsibility in addressing these concerns.

Public health agencies should monitor environmental exposure, enforce safety standards and update regulations as scientific evidence improves.

Uncertainty about the link with diabetes should not delay action against chemicals already known to cause other health problems. Several persistent pollutants have faced restrictions, while regulations on BPA and some PFAS have also been tightened.

Employers who handle pesticides and industrial chemicals should provide safe working conditions, proper ventilation and protective equipment. Workers also need access to occupational health services where they can report concerns about exposure.

Individuals can take some practical precautions without becoming fearful of everyday life.

Household and garden chemicals should be used according to their instructions. Food should be stored in suitable containers, and unsuitable plastics should be kept away from heat.

People living in areas with known arsenic contamination should use water that has been tested and found safe. During periods of heavy air pollution, exercising indoors can help people remain physically active.

There is also a need to be careful about commercial claims that exploit public anxiety.

Detox kits, cleanses and restrictive programmes often promise to remove unspecified toxins and prevent diabetes. However, such products rarely identify the chemicals involved or provide reliable evidence that their methods work.

People living with diabetes should never replace prescribed treatment with detox products. Blood glucose management, blood pressure control and cholesterol treatment remain essential parts of diabetes care.

Environmental chemicals may contribute to the development of diabetes, but the evidence suggests that their influence varies, with stronger findings involving air pollution and high-level arsenic exposure.

The challenge is to understand the extent of this contribution while reducing exposure wherever possible.

A family should not need to understand complex medical science to know that its drinking water is safe or that pesticides are handled responsibly at a workplace.

Protecting public health must begin long before someone walks into a doctor's clinic and receives a diagnosis of diabetes.

The author is a specialist in Diabetes and Obesity Medicine at Paramount Polyclinic, Alamgari Bazar. He can be reached at riyazhamadanisyed@gmail.com.

The National Conference's Kangri Politics

The party's new advisory groups may give dissatisfied legislators a hearing, but their value will depend on whether ministers are prepared to act on what they hear.



Farooq Ahmad Khan

Winter in Kashmir has its own arrangements for sharing warmth.

A kangri, the small earthen firepot wrapped in wicker and tucked beneath a pheran, is often passed between family members when the cold settles in.

In a household with several children and only one kangri, however, sharing can become a delicate exercise.

A young child may be too small to handle the firepot safely, so an elder lets the kid warm his hands through the lower opening of the pheran.

The child gets some warmth while the elder retains the kangri.

This traditional arrangement, known as "shaale fouf", has found an interesting political counterpart in the National Conference.

The party's recent attempt to accommodate dissatisfied legislators through informal advisory groups raises a question about the relationship between political representation and executive authority.

Can a place at the minister's table compensate an elected representative who wants a meaningful role in running the government?

The discontent followed the recent expansion of the Council of Ministers, which left several National Conference legislators outside the government.

Ministerial positions were limited, and those who missed out reportedly conveyed their displeasure to the party leadership.

Their dissatisfaction also extended to what they saw as their exclusion from important decisions.

A group of legislators met Dr Farooq Abdullah and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on November 6. The meeting appears to have prompted an attempt at reconciliation.

Dr Farooq subsequently wrote to party MLAs proposing an informal advisory group for each minister.

Ministers would meet these groups regularly, brief them on policy initiatives and discuss departmental work.

Legislators have been asked to nominate three ministers in order of preference, with the option of joining up to two groups.

There is a practical logic to the proposal, particularly because the dissatisfied legislators had reportedly suggested consultative committees themselves in a memorandum to the party leadership.

Their suggestion points to a genuine problem within the party's relationship with its elected representatives.

An MLA spends time dealing with constituency grievances, departmental delays and public complaints, but the ability to influence the government can become limited when access to decision-makers depends on individual arrangements.

A regular meeting with the concerned minister could change that experience.

Consider an MLA trying to get a stalled water supply scheme moving. A meeting with the minister responsible for the department could provide information about the project's progress, identify administrative obstacles and give the legislator an opportunity to press for action.

Such engagement would also help the minister understand how departmental decisions are being experienced outside government offices.

The difference between consultation and accountability, however, lies in what happens after the meeting.

A minister briefing legislators about ongoing works may satisfy the immediate purpose of the gathering. A more useful exercise would begin when an MLA points out that a project described as progressing has remained stalled for six months.

If the minister seeks an explanation from the department and returns with an update at the next meeting, consultation has produced an administrative action.

Without that follow-through, the arrangement risks becoming another meeting in which information travels in one direction.

Legislators may hear about departmental initiatives, but their ability to influence decisions will remain uncertain. Constituents, meanwhile, will continue approaching their representatives with problems that need answers from government departments.

The political difficulty runs deeper for those who had hoped for ministerial positions.

A minister holds a portfolio, exercises the authority attached to it and answers for the decisions taken within that department.

An advisory group provides access to discussions, but access and authority are different things.

A legislator who wanted a place in the Council of Ministers may regard a seat in an advisory group as a limited substitute, particularly if the group has no defined role in following up on departmental decisions.

The National Conference leadership therefore faces a test that goes beyond accommodating a dissatisfied group of legislators. Its proposal could establish a useful channel between elected representatives and ministers, provided the meetings have substance, ministers take complaints seriously and departmental follow-up becomes part of the exercise.

The party will also have to ensure that these arrangements strengthen the legislators' ability to represent their constituencies.

The old Kashmiri practice of "shaale fouf" worked because the elder understood the child's need for warmth while retaining control of the kangri.

Politics, however, involves elected representatives who answer directly to their voters. Their role cannot be reduced to receiving occasional warmth from those who hold executive power.

The coming months will show whether the advisory groups become working forums where legislators can question, persuade and secure action, or remain arrangements designed to ease discontent within the party.

A kangri may be difficult to share in a cold Kashmiri household, but political authority is an even harder thing to divide.

The real test will be whether those warming their hands beneath the minister's pheran eventually have a say in how the fire is managed.

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The author is an advocate practising before the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. He can be reached at advofarooqahmadkhan@gmail.com.

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The Judge Whose Greatest Legacy Was Kindness

Lawyers recall Mohammad Qasim Khawaja as a man whose humility, generosity and understanding of justice left a lasting impression on generations of advocates.



Hamid Rather

The young law students who visited Mohammad Qasim Khawaja's courtroom in 2000 remember a judge who made them feel welcome.

He was then serving as an Additional District Judge, and his generosity left an impression on visitors who were still finding their way into the legal profession.

Years later, some of those students, by then practising advocates, would remember how readily he helped young lawyers during their difficult early years at the Bar.

That memory, shared after his death, gives a glimpse into the life of a judicial officer whose reputation rested as much on his conduct towards people as on his work in court.

Khawaja, a retired District and Sessions Judge originally from Gund Khawaja Qasim and a resident of HIG Colony, Qamarwari, Srinagar, died on November 8, 2026, at around 5.30 p.m. after a brief illness.

He was survived by a family that includes his son, Senior Advocate Tasaduq Hussain Khawaja, and grandson, Advocate Hassnain T. Khawaja.

His death brought expressions of grief from members of the legal fraternity, former colleagues, friends and people whose lives he had touched.

For more than three decades, Khawaja served in the Jammu and Kashmir judiciary. Those who worked with him describe a man of considerable professional ability, honesty and sound judicial temperament.

Advocates who appeared before him remember his politeness and sympathy, particularly towards lawyers at the beginning of their careers. Several recalled receiving his guidance and encouragement when they had little experience of courtroom practice.

G. N. Shaheen, an advocate and former general secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association, described him as a judicial officer of exceptional integrity, honesty and wisdom. He also remembered Khawaja as a devout Muslim and a patriot with deep affection for his homeland.

The judge's departure, Shaheen said, had deprived the legal community of a guide and an important member of its fraternity.

The tributes also point towards a judicial career that involved difficult questions about the independence of institutional decision-making and the fair treatment of judicial officers.

One such episode reached the Jammu and Kashmir High Court after Khawaja was denied an extension of service beyond the age of 58 in October 2002.

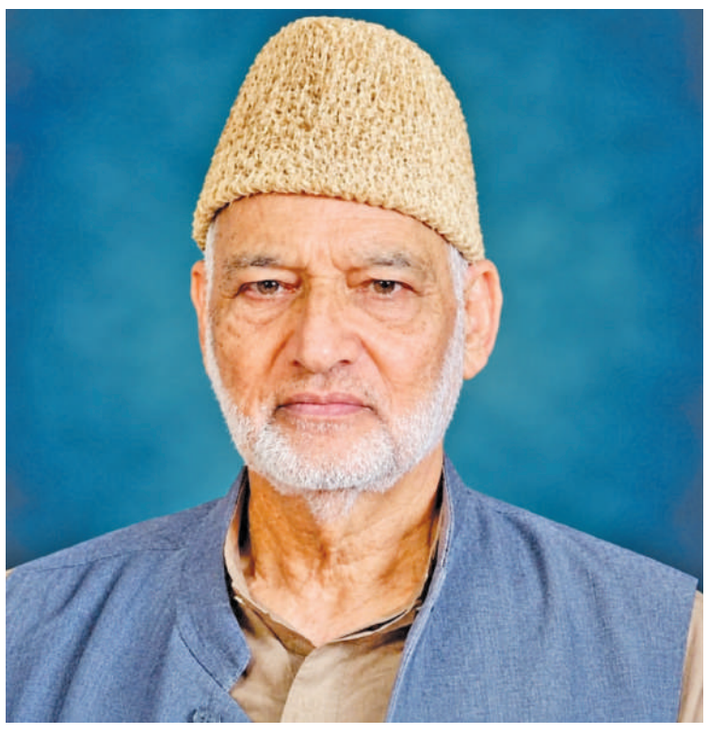
The rules, following directions from the Supreme Court in the All India Judges Association cases, allowed judicial officers to serve until 60, subject to an assessment of their continued usefulness to the judicial system.

Khawaja challenged the decision through a writ petition.

His initial plea sought permission to remain in service until 60. He later restricted his claim to the salary, allowances and pensionary benefits he would have received had the extension been granted.

The dispute raised an important question about how the High Court assessed the performance and suitability of its judicial officers.

Under the applicable rules, the assessment had to consider the officer's service record, conduct, integrity, quality of judgments and professional standing.



> **HIS JUDICIAL RECORD STANDS AS PART OF THE INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,** while the affection expressed by those who knew him speaks to a more personal legacy. In the lives of the young lawyers he encouraged and the colleagues who respected him, his service continued well beyond the courtroom.

The records presented in Khawaja's case showed that his Annual Confidential Reports had graded him Good during the relevant years.

The High Court's own guidelines, adopted through a resolution on September 23, 1994, required an officer to secure at least 75 per cent Good gradings and have no adverse or average entry after the last promotion to qualify for the extended retirement age.

The writ court found that Khawaja met these conditions. It also found no adverse material concerning his integrity, judicial conduct, relations with the Bar or administrative ability.

The comparison with other judicial officers raised further questions.

His colleague Satlal Tengloo received the extension despite having lower gradings in his service reports. Two other senior colleagues, Kuldeep Singh and B. L. Bhat, also received the benefit despite their comparatively lower assessments.

The High Court had initially considered Khawaja's case through a committee constituted by the Chief Justice. The subsequent proceedings raised concerns about the absence of a full and informed discussion among the judges and the failure to place the relevant service record before the Full Court.

The writ court struck down the retirement order and directed the authorities to treat Khawaja as having remained in service until he reached 60, with the corresponding financial and pensionary benefits.

On July 27, 2012, the High Court dismissed the appeal against that decision.

The judgment examined the Supreme Court's directions on judicial retirement and emphasised that an officer's continued service could be assessed through a fair, transparent and objective examination of the record. It also held that the power to deny an extension could not rest on arbitrary or unexplained decisions.

The ruling established an important principle: judicial officers could face scrutiny, but the institutions assessing them also had to follow the law and explain their decisions through relevant evidence.

Beyond that legal episode, Khawaja's colleagues remember a man whose personal conduct matched the professional standards expected of a judge.

They describe his humility, warmth, generosity and concern for others. One former associate recalled his understanding and willingness to help, calling him a man with a golden heart. Another remembered him as exceptionally polite and sympathetic, particularly towards young advocates seeking guidance.

His death has brought together two generations of the legal fraternity in remembrance. Senior members have recalled a respected colleague, while younger advocates have spoken of a judge who made their first years in practice easier.

The loss is deeply personal for his family, but for the legal community, it marks the departure of a judicial officer whose career spanned more than three decades and whose influence extended beyond the judgments he delivered.

In the tributes following his death, one quality appears repeatedly: kindness.

It was remembered by students who visited his courtroom, advocates who sought his help and colleagues who shared his professional life.

The law remembers judges through their decisions and the principles those decisions establish. The people who stand before them often remember something more personal: how they were treated when they needed guidance, fairness or understanding.

Mohammad Qasim Khawaja leaves behind both kinds of remembrance.

His judicial record stands as part of the institutional history of Jammu and Kashmir, while the affection expressed by those who knew him speaks to a more personal legacy.

In the lives of the young lawyers he encouraged and the colleagues who respected him, his service continued well beyond the courtroom.

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The Small Stones That Tell Our Oldest Stories

The Mesolithic was no simple bridge between two prehistoric ages. Its stone tools, settlements and burial grounds reveal how human communities learned to live with changing landscapes.



Muskan Shafi Malik

When the great ice sheets began retreating towards the end of the Pleistocene, the world inhabited by prehistoric humans started to look different.

Temperatures rose, forests spread into former open landscapes, rivers changed course and wetlands appeared in places where ice and cold had once dominated.

Animals that had sustained earlier hunting communities moved or declined in number. The land was changing, and the people who lived on it had to find new ways of surviving.

The Mesolithic emerged within this long period of adjustment.

Its history is often presented as an intermediate chapter between the Palaeolithic and Neolithic, but that description misses much of what made the period significant.

It was a time of technological experimentation, changing food habits and increasingly varied relationships between human communities and their surroundings. The small stone implements known as microliths provide an especially revealing record of this transformation.

Their significance lies in what people could do with them.

A small stone blade, carefully shaped and fitted into a wooden, bone or antler handle, could become part of a larger cutting tool or projectile.

Instead of producing an entirely new implement whenever one component broke, people could potentially replace the damaged piece.

Such tools were easier to transport and could be adapted to different activities. Their manufacture demanded considerable knowledge of stone, controlled flaking and careful preparation.

Microliths are generally small retouched implements, frequently made from bladelets and measuring less than three centimetres, although archaeologists have no universally accepted size definition. Their classification also depends on their shape, manufacturing technique and retouching.

South Asian archaeological assemblages include backed blades, points, lunates, triangles and trapezes, commonly made from chert, chalcedony, jasper and other fine-grained stones.

The innovation was therefore less about making smaller objects than developing a more adaptable system of technology. Its possibilities, however, depended on the landscape in which people lived.

The archaeological record of South Asia makes this particularly clear.

The Gangetic plains provide one of the richest accounts of communities adapting to water-rich environments. At Sarai Nahar Rai, Mahadaha and Damdama in present-day Uttar Pradesh, archaeological remains point to occupation near former river channels, lakes and wetlands. The surrounding environments provided a varied supply of food, reflected in animal remains belonging to deer, wild boar, fish, tortoises and birds.

Hunting remained important, but it formed part of a broader subsistence economy that included aquatic resources and smaller animals. The scarcity of suitable stone in parts of the alluvial plains also influenced technological choices. Bone points and other implements appear alongside microliths, suggesting that communities worked with the materials available to them.



> **THE TRANSITION FROM ICE-AGE LANDSCAPES TO THE WORLD OF LATER FARMING SOCIETIES WAS NEVER A SINGLE LEAP.** It unfolded through countless local decisions, experiments and adaptations. The stone tools tell part of that history.

The burials discovered at Sarai Nahar Rai and Mahadaha, within or close to habitation areas, add another dimension to this archaeological record.

These were communities whose relationship with a place extended beyond obtaining food. Their burial practices indicate established ways of treating the dead and organising aspects of social life.

Further west, the Vindhyan region and central Indian highlands present a different picture.

At Bhimbetka, sandstone shelters preserve evidence of human occupation spanning prehistoric and later periods. Their natural protection, proximity to water and access to surrounding woodland made these locations valuable places for habitation.

The region's extensive archaeological and artistic record also provides evidence of changing human relationships with the environment.

The Belan Valley provides another important perspective.

At Chopani Mando, archaeologists have uncovered structural remains, hearths, stone implements and evidence of plant processing. Querns and mullers suggest that people processed plant resources, adding to what is known about their food economies. The site's archaeological sequence also contributes to discussions about the emergence of pottery in prehistoric South Asia.

These discoveries invite a more careful understanding of the transition towards agriculture. Plant processing and changing habitation practices do not, by themselves, establish that communities had become fully agricultural or permanently settled. They show people developing closer working knowledge of local resources and experimenting with different ways of using them.

The semi-arid landscapes of Rajasthan and Gujarat tell another part of the story.

At Langhnaj, excavations revealed microlithic tools, animal remains and human burials. Bagor, in southern Rajasthan, is particularly significant for its extensive archaeological sequence and developed geometric microlithic industry. Its inhabitants relied on hunting and stock-raising, while later archaeological layers reveal pottery and copper or bronze implements.

Bagor is especially revealing because its history challenges the familiar idea of a clean transition from hunting and gathering to farming. Different economic and technological traditions existed alongside one another, with increasing interaction between communities and neighbouring farming and metal-using groups. Access to water, seasonal resources and local conditions influenced how people organised their lives.

The chronology of microlithic technology also complicates conventional accounts of the Mesolithic. Archaeologists have often associated these implements with the post-Pleistocene period and the beginning of the Holocene. Discoveries from the Middle Son Valley challenge that assumption.

At Dhaba in Madhya Pradesh, excavations have identified microlithic technology dating to approximately 48,000 years ago. Research published in Nature Communications in 2020 documented its presence within a much earlier Late Pleistocene archaeological sequence. The assemblages also reveal an overlap between Levallois and microlithic methods.

This finding has an important consequence for understanding prehistoric history. The appearance of small stone tools does not automatically establish the beginning of a new archaeological age. Technological innovations could emerge within communities whose subsistence practices, mobility and social organisation differed from those associated with later Mesolithic societies.

The Mesolithic of South Asia therefore had no single birthplace or uniform beginning. Its history unfolded differently in the Gangetic wetlands, central Indian shelters and the semi-arid west. The evidence points to communities experimenting with tools, using diverse food resources, developing burial practices and responding to changing ecological conditions.

A microlith may occupy little space in an archaeological display, but the knowledge behind its manufacture speaks of careful observation and accumulated experience. Its edges preserve evidence of human ingenuity, while the settlements and burials associated with it reveal communities whose lives extended well beyond the business of finding food.

The transition from ice-age landscapes to the world of later farming societies was never a single leap. It unfolded through countless local decisions, experiments and adaptations. The stone tools tell part of that history.

The hearths, grinding stones and burial grounds suggest a larger story about how people began organising their lives around particular places, resources and relationships.

That human history is where the Mesolithic becomes far more than an age defined by small stones.

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CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

1,600 Kg Rotten

questioning railway authorities over how the consignment was accepted without proper documentation.

She said transportation of meat requires appropriate documentation, including slaughterhouse, veterinary and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) certificates, besides refrigeration facilities to maintain the prescribed temperature of minus 18 degrees Celsius or below.

However, the seized meat had arrived in ordinary packaging without ice or any refrigeration arrangement, she added.

Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Budgam, Mufti Umar, said the department received a call from Railway Police around 3 pm on Friday, following which a team rushed to the station for inspection.

He said the meat was found in a highly deteriorated condition, with containers leaking blood and emitting a foul smell. The consignment had not been transported under the required frozen conditions.

Umar said the findings of the Veterinary Surgeon were verified by the Food Safety team, including the Food Analyst and officials of the Mobile Food Testing Van. A Magistrate deputed by the district administration subsequently ordered disposal of the seized meat to prevent it from entering the public distribution channel.

In a fresh seizure on Saturday, another consignment weighing around 380 kg was intercepted at Budgam Railway Station from a parcel train.

Officials said the second consignment was also found in a highly deteriorated condition and unfit for human consumption during inspection. It was subsequently destroyed in accordance with the prescribed procedure in the presence of the concerned authorities.

The back-to-back seizures have raised concerns over the transportation and acceptance of perishable food consignments through the railway network without proper documentation and adequate cold-chain arrangements.

Meanwhile, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), J&K, said its team, along with Railway Police, railway authorities and the district administration, had seized and destroyed approximately 1,600 kg of buffalo meat on Friday following violations relating to declaration, transportation and prescribed cold-chain conditions.

The FDA said preliminary testing through the Food Safety on Wheels facility indicated that the meat was unfit for human consumption, while adequate refrigeration or dry-ice arrangements to maintain the required temperature of minus 18 degrees Celsius or below had not been made.

The department said it was maintaining strict vigilance across districts to prevent the transportation, distribution and sale of unsafe food commodities and urged consumers to report suspicious consignments.

In an earlier enforcement action, Food Safety Authorities had seized approximately 2,600 kg of meat in Srinagar.

AI Will Give

the importance of humanities in an increasingly technology-driven world, the Lieutenant Governor said, "Technology tells us what we can do, while the humanities teach us what we should do."

He said the country needed engineers as well as historians, and scientists as well as musicians, to strengthen society's intellectual wealth and capabilities.

Calling upon young people to turn opportunities into meaningful contributions, Sinha said he preferred to describe India's demographic dividend as a "demographic responsibility".

He said society would benefit when young people connected farmers to markets, transformed women's self-help groups into employment-generating enterprises and developed affordable medical tools for remote areas.

"Don't just seek opportunities, create them," he told the graduates, while advising them to present well-researched solutions to companies' challenges during internships rather than simply seeking opportunities.

The Lieutenant Governor also suggested that students strive to become valuable members of the organisations they work with and choose internships that offer opportunities to learn new skills.

Highlighting India's growth in science and technology, Sinha said the country was witnessing a historic period of transformation, with significant progress in digital public infrastructure, space research and innovation, quantum technology, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, green energy and biotechnology.

Referring to India's startup ecosystem, he said the country had nearly 223,000 startups and 135 unicorns, with several entrepreneurs emerging from smaller towns, reflecting the democratisation of opportunities.

He urged the graduating students to contribute towards the national resolve of building a developed India by 2047, saying the goal would be closely linked to their own professional achievements.

"Building a developed India by 2047 is our national resolve. By then, many of you will be at the highest peaks of your careers. Therefore, a developed India is not a slogan for another generation; it will be the essence of your life's achievements," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted Jammu and Kashmir's intellectual heritage, referring to Maharishi Kalhana, Maharishi Abhinavagupta, and the saint-poets Lal Ded and Sheikh-ul-Alam, saying they promoted harmony among faiths and the pursuit of truth.

He said the graduates were carrying forward a tradition of knowledge spanning more than a thousand years.

On the occasion, Sinha particularly lauded women students for winning 130 of the 163 gold medals awarded at the university's maiden convocation.

He said the achievement reflected the growing accomplishments of women in higher education and demonstrated that when given opportunities, daughters did not merely attain positions but redefined the meaning of achievement.

Describing their gold medals as "badges of confidence" for future generations, he said women across higher education institutions in Jammu and Kashmir were writing new chapters of success.

The Lieutenant Governor also outlined five resolutions for the graduating students: never stop learning, create opportunities rather than merely seek them, uphold honesty and ethics, support those who follow and express love for the nation through action.

He reminded the graduates that their degrees marked the beginning of a new journey and encouraged them to embrace continuous learning, courage and compassion.

"Knowledge without character is meaningless," he said, urging students to have the courage to speak the truth, do what is right and treat every human being with dignity and respect.

Governor of Tamil Nadu Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar also attended the convocation.

Vice-Chancellor of Cluster University of Jammu, Prof K S Chandrasekar, presented the university report.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Minister for School Education, Higher Education and Jal Shakti Shamim Firdous, Registrar Ankur Mahajan, heads of departments, faculty members, students and their parents attended the ceremony.

Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma, MLA from Jammu West Arvind Gupta, heads of various educational institutions, prominent citizens and senior civil and police administration officials were also present.

Move Beyond Job

rather than rely solely on government jobs.

Addressing the first convocation of Cluster University of Jammu at Abhinav Theatre, the Chief Minister said rapid technological changes, particularly the emergence of artificial intelligence, had transformed the employment landscape, making continuous learning, critical thinking, judgement and empathy increasingly important.

"Sustainable prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir will come when our youth move beyond being exclusively job seekers and become value creators, innovators and entrepreneurs," he said.

Omar said government employment alone could not absorb every graduate and called upon young people to explore entrepreneurship and emerging economic opportunities.

Identifying agribusiness and food processing, sustainable tourism, cultural heritage, renewable energy, disaster resilience and the digital economy as sectors with significant potential, he urged graduates to use their academic knowledge to develop enterprises and generate employment.

He said Jammu and Kashmir's agricultural produce, including basmati rice, Bhaderwah rajmash, saffron, walnuts, kaladi and citrus fruits, offered considerable scope for value addition, branding and access to wider markets.

Similarly, he said, opportunities existed in heritage tourism, eco-tourism, digital media, renewable energy, climate-resilient infrastructure and technology-enabled services.

The Chief Minister said the government was committed to strengthening the start-up ecosystem, simplifying clearances and improving access to credit to support aspiring entrepreneurs.

Earlier, describing Cluster University of Jammu as a bold educational experiment, Omar said the institution was conceived to bring together the region's established academic traditions while modernising higher education.

He said the university was created as a collegiate federation comprising five institutions: GGM Science College, MAM College, SPMR College of Commerce, Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, and Government College of Education.

The concept of pooling academic resources, faculty, libraries and laboratories while promoting multidisciplinary learning had helped establish a collaborative model of higher education, he said.

Referring to the university's placement in the 151–200 band of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), the Chief Minister described it as an encouraging achievement.

However, he stressed the need for sustained investment in common infrastructure, digital connectivity, modern laboratories and hostel facilities, particularly for students from far-flung areas such as Poonch, Rajouri, Doda and Kishtwar.

He also called for timely academic calendars and examination cycles, asserting that no student should lose an academic year while waiting for examinations or the award of a degree.

"My government is committed to providing our universities with the necessary institutional support, academic autonomy, faculty strength and infrastructure to enable them to become genuine centres of knowledge, innovation and regional problem-solving," he said.

Congratulating the graduating students and gold medallists, Omar described them as pioneers whose achievements would lay the foundation for future generations. He also acknowledged the contributions and sacrifices of parents, families and teachers in shaping their academic journeys.

Emphasising character and social responsibility, the Chief Minister urged graduates to remain lifelong learners, respect the dignity of labour, uphold integrity, stay connected with their communities and prioritise their mental and physical well-being.

He also asked them to carry Jammu and Kashmir's pluralistic cultural ethos and heritage wherever their professional journeys took them and contribute their skills, experience and ideas towards the development of their home region.

The Chief Minister expressed confidence that the university's first graduating batches would make meaningful contributions to society and help shape the future of Jammu and Kashmir.

Governor of Tamil Nadu Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar attended the convocation as the Chief Guest, while Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also Chancellor of the university, presided over the occasion.

Minister for Higher Education Shamim Firdous, Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma, MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta and Vice-Chancellor of Cluster University of Jammu Professor K S Chandrasekhar were also present.

Later, the Chief Minister, along with other dignitaries, presented medals and certificates to the graduating students.

Week-Long Dry

forecast, generally dry conditions are expected across Jammu and Kashmir from November 15 to 21, although cloudy weather is likely on November 20 and 21. Dry conditions are also forecast from November 22 to 25.

Meanwhile, Gulmarg recorded the lowest minimum temperature in Kashmir at minus 1.6 degrees Celsius, while Shopian was the coldest among the plains at 0.9 degrees Celsius.

According to temperature details accessed by the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 7.4 degrees Celsius, which was 6.1 degrees above the seasonal normal. Qazigund also recorded 7.4 degrees Celsius, 6.3 degrees above normal.

Pahalgam recorded a minimum temperature of 2.8 degrees Celsius, 4 degrees above normal, while Kupwara settled at 4.7 degrees, 4.4 degrees above normal. Kokernag recorded 6.3 degrees Celsius against the normal of 2.2 degrees, while Gulmarg settled at minus 1.6 degrees, one degree below normal.

Sonamarg recorded a minimum temperature of 2 degrees Celsius, Kulgam 4.4 degrees, Ganderbal 6.3 degrees, Baramulla 7.3 degrees and Bandipora 8.7 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature of 15.3 degrees Celsius, while Banihal registered 6 degrees, Bhaderwah 3.8 degrees, Batote 7.8 degrees, Katra 13.8 degrees and Kathua 15.6 degrees Celsius.

Several parts of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed rainfall during the past 24 hours, while higher reaches received fresh snowfall.

The Meteorological Centre had forecast generally cloudy weather with a brief spell of light rain in the plains and light snowfall over higher reaches at scattered to many places towards Saturday afternoon and evening.

The weather department has advised farmers to resume agricultural activities from November 15 onwards.

It has also cautioned about the possibility of thunder and gusty winds at isolated places during Saturday afternoon and evening.

CRPF Chief Orders

DG (Operations) Vitul Kumar, Special DG J&K Zone Sandeep Khirwar, IG Operations Kashmir Sector Vineet Brijlal, IG Srinagar Sector Pawan Kumar Sharma, other senior CRPF officers and ground commanders of Valley-based units.

During the conference, the DG instructed senior officers to intensify counter-insurgency operations across the Valley, strengthen the security grid, improve real-time coordination among security forces and maintain heightened operational readiness to neutralise terrorist elements and dismantle their support networks.

The discussions also focused on strategies for sustaining and intensifying counter-insurgency operations across the region.

The CRPF chief also felicitated personnel involved in the twin successful operations, 'Ops Ashdhar' and 'Ops Korag', conducted in Budgam in September 2026, in which two foreign-origin Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists were killed.

Singh appreciated the professionalism and courage displayed by the troops under challenging terrain conditions, describing their operational performance as significant in counter-insurgency efforts in central Kashmir.

He said intelligence-based operations had strengthened the security framework in the region and reaffirmed the force's commitment to maintaining peace and stability.

The review meeting comes amid intensified security operations following Wednesday's attack near Nowpora Akhran in Kulgam, where terrorists fired upon a security checkpoint, injuring three CRPF personnel. One of the injured personnel was airlifted to Srinagar for specialised medical treatment.

Kulgam Attack:

ongoing operation sites in Kulgam today and reviewed the security situation in the aftermath of the Kulgam terror attack, that left three CRPF personnel injured.

During the visit, the DGP interacted with officers deployed on the ground, took stock of the ongoing search operations and issued directions to strengthen the security grid and intensify counter-insurgency operations in the district.

Meanwhile, CRPF Director General Gyanendra Pratap Singh chaired an operational conference at the Group Centre CRPF in Srinagar to review the prevailing security situation and operational preparedness across Kashmir.

According to a CRPF statement, the conference was attended by senior officers, including SDG (Operations) Vitul Kumar, SDG J&K Zone Sandeep Khirwar, IG Operations Kashmir Sector Vineet Brijlal, IG Srinagar Sector Pawan Kumar Sharma and ground commanders of Valley-based CRPF units.

During the meeting, the DG directed senior officers to intensify counter-insurgency operations across the Valley, strengthen the security grid, improve real-time coordination among security forces and maintain heightened operational readiness to neutralise terrorist elements and dismantle their support networks.

The conference also reviewed strategies for sustained and intensified counter-insurgency operations across the region.

Pertinently, on Wednesday, three CRPF personnel were injured when terrorists opened fire on a security checkpoint near Nowpora Akhran in Kulgam district. One of the injured personnel was airlifted to Srinagar for specialised medical treatment.

Since the attack, security forces have intensified search operations across several villages in the district.

Around 500 suspected overground workers (OGWs) have reportedly been questioned as part of the investigation.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has also joined the investigation and is collecting evidence from the attack site. Security agencies have expanded surveillance and intensified searches to track down the attackers and identify their possible support network.(KNO)

After 22 Yrs,

of security arrangements in the remote Kiyar village.

The killings have reopened old wounds in Kiyar, where at least 10 residents were killed in terrorist attacks between 2000 and 2004. The latest incident has revived memories of the August 2000 massacre, in which eight villagers were gunned down, followed by two more killings in 2004.

SPOs Babi Chand (57) and Rashpal Kumar (45), both residents of Kiyar, were found dead in the Dachhan forest early Thursday, a day after they went missing while travelling towards a security post at Basnand in adjoining Marwah tehsil.

The two were allegedly killed between Deharna and Kiyar villages at an altitude of nearly 8,860 feet. Their service weapons, an INSAS rifle and a .303 rifle, along with magazines and ammunition, were missing and are suspected to have been taken by the attackers.

Empty cartridges of Pakistan-origin armour-piercing ammunition were also recovered from the scene.

For the bereaved families, the killings are not isolated incidents but part of a history of violence that they allege was never properly investigated.

"One (of the victims) was my brother, the other was my nephew. We have lost loved ones, but nobody is listening to us. Two of our people were assigned duty in a far-flung area. We believe something is amiss. Why were they assigned duty outside their jurisdiction when security posts already exist in that area?" Ramesh Kumar, brother of slain SPO Babi Chand, told Hindustan Times.

He demanded a CBI investigation into the latest killings as well as previous attacks, alleging that the security infrastructure in the region had weakened over the years.

Kumar claimed that around 45 security posts had been established in the region following the August 2000 massacre, but only four personnel were presently guarding their hamlet, leaving residents vulnerable.

Pawan Kumar, grandson of Ramesh Kumar, also called for an urgent review of security deployment in Dachhan and adjoining areas.

"Why were our men sent away from here when security posts already exist in Marwah? This is Dachhan, and the security of our villages should have been the priority. We want Lt Governor Manoj Sinha to intervene and order a CBI probe into the killings. A thorough investigation is necessary to establish what happened and why," he said.

The families also expressed dissatisfaction over what they described as negligence by senior police officials following the killings. They alleged that no senior officer had visited them and that the deceased had not been accorded due honour.

They urged the Lieutenant Governor to intervene and ensure restoration of security infrastructure, adequate deployment of personnel, effective intelligence gathering and regular security reviews to prevent further attacks on vulnerable villages.

Kiyar, a predominantly Hindu hamlet located in remote Dachhan tehsil, lies at an average elevation of around 9,460 feet and has poor mobile network connectivity. The region also lacks direct all-weather road connectivity, making access difficult, particularly during adverse weather conditions.

Deharna, where the killings are believed to have taken place, is situated around 14 km from the Marwah tehsil headquarters and 30 to 50 km from Kishtwar town.

Meanwhile, Kishtwar Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma, who camped in the village, attended the last rites of the deceased on Friday evening along with senior BJP leaders, including Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Sunil Sharma and Kishtwar MLA Shagun Parihar.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the bereaved families of all possible assistance. He said cases for compassionate appointment of eligible dependent family members under the Jammu and Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme, along with compensation admissible under applicable rules, would be taken up and processed on the recommendations of police and competent authorities.

He also assured villagers that issues concerning road connectivity, mobile network coverage and other developmental requirements of Kiyar would be assessed by the concerned departments and taken up on priority.

BJP MLA Shagun Parihar also raised concerns over the security situation, claiming that threats had been issued to the deceased. She questioned the pattern of selective killings and called for a thorough investigation into the incident, besides action against those providing support to terrorists.

HC Rejects Govt

(CPC), seeking Rs 57.32 lakh on the ground that the works had been carried out at the behest and under the directions of government officials.

While seeking leave to defend the suit, the government had contended that works worth Rs 37.82 lakh were executed against funds contributed by the Legislative Assembly Secretariat and released in favour of the Estates Department.

It was also submitted that an additional expenditure of Rs 18.35 lakh was incurred in 2019 on verbal directions of the then District Magistrate, Srinagar, for facilitating political leaders, including MLAs, who had been confined at the MLA Hostel following the abrogation of Article 370. The government further acknowledged that the works had been undertaken without following the regular public tendering process.

The trial court, on December 21, 2022, granted the government conditional leave to defend the suit, subject to depositing Rs 37.82 lakh and filing a written statement within 30 days.

The government challenged the conditional order before the High Court, but its petition was dismissed on May 11, 2023.

Meanwhile, it deposited only Rs 19.01 lakh on March 26, 2023. As the remaining Rs 18.81 lakh was not deposited within the stipulated period, the trial court decreed the recovery suit on August 12, 2023, for Rs 57.23 lakh, along with interest and costs.

The balance amount of Rs 18.81 lakh was deposited only on July 25, 2025, nearly two years after the decree had been passed.

Before the High Court, government counsel argued that the entire amount of Rs 37.82 lakh had now been deposited and that the government should be allowed to file its written statement and establish its defence.

Opposing the appeal, counsel for the contractors submitted that the government had failed to fulfil the condition imposed by the trial court within the prescribed period and that the subsequent deposit could not undo the decree already passed.

Accepting the contractors' contention, the High Court observed that the government had indisputably failed to comply with the condition imposed by the trial court within the stipulated period.

"The deposit of the balance amount of Rs. 18,81,000/- on 25.07.2025, much after passing of the impugned judgment and decree dated 12.08.2023, cannot be construed as compliance with the direction retrospectively so as to revive the right to defend the suit," the court observed.

It also noted that the government had failed to place on record any cogent explanation justifying its failure to deposit the remaining amount within the time granted by the trial court.

Finding no perversity or illegality in the impugned judgment and decree, the court dismissed the civil first appeal and upheld the recovery decree in favour of the contractors.

9-Yr-Old Killed

Bandpora, came under the debris. She was immediately shifted to Sub-District Hospital Kupwara, where doctors declared her dead.

Following the incident, the Directorate of School Education Kashmir placed the Head of Institution of UPS Bandpora under suspension with immediate effect pending an inquiry.

As per the suspension order, the Head of Institution will remain attached to the office of the Chief Education Officer, Kupwara, during the period of suspension.

The department has also appointed Hakeem Tanveer Ahmad (JKAS), Joint Director North, as the Inquiry Officer to conduct an in-depth investigation into the circumstances leading to the incident.

The Inquiry Officer has been directed to submit the report within three days.

In a separate communication, DSEK said the exact cause of the boundary wall collapse was yet to be ascertained and required detailed investigation by technical officers.

The incident has raised concerns over the safety of school infrastructure, particularly the condition of boundary walls and other structures within educational institutions.

The tragedy occurred on Children's Day, a day otherwise marked by celebrations and activities in schools, leaving the family and the local community mourning the death of the young student.

From Rangoli to the Skyline: Aashirvaad Puts Festive Creativity in the Spotlight

Srinagar, November 14, 2026: This Diwali, seven rangoli creations are moving beyond the homes where they took shape and onto a larger public canvas, billboards, across India. As part of the second edition of Aashirvaad's 'Ghar Laayein Aashirvaad', the winning creations will be featured across Jammu and Kashmir on billboards for a week, giving the participating creators an opportunity to see their festive creativity celebrated in their own cities.

Building on its successful first edition, Ghar Laayein Aashirvaad – 2 offered families an engaging WhatsApp experience to share their original rangoli creations or generate AI-powered designs and receive personalized festive greetings from popular actress Rupali Ganguly.

The campaign received an enthusiastic response, drawing over 50,000 entries from across the country, as families used this initiative as a platform to showcase their creativity and celebrate the cherished tradition of rangoli in their own unique ways. By taking this celebration beyond homes and select creations making their way onto billboards, Aashirvaad transformed personal expressions of festivity into larger-than-life displays for communities to see and celebrate.

Speaking about the initiative, Mr. Anuj Rustagi, Business Unit Chief Executive – Staples, Foods Division, ITC Ltd, said, "Diwali is India's biggest Festival and decorating the house by doing Rangoli in front of the house is an integral part of the celebrations. Through the second edition of 'Ghar Laayein Aashirvaad', we celebrate this cherished tradition and the creativity of the homemakers by showcasing the seven winning designs onto billboards. The enthusiastic response reflects the joy this tradition inspires.

J&K Tightens Rules For Delayed Birth, Death Registration

Magistrate's order required for entries delayed beyond one year; judicial approval mandatory after two years

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has amended the Registration of Births and Deaths Rules, 2022, introducing a revised procedure for registering births and deaths reported after the prescribed timelines.

According to a notification issued by the Planning, Development and Monitoring Department on November 5, 2026, delayed information relating to births or deaths reported after one year but within two years of their occurrence will now require an order from the District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate or an Executive Magistrate authorised by the District Magistrate.

The notification states that such registration will be permitted only after the concerned authority verifies the correctness of the birth or death and ensures payment of the prescribed fee.

For cases where information is furnished more than two years after the occurrence, registration will require an order from a Judicial Magistrate of the First Class having jurisdiction over the area where the birth or death took place.

The Judicial Magistrate will have to verify the correctness of the information before permitting registration, subject to payment of the prescribed fee.

The amendment provides separate procedures for the two categories of delayed registration, specifying the competent authorities responsible for approving such cases.

The government has also ordered the substitution of Form No. 2 appended to the Jammu and Kashmir Registration of Births and Deaths Rules, 2022, through the latest notification.

The amendment has been issued in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 30 of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, as amended by the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023.

The notification has been issued by the Planning, Development and Monitoring Department from the Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

Traffic Police Blacklists 60,000 Vehicles Having 5 Or More Pending Challans: DIG Haseeb-ur-Rehman

Says smart cameras catching traffic violators, Intelligent traffic lights to be rolled out under ITMS; Transparent auto-rickshaw coverings aimed at strengthening women and child safety

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Deputy Inspector General of Traffic J&K Haseeb-ur-Rehman on Saturday said that J&K Traffic Police have blacklisted nearly 60,000 vehicles having five or more pending traffic challans, while smart cameras are increasingly detecting violations such as red-light jumping, riding without helmets and driving without seat belts.

Talking to reporters here, the DIG as per KNO said the department has implemented the Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS), with intelligent traffic lights set to be introduced as part of a major push to modernise traffic regulation and enforcement across the Union Territory.

He said technology-driven surveillance has significantly increased the detection of violations, with cameras catching offenders even in the absence of traffic personnel at the spot.

"Whether someone jumps a red light, drives without a seat belt or rides without a helmet, the cameras are detecting these violations. This is also creating a deterrent against traffic rule violations," he said.

Rehman said nearly 60,000 vehicles stand blacklisted for having five or more pending challans, adding that the measure is intended to discourage repeated violations and improve compliance with traffic rules.

He said the government is also working on infrastructure development and the introduction of modern traffic-management facilities, which would bring further improvements to the traffic system in J&K.

On the directive to remove black coverings from auto-rickshaws and ensure transparent coverings, the DIG said the measure is aimed at addressing concerns related to drug trafficking, women's safety and child protection.

"Transparency is necessary because there are several issues, including the drug menace, activities of drug peddlers, women's safety and child safety. Keeping these concerns in mind, this measure has been taken," he said.

He, said the department is also open to suggestions from auto-rickshaw operators and other stakeholders regarding the implementation of the directive, including any genuine concerns over the time required or possible improvements. —(KNO)



Autumn unfolds along the Dalgate channel as cyclists and pedestrians soak in Kashmir's golden hues. KO PHOTO/ ABID BHAT

Rotten Meat Trade 'Haraam': Grand Mufti; Mirwaiz Seeks Strict Action



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid repeated seizures of rotten and unfit meat consignments at Budgam Railway Station, Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Dr Moulvi Muhammad Umar Farooq on Saturday called for strict action against those involved, with Grand Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam Farooqi declaring the trade of such meat "Haraam" (prohibited) under Islamic law.

Speaking to KNO, Mirwaiz said those responsible for bringing and trading such meat in Kashmir should face strict punishment. He questioned how such incidents were recurring despite previous action.

"Such lapses are happening repeatedly. The government must take concrete steps, and police should take full action against those involved and book them under relevant laws at the earliest," Mirwaiz said.

Grand Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam termed the trade and consumption of decomposed meat prohibited under Sharia, urging people to refrain from purchasing meat from unverified sources and buy only from licensed shops.

He appreciated the Railway Police and Food Safety Department for detecting and seizing the consignments, while questioning how such meat was being transported to Kashmir and for how long it may have been entering the market.

The Grand Mufti said the issue is not merely about food safety but also involves religious concerns, as consumers must know the source and nature of the meat they purchase.

He said meat whose animal source and slaughter status were unknown could not be considered permissible for consumption under Islamic principles, adding that people should avoid such products altogether.

Expressing concern over the repeated incidents, the Grand Mufti said restrictions should be imposed to prevent such consignments from entering Kashmir. He urged the Food Safety authorities to strengthen inspections and monitoring.

Around 1,600 kilograms of deteriorated meat was seized at Budgam Railway Station on Friday, following which an FIR was registered under Section 271 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Today, another consignment of rotten meat was seized from a parcel train at the same railway station. Both consignments were found unfit for human consumption during inspection by the concerned authorities—(KNO)

Justice Sanjeev Kumar celebrates Children's Day With Children

Observer News Service



SRINAGAR: In a heartfelt gesture reflecting compassion, commitment and institutional concern towards the welfare and well-being of children, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, celebrated Children's Day with the children residing at Paresha (Children Home for Girls) and Palash (Children Home for Boys), at Ishber, Nishat, Srinagar, on Saturday.

The celebration was organised in an atmosphere of warmth, affection, enthusiasm and exuberance, with the objective of making the children feel valued, encouraged and empowered, while reaffirming the collective responsibility of institutions and society towards safeguarding the rights, dignity, safety and overall development of every child. The occasion served as a meaningful platform to strengthen the bond between the institutional authorities and the children and to reiterate the importance of providing them with a safe, nurturing, inclusive and enabling environment.

The Executive Chairman was accompanied by Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority; Naseer Ahmad Dar, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar; Naseer Ahmad, Director, School Education, Kashmir; Jahangir Ahmad Bakhshi, Joint Registrar Protocol, Srinagar, High Court of J&K and Ladakh; Dr. Mukhtiyar Ahmad, District Social Welfare Officer, Srinagar; Wajahat Majeed, Joint Secretary, Cricket Association of Jammu & Kashmir; Showkat Ahmad Mir, Superintendent, Palash; Sitander Kour, Superintendent, Paresha; Feroz Ahmad, Convener Jammu & Kashmir Alternative Care Network; and, along with other officers and officials.

During the visit, the Executive Chairman interacted with the children residing in both homes and engaged with them in a warm, friendly and encouraging atmosphere. He patiently listened to their experiences, aspirations and interests and encouraged them to pursue their education, cultivate positive values, develop their individual talents and remain confident in their abilities. He emphasized that every child deserves equal opportunities, care, affection, protection and a dignified environment in which to grow and realise their full potential.

The Executive Chairman underscored that children constitute the foundation of the nation's future and that their protection, education, health, emotional well-being and holistic development must remain a collective priority. He observed that children residing in institutional care deserve particular attention, sensitivity and sustained support so that they may grow up with confidence, self-respect and a sense of belonging. He further emphasised the importance of ensuring that no child is deprived of opportunities to participate in educational, cultural, recreational and sporting activities.

The celebration witnessed several vibrant cultural and recreational activities, with the children enthusiastically participating and showcasing their talents.

A special highlight of the programme was the traditional Kashmiri Rauf performance presented by the boys and girls of Paresha and Palash, which beautifully reflected the rich cultural heritage and artistic traditions of Kashmir. The performance was appreciated by the Executive Chairman and the accompanying dignitaries.

Adding further cheer and excitement to the celebrations, various recreational activities, including musical chairs and spoon race, were organised for the children. The enthusiastic participation of the boys and girls transformed the occasion into a memorable celebration filled with laughter, joy and youthful energy.

The activities provided the children with an opportunity to express themselves, demonstrate their sporting spirit and experience the happiness of collective participation.

Diabetes Care Must Protect Organs, Improve Quality Of Life: Doctors

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On World Diabetes Day, health experts called for a comprehensive approach towards diabetes management, saying treatment should focus not only on controlling blood sugar levels but also on protecting patients from long-term complications and ensuring a better quality of life.

Dr Shariq Rashid Masoodi, Senior Consultant, Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolic Medicine at DSM Clinics Kashmir said people should not wait for diabetes to manifest through symptoms before taking action, as early screening, timely diagnosis and appropriate treatment can make a significant difference.

He said diabetes care must go beyond blood sugar control and focus on protecting vital organs, including the heart, kidneys, eyes and nerves, while also addressing associated metabolic risks.

Dr Masoodi said people living with diabetes require continuous medical attention and a comprehensive treatment approach to minimise the risk of complications and maintain their overall health. He added that access to quality diabetes care should be ensured for everyone, irrespective of their financial circumstances, disability or geographical location.

"On World Diabetes Day, my message is simple: don't wait for diabetes to announce itself. Take action early. Let us make a commitment to support those living with diabetes, challenge myths and stigma, and turn awareness into meaningful action," he said.

Another endocrinologist, Dr Khursheed Ahmad, said greater attention was needed towards understanding how diabetes affects an individual's everyday life and how people diagnosed with the condition could cope with it while maintaining a healthy and productive life.

He said diabetes should not be considered a barrier to living a normal life, provided patients remain consistent with medical advice and make necessary changes to their daily routines.—(KNO)

Deputy CM Draws 'Thug' Jibe From NC MLA

SRINAGAR: The infighting within the ruling National Conference has once again come out in the open, with party legislator Javid Iqbal Choudhary describing Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary as a "thug."

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), reacting to an Instagram post questioning his absence from a function attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary in Rajouri district, Javid, who represents the Budhal constituency, said that the Deputy Chief Minister did not deserve his presence and went on to call him a "thug." "The Dy CM is a thug and does not deserve my presence at his functions. My self-respect and the interests of my people come first," Javid wrote.

The Deputy Chief Minister's handling of the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department has come under sharp criticism from ruling party legislators on several occasions. During the June 3 meeting at Dachigam, as many as 20 legislators reportedly raised complaints against the Deputy Chief Minister.

In a memorandum submitted to the National Conference leadership, 17 dissident legislators demanded that the Deputy Chief Minister be divested of the R&B portfolio—(KNO)

Kashmir DCs Directed To Set Up District-Level Social Media Cells

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioners (DCs) across Kashmir have been directed to operationalise 'District-level Social Media Cells' to ensure timely dissemination of information and effective public outreach. The move is aimed at strengthening digital governance and improving government-public communication,

The directions were issued on Saturday during a high-level review meeting, where the need for effective public engagement, timely information dissemination and monitoring through the proposed cells was stressed. According to details obtained, the progress of various administrative initiatives, security arrangements at migrant labourer clusters, facilities at migrant transit accommodations and major infrastructure projects were reviewed.

The meeting comes amid a growing need to strengthen the administration's digital communication and response mechanisms.

On October 30, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had also called for setting up district-level social media cells to swiftly counter misinformation while chairing a high-level security review meeting with Deputy Commissioners, SSPs and senior officials in Kashmir Division.—(KNO)

Minister Sakina Itoo Urges Collective Pledge To Protect Every Child

SRINAGAR: On occasion of Children's Day, Minister for Health & Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakina Masood Itoo on Saturday called upon society to take a collective pledge to safeguard the innocence, health, and aspirations of every child.

Taking to microblogging site X, the minister posted "Behind every little smile lies a thousand dreams, and behind every child lies the hope of a better tomorrow. No child should ever have to suffer in silence, lose their innocence to hardship, or be denied the joy of a healthy and happy childhood."

"On Children's Day, let us pledge to protect every smile, nurture every dream and ensure that every child receives the love, nutrition, healthcare and opportunities they deserve," Itoo said.

"A child's smile is the purest measure of a society's happiness, and their well-being is our greatest responsibility" she said.

The minister said, "Let us give every child not just a future, but a beautiful childhood to remember." (Observer News Service)

65-Year-Old Man Dies, Wife Injured in Electric Shock In Doda

DODA: A 65-year-old man died while his wife sustained injuries after the couple suffered an electric shock at their home in Doda district on Saturday, officials said.

An official said that the couple suffered electric shocks while working with an electrical appliance at their home.

He said both were shifted to Government Medical College (GMC) Doda for treatment, where the man succumbed to his injuries, while his wife is undergoing treatment.

The deceased was identified as Satish Kumar (65), while his injured wife was identified as Kanta Devi (60).

Meanwhile, cognisance of the incident has been taken and a probe has been initiated to ascertain the circumstances leading to the incident—(KNO)

Policeman Injured After Service Rifle Accidentally Goes Off

ANANTNAG: A policeman sustained a gunshot injury after his service rifle accidentally went off at Police Post Bijbehara in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday, officials said.

An official said that the policeman was cleaning his service rifle when it accidentally discharged, leaving him injured.

He said the cop sustained a bullet wound to his leg and was immediately shifted to Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag for treatment, where his condition was stated to be stable.

The injured policeman was identified as Mohammad Abbas, a Constable (General Duty). Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident—(KNO)



US Grounds Flights in Biggest Shutdown Since 9/11

AP

WASHINGTON: Airlines across the US worked to recover from the longest nationwide ground stop in 25 years that cancelled thousands of flights Saturday, stranded hundreds of thousands of passengers, spread ripple effects around the world, and forced pro and college sports teams to scramble for alternate transportation.

New technology being added to the nation's air traffic control system overloaded antiquated equipment and caused "intermittent" communications and radar gaps, leading to the flight shutdown of more than four hours, Trump administration officials said.

Airports were slowly returning to normal, Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy said, with planes taking flight and landing. But the effects could be felt for days. Officials say the system will likely return to normal in time to handle the Thanksgiving travel rush.

The nationwide stop was the first since January 2023, when another key Federal Aviation Administration computer system that sends notices to pilots malfunctioned, and the second since September 11, 2001, attacks.

Andrew Charlton, an aviation consultant, said Friday's stoppage affected about a quarter of the 45,000 flights in the US each day.

"The knock-on effect of that is incredible," said Charlton, managing director of Aviation Advocacy. "The aircraft doesn't just fly from A to B and back to B and then stop. It then moves onto C and then over to E and around and around and around. It is, of course, exacerbated if you're talking about long-haul flights, international flights over the Atlantic or over the Pacific."

Thousands of flights delayed and cancelled

At airports, passengers stared at screens showing delays or rushed to find buses or trains to their destinations.

Emily Brown and her 14-year-old daughter waited more than four hours Friday at the Dallas airport for their flight to Columbus, Ohio, before giving up. They were travelling to surprise her daughter's best friend. Instead, she had to settle for phoning the friend through tears in the airport, Brown said.



"She saved up her money to buy her own ticket, and she's planned this whole weekend," Brown said. "Now we're not sure when we're gonna be able to go."

A cheerful Southwest Airlines gate agent greeted passengers at Dallas Love Field at dawn Saturday with, "Good morning, good morning," then repeatedly said all flights were full and asked passengers to have boarding passes ready to expedite the process and help keep flights moving.

Sports teams scheduled to play this weekend adjusted game start times, searched for hotel rooms, rescheduled flights and chartered buses.

Auburn University's football team opted to take a bus to Mississippi State, and the Saturday start time was pushed back from noon ET to 4:15 pm. Other universities affected by the stoppage included Baylor, Washington, Kansas State, Minnesota and No. 19 Ole Miss, which did not plan to fly until Saturday morning for its game against Oklahoma.

FlightAware, a website that tracks flights, said more than 4,100 flights had been cancelled. Cirium, a similar site, put that number above 3,200 flights.

Corbyn Wascher's flight was on the tarmac at the Charlotte, N.C., airport for four hours Friday on his way home to Moline, Illinois, from a conference in Miami. The 37-year-old high school teacher paid USD 100 to take an Uber to a hotel 25 minutes from the airport after he was unable to find a flight until Saturday afternoon to Chicago.

At London's Heathrow Airport, several flights to and from the US were listed as delayed or cancelled Saturday.

"While US flights have resumed, there may be some follow-on disruption as airlines work to rebook affected passengers and get all services back to normal," said Tim Johnson, consumer director at the UK Civil Aviation Authority.

Officials say no one was in danger during ground stop

Secretary of Homeland Security Markwayne Mullin told reporters at the White House that no one was in any danger as more than 3,000 flights in the air at the time of the grounding order landed safely.

Duffy blamed Congress for failing to approve more funding for new technology, while downplaying the fact that trying to implement new fixes overtaxed the system. He suggested more disruptions might occur.

"We didn't think we would have this kind of outage. We did," he said. "We were able to review what went wrong, and then reboot the system and go. But, you will have more of these."

Duffy said the failure involved old equipment and was not linked to the FAA's new AI-powered system, which the agency is rolling out to help predict problems in the sky.

The problem was due to updating a system that can never shut down, Charlton said.

"What you're watching here is trying to change the tires of your car when the car's going at 80 miles an hour down the expressway, because nothing stops in aviation," Charlton said. "It's a 24/7 operation. And to make changes on the fly, if you'll pardon that pun, is incredibly complex and dangerous."

The FAA already replaced thousands of old copper wires with fibre optic lines and upgraded hundreds of radio systems as part of the overhaul that began last year after Congress approved USD 12.5 billion in funding. Duffy and the White House are pushing for USD 30 billion more to complete the work.

Pakistan to Attend SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum in India

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Saturday announced that Climate Change Minister Musadik Malik would participate in the SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum hosted by India at the historic Purana Qila in Delhi later this month.



The development comes a day after Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that he was "hopeful" that Pakistan will also attend the event to be held here from November 20-22.

During an interaction with the press in New Delhi ahead of the event, the Union minister on Friday had announced that China, Kazakhstan, Iran, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are among 15 countries that have confirmed participation in the SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum.

India had announced on October 28 that invitations had been extended to all SCO members in keeping with established practice.

According to a statement by the Pakistan Foreign Office, the event would bring representatives from SCO member states to discuss issues related to civilisational dialogue and cultural understanding.

"The government of Pakistan remains committed to promoting dialogue among civilisations and fostering people-to-people contacts within the SCO framework in a spirit of mutual respect," the statement said.

Musadik Malik is a key minister who frequently appears on talk shows to present the official version of the government.

His participation in the event hosted by India indicates that Pakistan wants to ease tensions with India to pave the way for its leadership to participate in the SCO summit being held in Islamabad next year.

Ties between the two countries have been strained following the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror attack, which killed 26 people, and India's subsequent launch of Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

The military confrontation lasted four days and ended on May 10 following an understanding between the military officials of the two countries.

India has consistently raised the issue of cross-border terrorism at the SCO, maintaining that the grouping must adopt a united approach against terrorism and its financing, without double standards.

Hannan's Late Strike Helps FC Bengaluru Hold Real Kashmir

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: FC Bengaluru United produced a late fightback to hold Real Kashmir FC to a thrilling 2-2 draw in their Indian Football League (IFL) match here Saturday.

Khullakpam Zahir Khan opened the scoring for the Snow Leopards in the 11th minute before Colombian midfielder Maikol Andres Herrera equalised for the hosts in the 21st minute at the Bangalore Football Stadium.

Defender Shanid Valan, who was adjudged the Man of the Match, restored Real Kashmir's lead with an audacious strike in the 29th minute, only for Under-22 centre-back Abdul Hannan to head home a dramatic 90th-minute equaliser.

With this result, FC Bengaluru United moved to four



points from three matches, while Real Kashmir registered their second consecutive draw to sit on two points from three outings

Both sides took a little time to settle into their stride, but it was Ishfaq Ahmed's Real Kashmir who drew first blood.

Overloading the flanks in numbers to stretch the Bengaluru backline, the visitors delivered an inviting cross into the box where youngster Khullakpam rose well to direct a clinical header past Bengaluru goalkeeper Manjunath Hirekurbar.

A moment of sheer brilliance brought Bengaluru level in the 21st minute when Colombian playmaker Casseres unleashed a stunning right-footed curling strike from distance that sailed over Real Kashmir custodian Susnata Malik and into the back of the net.

The equaliser sparked an open, end-to-end phase of play as both teams looked to penetrate the opposition defence whenever they gained possession, testing both goalkeepers on multiple occasions.

Real Kashmir reclaimed the lead in the 29th minute through another moment of magic, as defender Shanid Valan met a cross inside the box and produced a stunning left-footed back-heel volley to put the Snow Leopards 2-1 ahead.

However, out of the blue and completely against the run of play, FC Bengaluru United broke through in the 90th minute.

Earning a set-piece in a promising position, Lalramdinsanga 'Ramdina' Ralte whipped in an inviting free-kick and defender Abdul Hannan rose highest above three Real Kashmir defenders around him to power a precise header past a helpless Susnata Malik.

