29th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Thursday 19 November 2026 | Srinagar | Vol: 29 | Issue: 283 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmirobserver.net ● twitter.com / kashmirobserver ● facebook.com/kashmirobserver ● Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016

KO Classifieds

PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

You can do it all here

• PUBLIC NOTICES • NAME CHANGE • SALE/ PURCHASE • BIRTHDAY WISHES • OBITUARIES

Only Handful Of Foreign Terrorists Left In J&K: LG

Urges Young Police Officers to Strengthen Public Trust

Says Today's Security Threats May Come Through Mobile Screens, Not Just Guns



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said that only a handful of foreign terrorists remained in Jammu and Kashmir and expressed confidence that the Union Territory would soon be free of terrorism.

Addressing the passing-out parade of probationary Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs), Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Directors of the Forest Protection Force at the Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy (SKPA) in Udhampur, Sinha urged the newly inducted officers to uphold professionalism, integrity and compassion while strengthening public trust.

Paying tribute to Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel Rashpal Kumar and Babi Chand, who laid down their lives in the line of duty, the Lieutenant Governor said their courage, dedication and supreme sacrifice would remain a source of inspiration for generations.

"The home of a martyr is the greatest temple and pilgrimage site for me," he said, assuring the families of the deceased personnel that the entire nation stood firmly with them.

Sinha said no compensation could make up for the loss of an invaluable life, but the government had a responsibility to ensure that the families of the fallen personnel lived with dignity and received all necessary assistance.

He said efforts would be made to secure the future of their children and coming generations.

Congratulating the 74 officers who successfully completed their training, the Lieutenant Governor described their induction as a proud moment for their families and the Union Territory.

He said policing and environmental protection were noble responsibilities that demanded sacrifice, commitment and a deep sense of duty.

Recalling the contribution of Jammu and Kashmir Police in combating terrorism, maintaining public order and safeguarding citizens through decades of challenging circumstances, Sinha urged the young officers to wear their uniforms with pride and remain conscious of the sacrifices made by those who came before them.

The Lieutenant Governor said terrorism remained a major challenge to peace and development in Jammu and Kashmir, but expressed confidence that sustained

THE HOME OF A MARTYR is the greatest temple and pilgrimage site for me,"

Kulgam Encounter: LeT Commander Lateef Bhat Killed After Year-Long Hunt

» Security agencies identify him as Kashmir's last known active local terrorist

» 'Carried Rs 15 lakh reward, wanted in seven UAPA cases'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Security forces on Wednesday killed wanted Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander Mohammad Lateef Bhat in an encounter in Zangalpora village of Devsar area in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, bringing an end to a prolonged operation during which security personnel made repeated attempts to persuade him to surrender.

Bhat, identified by security agencies as the last known active local terrorist in Kashmir, was killed after refusing appeals by senior Army and police officers to lay down his arms. He was wanted in seven cases registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and carried a reward of Rs 15 lakh on his head.

According to officials, 25 girls and two teachers were safely evacuated from a Darul Uloom (seminary) adjoining the mosque where Bhat was hiding before security forces concluded the operation.



Acting on specific intelligence inputs developed by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, a joint team of the Army's 9 Rashtriya Rifles and the Special Operations Group (SOG) launched a cordon-and-search operation in Zangalpora early Wednesday.

The operation was launched around nine kilometres from the site of Monday's encounter in the Laru bypass area, where Bhat's associate Umar Nisar Dar was killed.

Officials said the security forces | More on P6

Op Marked By High-Level Synergy: Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday lauded the security forces for killing Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander Mohammad Lateef Bhat in Kulgam, describing him as the outfit's last known active local terrorist in Kashmir.
In a post on X, Shah said the operation reflected a high degree of coordination among the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Indian Army, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and intelligence agencies.
"With the coordinated efforts of JKP, Indian Army, CRPF and intelligence agencies, Lashkar's | More on P6

Local Terrorist Recruitment Down to Almost Zero: DGP

Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Wednesday said local terrorist recruitment in Jammu and Kashmir had been reduced to "almost zero" over the past two years, with only

Kulgam's 5-year Counter-terror Timeline

The killing of Lateef Bhat comes amid a series of counter-terror operations in Kulgam over the past five years. According to details, the district witnessed at least 18 encounters in 2022 alone, | More on P6

New CS Yadav Assumes Charge

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Senior IAS officer Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav on Wednesday assumed charge as the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir at the Civil Secretariat here, following his transfer and appointment by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

A 1995-batch AGMUT cadre officer, Yadav succeeds Atal Dulloo, who retired on October 31. Senior IAS officer Shailendra Kumar had been holding the additional charge of the post pending Yadav's joining.

The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu and Kashmir, in a post on X, said Yadav assumed charge as Chief Secretary, bringing with him over three decades of administrative experience across public administration, financial management, health, nutrition and development policy.

Prior to his appointment on October 24, Yadav was serving as Additional Chief Secretary in the Delhi government.

During his administrative career, he has held several important positions in the Government of India and various Union Territories, with experience spanning governance, financial management and public service delivery.

At the Centre, Yadav served as Special Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Joint Secretary in the Department of Expenditure. He also served as Joint Secretary | More on P6

Jhelum Water Levels May Dip Amid Prolonged Dry Spell

Forecaster warns of dry conditions till December 5, urges authorities to prepare for possible water shortages

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness an extended spell of dry weather over the next 10 to 15 days, raising concerns over declining water levels in the Jhelum and its tributaries, independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif said on Wednesday.

Arif said current weather indications suggest that largely dry conditions may prevail across the Union Territory until December 5, potentially



leading to a gradual decline in water levels in rivers, streams and other natural water bodies. He said the Jhelum and several of its tributaries were likely to witness | More on P6

Shopian Records Season's Lowest At -3.6°C

Cold conditions intensified across Kashmir as night temperatures remained below the freezing point at several places, with Shopian recording the lowest minimum temperature in the Valley at minus 3.6 degrees Celsius. According to temperature data, Pahalgam | More on P6

Cm Omar To Centre On Statehood

'Don't Keep Us In Dark, Don't Humiliate Us'

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday challenged the BJP-led Union Government to clarify whether it was deliberately delaying the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir until the BJP gets its own Chief Minister in the Union Territory, saying people should not be kept under any illusion.

Addressing a public rally in Mendhar township of Poonch district, Abdullah said the repeated assurance that statehood would be restored at an "appropriate time" had lost its meaning, with more than two years having passed since his government assumed office.

"If it is your wish not to restore statehood until the BJP has its own chief minister in Jammu and Kashmir, then say it openly. Tell the people clearly so that they are not kept under any illusion, and we are not humiliated repeatedly," he said.

The Chief Minister questioned the Centre's continued delay despite assurances that statehood would be restored after delimitation and the Assembly elections.

"Even after waiting for two years and one month, we have been compelled to ask: Where has our state gone? Why is the restoration of statehood being delayed?" he asked.

Questioning the Centre's use of the phrase "appropriate time", Abdullah said there was no clarity on the criteria being applied to determine when statehood would be restored.

"What is the yardstick you have to measure this? What kind of scale will you use to decide that the | More on P6

PG Doctors Threaten OPD Shutdown From Nov 23

Stipend parity demand widens agitation across J&K; resident doctors to wear black bands from Nov 19

Agencies



Srinagar:The agitation by postgraduate (PG) resident doctors over the demand for enhancement of stipends and parity with their counterparts in other states and Union Territories has spread across Jammu and Kashmir, with Resident Doctors' Associations (RDAs) of several Government Medical Colleges and doctors from district hospitals extending support to the ongoing protest that is starting on Thursday.

The announcement has initially gained momentum at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu and has now received support from resident doctors at GMC Anantnag, besides several district-level healthcare institutions, signalling a wider mobilisation over what the protesting doctors describe as long-pending financial and service-related concerns.

In a significant development, the Resident Doctors' Association of GMC Anantnag has decided to join the collective agitation in solidarity with the protesting doctors of GMC Jammu and other medical institutions across the Union Territory.

Dr Sajad Nisar, President of RDA GMC Anantnag, said the association has announced a phased programme of protest to press for the fulfilment of their demands.

As part of the initial phase, resident doctors | More on P6

NIA Court Rejects Bail Plea In Narco-Terror Case

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Srinagar, Nov 18: A National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in Srinagar has rejected the bail application of an accused in a narco-terror case registered by the State Investigation Agency (SIA) Kashmir, officials said on Wednesday.

The court on Tuesday rejected the bail plea of Basharat Ali Poswal, a resident of Tad village in Karnah area of Kupwara district, presently residing in Bemina, Srinagar.

According to officials, Poswal is facing prosecution in FIR No. 19/2022 registered at Police Station CI-SIA Kashmir under Sections 8-A, 27-B and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, Sections 13, 18, 39 and 40 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), and Sections 120-B, 121, 121-A and 201 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The officials said the case involves allegations of drug trafficking, unlawful activities and conspiracy against the state.

They said the court had sought objections from the prosecution after the bail application was filed. The SIA Kashmir subsequently submitted detailed objections, opposing the grant of bail in view of the nature and gravity of the allegations and the statutory restrictions under the UAPA and NDPS Act.

"The matter was argued over several hearings. | More on P6

HC Acquits Three In 2006 Forest Assault Case

Non-Examination Of Injured Witness, IO Dent Prosecution Case

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has set aside the conviction of three persons in a 2006 forest assault and illegal tree-felling case, holding that material contradictions, improvements in the prosecution version and non-examination of key witnesses had created reasonable doubt about their guilt.

Allowing an appeal filed by Mohammad Latief Khan and two others, a bench of Justice Shahzad Azeem quashed the judgment of conviction dated 15 November 2017, and the order of sentence dated 22 November 2017, passed by the Additional Sessions Judge, Sopore.

The appellants were accordingly acquitted of the charges under Section 325 of the



Ranbir Penal Code (RPC) and Section 6 of the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Act, 1987, and relieved of their bail bonds.

The case stemmed from an incident dated June 20, 2006, when a Forest Guard and his helper, while patrolling compartment No. 21 in Rafiabad, allegedly caught some persons cutting down a kail tree. According to the prosecution, the accused assaulted the forest officials when they objected, leaving the Forest Guard with grievous injuries and his helper with simple injuries.

The trial court had convicted the first appellant under Section 325 RPC and Section 6 of the Forest Act, while the other two appellants were convicted under Section 6 of the Act. The conviction was primarily based on the testimony of the injured Forest Guard, supported by medical evidence.

However, the Court found significant deficiencies in the prosecution case, particularly the failure to examine the other injured person, who was a natural and material witness to the occurrence, and the Investigating Officer, whose testimony could have clarified several | More on P6

IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE AT PATTAN

In the case of

Coram: Mr. Anjeet Singh

Nazir Ahmad Najar
S/o Abdul Aziz Najar
R/o Wanigam Bala, Tehsil Pattan.

Applicant

V/s

BDO Pattan (Registrar of Births and Deaths)

In the matter of: APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF BIRTH AND ISSUANCE OF BIRTH CERTIFICATE IN RESPECT OF USMAN NAZIR NAJAR S/O NAZIR AHMAD NAJAR R/O WANIGAM BALA, PATTAN, DISTRICT BARAMULLA.

PUBLICATION NOTICE

Through the medium of this publication, the public at large is hereby informed that the applicant have instituted the above captioned petition in which the next date of hearing is fixed on 18-11-2026.If anybody have any objection or want to become a party in the petition/case as applicant/non-aplicant, he/she may approach this court on or before the next date of hearing, failing which the petition/case shall be heard and appropriate orders warranted under law shall be passed.
Let a copy of this publication notice be published in any daily local newspaper of Kashmir. Put up on 18-11-2026.

Announced 13.11.2026

Sd/-Sub Judge Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

In the bank records bearing Account **No. 0204040100018824**, my name has been wrongly mentioned as Mrs. Mugli Begum, whereas my correct name is Muglee, as mentioned in my Aadhaar Card.Any person having any objection regarding the correction of my name may contact the Branch Head, J&K Bank, B/U Soura, Srinagar, within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.

Muglee
R/o Soura,Sheikh Mohalla,Sgr

Media Line Ads

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that the electricity connection bearing **Consumer ID: 0202050002970 and Installation No.: 80242-R1-SM,** presently registered in the name of **Mrs. Jameela Ara, resident of Parraypora, Srinagar, is proposed to be transferred in the name of Mrs. Fauzia Zubair Wani, W/o Zubair Ahmad Wani, resident of Main Airport Road, Chinar Colony, Bagat, Barzulla, Srinagar**.Any person having any objection regarding the proposed transfer of the said electricity connection may submit their objection to the Sub-Division Office, Rajbagh, within the stipulated period.In case no objection is received within the prescribed period, the necessary transfer formalities may be carried out as per rules.

Media Line Ads

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sajad Ahmad Baba, F/o Kamran Nissa, R/o Kargam Palachiti, Tehsil and District Budgam, J&K UT, do hereby inform the general public that the name of my child has been wrongly recorded as QAMAR UL NISA in the Birth Certificate issued by the Registrar Birth & Death, Police Station Budgam, bearing Registration No. 1427, dated 21/12/2016, instead of the correct name KAMRAN NISSA. Furthermore, my name has also been wrongly recorded as SAJAD AHMAD instead of SAJAD AHMAD BABA in the said Birth Certificate. The date of birth of my child is 22/10/2016, and the place of birth is Kargam Palachiti. Now, I have applied for correction of the same in the birth records. Any person having objections, if any, may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.
Sajad Ahmad Baba
F/o Kamran Nissa
R/o Kargam Palachiti, Tehsil & District Budgam. fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Diploma Certificate of Ayurvedic Compounder Course Issued by Vinayaka Mission University Salem Tamilnadu Bearing regd no; 506011090031 , Certificate no: 000095651 . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Nasir Ali Wani
S/o Mohammad Qazim Wani mcb
R/o Budgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Diploma Certificate of Ayurvedic Compounder Course Issued by Vinayaka Mission University Salem Tamilnadu Bearing regd no; 506011090032, Certificate no 000095652 . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Ayoub Hassan Bhat
S/o Mohmad Qasim Bhat mcb
R/o Budgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ahad Lone, S/o Jabar Lone, R/o Chonto Pahteri, Baba Reshi, Hanjibal, Tangmarg, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Abdul Ahad Lone in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8777-9945-9586, instead of my correct name Ahad Lone. Now, I have applied for correction of the same and publication of a Gazette Notification in Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person having objections, if any, may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.
Ahad Lone S/o Jabar Lone
R/o Chonto Pahteri, Baba Reshi, Hanjibal, Tangmarg, District Baramulla.
fko

IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE AT PATTAN

Coram: Mr. Anjeet Singh

In the case of :-
Tariq Ahmad Khan
S/o Mohd Abdullah Khan
R/o Buran, Tehsil Pattan. Applicant

V/s
BDO Pattan (Registrar of Births and Deaths).

In the matter of: APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF BIRTH AND ISSUANCE OF BIRTH CERTIFICATE IN RESPECT OF TARIQ AHMAD KHAN S/O MOHD ABDULLAH KHAN R/O BURAN, PATTAN, DISTRICT BARAMULLA.

PUBLICATION NOTICE

Through the medium of this publication, the public at large is hereby informed that the applicant have instituted the above captioned petition in which the next date of hearing is fixed on 19-11-2026.If anybody have any objection or want to become a party in the petition/case as applicant/non-aplicant, he/she may approach this court on or before the next date of hearing, failing which the petition/case shall be heard and appropriate orders warranted under law shall be passed.
Let a copy of this publication notice be published in any daily local newspaper of Kashmir. Put up on 19-11-2026.

Announced
13.11.2026 Sd/-
fko Sub Judge Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my daughter the name is entered as ANAYA KHAZIR WAR while his actual name is FATIMA KHAZIR WAR. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact DISTRICT HOSPITAL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
KHAZIR MOHD WAR F/o FATIMA KHAZIR WAR
R/o JOGTIYAAL HAYIHAMA KUPWARA
CELL 959631619 14 mcb

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE



This is published for the information of the general public that i have passed/appeared in SSE **(Class 10th) under Roll No. 139010008**, Session/Year: AR–2025 (March) through **The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education**.The **error** has been committed by the Parents / Institution in recording my **Mother's Name and Father's Name as SHAISTA and SHEIKH NIYAZ AHMAD**, instead of the **correct names SHAISTA ASHRAF and NEYAZ AHMAD SHEIKH,**respectively.
Now I have applied for correction at The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard, they may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates Kashmir Division **within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.** After the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.The correct particulars are mentioned as under:
Name: FAIZAH NIYAZ, Father's Name: NEYAZ AHMAD SHEIKH
Mother's Name: SHAISTA ASHRAF
Date of Birth: 19/08/2007
Residence: CENTRAL AVENUE, ILLAHI BAGH, BUCHPORA, SRINAGAR
Mobile No.: 7006095734

Media Line Ads

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sabiya Noor, D/o Noor Mohammad Bhat, R/o Habak Crossing, Syed Colony, Near Kashmir University North Campus, Srinagar, J&K – 190006, hereby inform the general public that I have changed my name from Sabiya Noor to Sabiya Yousuf. Henceforth, I shall be known as Sabiya Yousuf for all purposes and in all official records. Any person having objections, if any, may submit the same within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.
Sabiya Yousuf D/o Noor Mohammad Bhat
R/o Habak Crossing, Syed Colony, Near Kashmir University North Campus, Srinagar, J&K – 190006.
Mobile No: 8491068409

fas

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as AASHEYA JAAN While as my actual name is AIESHA BANO C/O BASHIR AHMAD LONE R/O KANIPORA KALAROOCH KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193223 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.
C/O :- BASHIR AHMAD LONE
R/O :- KANIPORA KALAROOCH , KUPWARA fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Son's name has been wrongly written as HUBAAN ASHRAF on his Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No .2401 7482 0022 while his correct name is HIBAAN HUSSAIN PARAY S/O MOHD ASHRAF PARAY which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publicationofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name...MOHD ASHRAF PARAY
F/O ..HIBAAN HUSSAIN PARAY
R/O..SALOOSA WAGOORA BARAMULLA fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Zia Ud Din Shah, S/o Ghulam Ud Din Shah, R/o Kachipora, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Syed Ziya Ud Din in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8526-8538-2359, instead of my correct name Zia Ud Din Shah. Now, I have applied for correction of the same and publication of a Gazette Notification in Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person having objections, if any, may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.
Zia Ud Din Shah
S/o Ghulam Ud Din Shah
R/o Kachipora, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla. fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohd Gani, S/o Habib Gani, R/o Druroo, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Ghulam Mohammad Ganie in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 4350-0980-0628, instead of my correct name Mohd Gani. Now, I have applied for correction of the same and publication of a Gazette Notification in Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person having objections, if any, may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.
Mohd Gani
S/o Habib Gani
R/o Druroo, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla. fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohd Assadullah Malik, S/o Rahman Malik, R/o Ferozpora, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Mohammad Asadullah Malik in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 2218-1631-0313, instead of my correct name Mohd Assadullah Malik. Now, I have applied for correction of the same and publication of a Gazette Notification in Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person having objections, if any, may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.

Mohd Assadullah Malik
S/o Rahman Malik fko
R/o Ferozpora, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ghulam Mohi Du Din Bhat, S/o Abdul Gani Bhat, R/o Merchipora, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Bhat in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8766-2053-1138, instead of my correct name Ghulam Mohi Du Din Bhat. Now, I have applied for correction of the same and publication of a Gazette Notification in Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person having objections, if any, may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.
Ghulam Mohi Du Din Bhat
S/o Abdul Gani Bhat fko
R/o Merchipora, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Rubina Aalia, W/o Iftikhar Bashir, R/o Kanispora Madina Colony, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Rubeena Aaliya in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 4625-1704-9886, instead of my correct name Rubina Aalia. Now, I have applied for correction of the same and publication of a Gazette Notification in Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person having objections, if any, may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.
Rubina Aalia
W/o Iftikhar Bashir fko
R/o Kanispora Madina Colony, District Baramulla.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohsin Khazir, S/o Khazir Mohammad Lone, R/o Chhuru, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Mosin Ahmad Lone in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 7894-7602-1150, instead of my correct name Mohsin Khazir. Now, I have applied for correction of the same and publication of a Gazette Notification in Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person having objections, if any, may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.
Mohsin Khazir
S/o Khazir Mohammad Lone
R/o Chhuru, District Baramulla. fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of Death certificate of my mother Fazi Begum W/o Mohammad Jaffar Rather who passed away on 09-07-2008. If anybody has any objection in this regared he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
GHULAM AHMAD RATHER
S/O MOHAMMAD JAFFAR RATHER BMG
R/O HARDU WAMINA TEHSIL NARBAL DISTRICT BUDGAM

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of Death certificate of my mother Zeba W/O Mohammad Jaffar Rather who passed away on 15-03-1975. If anybody has any objection in this regared he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Altaf Hussain Rather
S/o Mohammad Jaffar Rather BMG
R/o Hardu Wamina Tehsil Narbal District Budgam

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-



Roll No: 2417232
Class 10th
Year & Session Annual Regular 2016
Registration: N15340400110
Name : Mohammad Suhail Sheikh
Father's Name: Abdul Aziz Sheikh
Mother's Name : Raja Bano
Date of Birth:- 01-10-2002
Residenc:- Russu

According the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.
(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: be treated as "CANCELLED")
No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)B/KD/
Dated **Assistant Secretary**
BMG **Certificates, KD.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Bakhti, D/o Ghulam Rasool Sofi, R/o Solinda, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Bakhti Begum in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 7915-3731-4174, instead of my correct name Bakhti. Now, I have applied for correction of the same and publication of a Gazette Notification in Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person having objections, if any, may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.
Bakhti
D/o Ghulam Rasool Sofi
R/o Solinda, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla. fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Zia Ud Din Shah, S/o Ghulam Ud Din Shah, R/o Kachipora, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Syed Ziya Ud Din in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8526-8538-2359, instead of my correct name Zia Ud Din Shah. Now, I have applied for correction of the same and publication of a Gazette Notification in Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person having objections, if any, may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.
Zia Ud Din Shah
S/o Ghulam Ud Din Shah
R/o Kachipora, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla. fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ali Shiekh, S/o Ghulam Mohi U Din Sheikh, R/o Qazi Pora, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Ali Mohammad Sheikh in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 9332-1568-0874, instead of my correct name Ali Shiekh. Now, I have applied for correction of the same and publication of a Gazette Notification in Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person having objections, if any, may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.
Ali Shiekh
S/o Ghulam Mohi U Din Sheikh
R/o Qazi Pora, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla. fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Farooq Ahmad Chalkoo, F/o AIZAL, R/o Noor Bagh Khanpora, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby inform the general public that my daughter's name has been wrongly recorded as Aleezah Farooq in her Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6985-7132-2019, instead of her correct name AIZAL. Now, I have applied for correction of the same and publication of a Gazette Notification in Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person having objections, if any, may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.
Farooq Ahmad Chalkoo
F/o AIZAL
R/o Noor Bagh Khanpora, District Baramulla. fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Zahoor Ul Ahad Dar, F/o Muhammad Zaid Dar, R/o Palpora, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby inform the general public that my son's name has been wrongly recorded as Zaid Zahoor Dar in his Aadhaar Card bearing No. 4050-2282-3714, instead of his correct name Muhammad Zaid Dar. Now, I have applied for correction of the same and publication of a Gazette Notification in Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person having objections, if any, may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.
Zahoor Ul Ahad Dar
F/o Muhammad Zaid Dar
R/o Palpora, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla. fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Yasmeena Ashraf, W/o Manzoor Ahmad Kallu, R/o Palhallan, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, J&K UT, do hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Yasmeena Bano in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6118-8014-0488, instead of my correct name Yasmeena Ashraf. Now, I have applied for correction of the same and publication of a Gazette Notification in Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu. Any person having objections, if any, may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.
Yasmeena Ashraf
W/o Manzoor Ahmad Kallu
R/o Palhallan, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla. fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

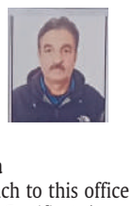
This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as JOINED IN NISA While as my actual name is KOUSARUL NISA C/O ASHIQ HUSSAIN SHAH R/O SHARTMUQAM LOLAB KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193223 Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.
KOUSARUL NISA
C/O :- ASHIQ HUSSAIN SHAH
R/O :- SHARTMUQAM LOLAB , KUPWARA qns

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-



Roll No: 3237
Class 10th
Year & Session : 1983 (November)
Registration:
Name : Gayas Ud Din Wani
Father's Name: Mohd Sadiq Wani
Mother's Name : Saja Begum
Date of Birth:- 15-03-1968
Residenc:- Sultanpora Pattan Distt Baramulla

According the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.
(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: be treated as "CANCELLED")
No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)B/KD/
Dated **Assistant Secretary**
BMG **Certificates, KD.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name on my jk bank account details from Rafiqa to Rafiqa Banoo in future I will be knonw as Rafiqa Banoo. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the Jk Bank Dalgate within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Rafiqa Banoo
W/o Ghulam Qadir Khan fko
R/o Khan Mohalla Nehru Parak Dalgate

FDA Cracks Down on Food Safety Violations, Seals Two Establishments in Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) on Wednesday sealed the establishment's storage area over alleged violations of prescribed hygiene and storage standards.

The FDA also sealed a momo preparation and sale unit at Nigeen, Srinagar and recommended 13 cases for proceedings under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

The storage area of M/s Hattrick, Rajbagh, was sealed for failure to maintain prescribed storage conditions and requisite sanitary and hygienic standards.

The action comes a day after CCIK president Tariq Ghani, while addressing a press conference at Hattrick, demanded that those involved in the rotten meat case be identified and action taken against them within seven days, warning that restaurants and cafes would otherwise face a shutdown.

The FDA said inspections were conducted across the districts as part of its continuing enforcement drive to ensure compliance with food safety regulations.

It further said that 09 food samples were lifted for analysis



to ascertain their compliance with prescribed food safety and quality standards.

Besides the two establishments sealed in Srinagar, 13 cases were recommended for initiation of proceedings under Section 56 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, for violations relating to prescribed sanitary and hygienic requirements. The provision carries a penalty of up to Rs 1 lakh.

The FDA urged consumers to remain vigilant and report instances of the sale or distribution of unsafe or adulterated food through its official email.

Rotten Meat Trade:
7–8 FIRs Registered, Several Arrested In Srinagar: SSP

Agencies

Srinagar: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar Dr G V Sandeep Chakravarthy on Wednesday said that Police have registered seven to eight FIRs and arrested several people over the illegal trade of rotten meat in the past year.

Addressing a joint public outreach programme organised by the civil and police administration at Radpora in Khanyar, the SSP Srinagar as per KNO, said police have received fresh inputs about the illegal trade and were working to prevent its recurrence.

He said police had registered seven to eight FIRs and arrested several people during the past year, adding that those involved would face trial and the cases would be taken to their logical conclusion.

"Some criminal elements have started again. We have received the inputs. Definitely, we are working on it. We will follow them and prevent this crime," he said, warning of strict legal action against those involved.

Chakravarthy said the objective of the public outreach programme is to understand people's grievances, identify unresolved issues and find solutions through better coordination between the civil administration and police.

He said residents had appreciated police efforts against drugs and crime, while some issues remained unresolved. The administration had taken note of the grievances raised during the interaction and would make efforts to address them, he assured.

Calling for collective efforts, the SSP said the police, civil administration, media fraternity and residents needed to work together to resolve public issues and improve policing.

On civic issues in Downtown Srinagar, he said traffic congestion, illegal parking and encroachments would be addressed in coordination with the civil administration.

He said shopkeepers and residents would be consulted to identify suitable parking arrangements and address encroachments, particularly around schools and markets.

NIT Srinagar Hosts UT-Level Judging for Design for Bharat 2027

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, designated as the State Nodal Institution for Jammu and Kashmir, organised the Union Territory-level judging for Design for Bharat 2027, a national youth innovation challenge being conducted under the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) 2027.

The initiative, spearheaded by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports through the Department of Youth Affairs, aims to provide young innovators and designers with a national platform to develop practical, technology-driven solutions aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The state-level event was held on November 17 at NIT Srinagar, where shortlisted teams presented their innovative concepts and product design solutions before a jury comprising experts from industry, entrepreneurship and academia.

Addressing the gathering, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Anurag Misra, said that young people must be encouraged to translate their creativity and innovative ideas into practical solutions addressing the challenges faced by society.

"India's journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047 will be shaped significantly by the creativity, technological capabilities and entrepreneurial spirit of its youth. Platforms like Design for Bharat provide an important opportunity for young minds to move beyond conventional thinking and develop solutions that have a tangible impact on people's lives," he said.

Prof. Misra said that NIT Srinagar remains committed to promoting innovation, research and entrepreneurship among the younger generation.

Prof. Roohie Naaz, Dean Research and Consultancy, NIT Srinagar, also addressed the gathering and emphasised the importance of strengthening research, innovation and industry-academia collaboration.

She highlighted the role of academic institutions in providing young innovators with the right platform, guidance and opportunities to transform their ideas into impactful solutions.

Er. Syed Parvez Qalander, Industrial Consultant and jury member, stressed the importance of developing practical, cost-effective and scalable innovations, saying that young innovators must focus on solutions addressing real-world challenges.

Dr. Saad Parvez, who delivered the welcome address and introduced the Design for Bharat initiative, highlighted the importance of developing indigenous design solutions and encouraging young innovators to address grassroots challenges.

Er. Ubaid Mairaj, alumnus, entrepreneur and jury member, highlighted the need to translate creative ideas into viable products, emphasising innovation, entrepreneurship and market relevance.

The event was also attended by Prof. M. A. Shah, Dean, Alumni and International Affairs; Sana Altaf, CEO, GIF; and Jehanagir Hameed Lone, Incubation Manager.

The programme also featured a special talk titled Innovation Has No Age, delivered by Mohammad Ali, a Class 10 student of GVEI, highlighting the importance of nurturing innovation and creativity among young people.

Drug Peddlers' Properties Worth Over Rs 100 Cr Attached DC Labroo

Agencies

Srinagar: Stating that action against the drug trade was continuing, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Akshay Labroo on Wednesday said that authorities have attached properties worth over Rs 100 crore belonging to drug peddlers and suspended the driving licences of more than 100 people involved in narcotics related activities in Srinagar.

Talking to reporters during a joint public outreach programme organised by the civil and police administration at Radpora in Downtown Srinagar, DC Labroo, said the crackdown includes registration of FIRs, arrests, detentions and attachment of properties under relevant legal provisions.

He said the action is being pursued under the directions of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, adding that the administration was also examining other measures to curb drug-related activities.

Explaining the purpose of the joint outreach initiative, the DC said the programme was organised following directions from the Lieutenant Governor to bring the civil and police administration together at the Deputy Commissioner and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) levels to address public grievances.

He said the administration decided to begin the initiative from Downtown Srinagar, where representatives from different localities of Shehr-e-Khaas participated and openly raised issues concerning their areas.

Labroo assured residents that the administration would follow up on the grievances rather than merely hear them during the programme.

He said issues that could be resolved immediately would be taken up without delay, while those requiring planning and financial assistance would be prepared in consultation with residents and referred to the government.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer/J&K acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the works/services listed below. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make online payments against these tenders. Document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on **www.ireps.gov.in** portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender Type	Bidding System	Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Closing Date/Time	Date and Time of opening E-Tender
Open	Single Packet System	18.11.2026	09.12.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.	09.12.2026 at 15:15 Hrs.

S. No	Tender Number	Details of Tender
1	03-2026-27-VB-CW-JAT-A	Supply and Fitment of Various types of Window Glasses in Vande Bharat Trains at SVDK & BDGM Depot for a period of 3 years

Advertised Value	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
Rs. 1,55,69,494.02/-	Rs. 3,11,400/-	60 Days	36 Months

Funds are available in Allocation Number 06021032
For more details, please log on to **www.ireps.gov.in**

4020/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
IAPM Department,Zonal Office Srinagar,
M. A. Road, (Opposite Women's College), Srinagar-190001, Kashmir.
0194-2452658, Ext.:132;iapmd.kmr@jkbmail.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 05.09.2026 thereby calling upon 1) Mrs. Safiya W/O Riyaz Ahmad Mir R/O Farooq Masjid, Bemina Chowk, Srinagar (Co-Borrower), 2) Mr. Faiz Mir S/O Late Riyaz Ahmad Mir R/O Farooq Masjid, Bemina Chowk, Srinagar 3) Mrs. Hafiza Bibi W/O Ali Mohammad Mir R/O Farooq Masjid, Bemina Chowk, Srinagar (all legal heirs of deceased borrower/mortgagor), 4) Ms. Gazala Akhtar D/O Noor Mohammad Wani R/O Al-Farooq Colony, Bemina, Srinagar (Guarantor) and Mr. Mehraj-ud-din Nengroo S/O Abdul Rehman Nengroo R/O Barbar Shah, Naqashpora, Khayam, Srinagar (Guarantor) to repay an amount of Rs. 24,45,309.08 (Rupees Twenty Four Lacs Forty Five Thousand Three Hundred Nine and Paise Eight Only) being the balance outstanding as on 31.08.2026 in the account of the borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrowers having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrowers in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J&K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on 18.11.2026.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount aggregating to Rs.24,79,752.08 (Rupees Twenty four lakhs seventy nine thousand seven hundred fifty two and paise eight only) as on 31.10.2026 together with future interest thereon from 01.11.2026 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

Residential House along with land measuring 9 Marlas 26 Sft falling under Khasra No.759 min, Khata No.1076 and Khewat No.356 situated at Mouza Batmaloo, Tehsil Central Shalteng, District Srinagar standing in the name of Mr. Riyaz Ahmad Mir (Deceased borrower/mortgagor)

Sd/ Authorized Officer

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
IARB Department,Zonal Office Srinagar,
M. A. Road, (Opposite Women's College), Srinagar-190001, Kashmir.
0194-2452658, Ext.:132;iapmd.kmr@jkbmail.com

Ref. No. JKB/IARB/SARFAESI-2026-27/- Dated: 18 Nov, 2026

POSSESSION NOTICE

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002.

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 09.10.2024 thereby calling upon the Borrower/s namely (1)M/S F.M Enterprises through its Proprietor Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Dar (Borrower-cum-Mortgagor) S/o Ghulam Rasool Dar R/o Humhama, Budgam, Kashmir (2) Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Khan S/o Abdul Aziz Khan R/o Umer Colony B.K.Pora Budgam (Guarantor/Mortgagor) (3) Mr. Bashir Ahamad Dar S/o Abdul Gani Dar R/o Humhama Budgam (Guarantor) (4) Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Dar S/o Abdul Rashid Dar R/o Humhama Budgam (Guarantor) to repay an amount of Rs.5,81,55,125.22 /- (Rupees Five Crore Eighty One lakhs Fifty Five thousand one hundred Twenty Five and Paisa Twenty Two Only) being the balance outstanding as on 08.10.2024 in the loan accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J&K Bank Ltd. has taken Physical Possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on, this the 18th day of November 2026.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs.7,67,74,494.88/- (Rupees Seven Crore Sixty Seven Lakhs Seventy Four Thousand Four hundred Ninety Four and Paisa Eighty Eight only) together with future interest thereon from 31.10.2026 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The Borrower's/Guarantor's/Mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description Of The Mortgaged Property

Land measuring 08 ½ Marlas along with Double Storied House thereon falling under Khasra No.732 of Khata No.974 & Khewat No.432 situated at Mouza Baghati Kanipora, District Budgam, standing in the name of Mushtaq Ahmad Khan S/O Abdul Aziz Khan R/O Umer Colony B.K. Pora.

Place: Srinagar, Dated: 18.11.2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Higher Education Department

Civil Secretariat, J&K.

**

Subject: Appointment of "EduSat Assistant, in Higher Education Department Advertised vide Notification No. 06 of 2020, Dated 29-12-2020, Item No. 185 (Division Jammu).

Reference: Letter No. JKSSB-Scry/14/2025-03 (E-7730337) dated 29.10.2026 from Services Selection Board.

Government Order No: 400 -JK(HE) of 2026
Dated: 18-11-2026

As recommended by the J&K Services Selection Board, sanction, is hereby accorded to the temporary appointment of Ms. Anchita Misra D/o Vinay Misra R/o H. No. 174 Jullaka Mohalla, Jammu-180001 as EduSat Assistant under Open Merit Category, Item No.185 (Division Cadre Jammu) in the Pay Level 4 (25500-81100), in the Higher Education Department, with immediate effect:

The appointee shall report to the Director Colleges, J&K within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of this appointment order. In case of failure of appointee to join within the stipulated time period, his/her appointment shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio without any further notice.

She shall be allowed to join only on production of the following certificates in original:-

i. Academic/Qualification Certificate.
ii. Matriculation/Date of Birth Certificate.
Health Certificate from the concerned Chief Medical Officer of the District.
iv. Domicile Certificate issued by the Competent Authority.
V. If the candidate has taken loan for self employment from DIC /Employment Department, to be ascertained from the District Industries Centre (DIC) and District Employment and Counselling Centre of the domicile District, he/she shall relinquish the proprietorship of unit/enterprise and also stakes, if any, in such self- employment unit/enterprise before joining the Government Service. He/she shall be required to repay the entire loan liability in suitable EMIs to be worked out by the DDO concerned from his/her salary. DDO concerned shall obtain an affidavit from the concerned appointee regarding both relinquishment of proprietorship and stakes, if any, in such a self-employment unit/enterprise and recovery to be made and also personally monitor its recovery".
vi. Valid relevant Category Certificate, if any applicable.
vii. Any other certificate required under rules.

The appointment of the above candidate shall further be subject to the following conditions:-

a. The clearance received from the Criminal Investigation Department, J&K is provisional and it shall be mandatory for the appointee to fill in the Verification Rolls (V-Rolls) as available through the online mode under the Electronic Employment Verification System (EVS). Any false information provided by the appointee or an adverse finding subsequent to the V-Roll submitted electronically shall result in cancellation of appointment ab-initio without any further notice.
b. If on verification, the qualification certificates/DOB and other documents from the concerned issuing authority are proved fake/forged, the claim of the appointee for appointment as Edu Sat Assistant, in Higher Education Department shall be deemed to have cancelled ab-initio and the legal action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against him/her.
C. The salary of the appointee shall not be drawn and disbursed to them unless the satisfactory reports in respect of genuineness of Qualification/Date of Birth/Relevant Category Certificate and Final Character & Antecedents Report is received from the concerned Authorities/Agency.
d. The appointee shall be on probation for a period of two years.
e. The appointment of the appointee shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as notified vide SRO-400 of 2009 dated 24.12.2009.
f. The inter-se-seniority of the appointee shall be determined as per the J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956.
g. The appointment of the above appointee shall be subject to outcome of writ petition, if any, pending before Competent Court of law.
h. In the event that any certificate is found to be fake or incorrect, the appointment of the candidate shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab initio.

By Order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sd/-(Ram Niwas Sharma) IAS
Commissioner/Secretary to the Government

No. HED-NGZ/70/2026-04(7760972)
DIPK-7779/26
Dated: 18.11.2026

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Distribution & Advertising: Firdous Ahmad
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 8899256463
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

KO VIEW

Kashmir's Cold Storage Bubble

Kashmir is debating a different type of domino effect these days.

Social media discussions have raised concerns about the growing rush to invest in Controlled Atmosphere (CA) cold storage facilities.

More entrepreneurs seem eager to enter a business that is widely seen as safe and profitable.

The online concern raised by citizenry is worth examining.

Kashmir has seen such investment trends before, with people rushing into the same business without knowing whether the market can support them all.

Could CA storage become the next example?

There are good reasons for investing in more cold storage facilities. Kashmir produces nearly 70 to 80 per cent of India's apples, making horticulture one of the main pillars of its economy. The apple industry is also going through a major change. More growers are shifting to high-density plantations, which can produce more apples from smaller areas of land.

As these orchards mature and production increases, the need for better storage facilities will also grow.

CA storage has an important role to play in this change. These facilities allow apples to stay fresh for longer, giving growers and traders more time to sell their produce when market conditions are better. They can reduce the pressure to sell immediately after harvest, prevent distress sales and help growers get better prices. For an economy so closely linked to apples, expanding storage infrastructure makes good sense.

Government figures also show how much room there is for growth.

The Jammu and Kashmir Economic Survey 2025-26 puts existing CA storage capacity at 2.92 lakh metric tonnes. Another 15,000 tonnes are expected to take the total to 3.07 lakh tonnes. The government's estimated requirement is six lakh tonnes. A separate statistical inventory for 2024-25 lists 61 cold storage units across Jammu and Kashmir, with a combined capacity of 270,374 tonnes. Of these, 59 are in Kashmir, accounting for 264,590 tonnes.

These figures point to a clear shortage of storage facilities, but they should not be taken as a guarantee that every new CA store will make money.

Most of these investments are aimed at storing apples, which means their success depends heavily on the future of the apple industry. High-density plantations are expected to increase production, but new orchards take time to mature. The additional supply will come gradually. It would be a mistake to assume that all the new storage capacity will find customers as soon as it becomes operational.

This is where the growing rush needs some check and balance.

Setting up a CA store involves a large investment. Electricity bills, maintenance, staff salaries and loan repayments add to the costs. A facility also needs enough apples to remain commercially viable. If too many stores open in the same areas, they could end up competing for the same growers and traders. Storage charges may fall, facilities may remain underused and investors could struggle to recover their money.

The government should help bring some order to this growing sector. It needs to publish district-wise details of existing, proposed and under-construction CA stores, their capacities and actual use. It should also assess future investment against expected apple production, the growth of high-density orchards, market demand and the availability of reliable electricity.

Such information would help investors understand the risks before putting their savings or borrowed money into new projects.

Kashmir certainly needs more CA storage. The growth of its apple industry and the shift towards high-density plantations make a strong case for expanding this infrastructure. But there is a difference between building for future demand and assuming that demand will keep growing without limits.

If apple production rises as expected and storage capacity grows at a similar pace, the investment could strengthen the horticulture sector. But if too many facilities are built too quickly, the current enthusiasm could turn into a costly mistake.

Kashmir must make sure that its cold storage boom grows with its apple economy. Otherwise, the bubble could burst, leaving investors with expensive buildings and too few apples to store.

Crores Down the Drain

Two recruiting bodies collected nearly Rs 49 crore in examination fees over two years, and the candidates who paid it are still asking for a calendar, a deadline and a refund policy.



Hamid Ansari



A shared official document puts the examination fees collected by the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission at Rs 17.90 crore for 2023-24 and 2024-25.

The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board collected approximately Rs 30.98 crore over the same two years.

Added together, the figure comes to Rs 48.88 crore, paid in sums small enough to seem harmless by young people whose finances leave little room for them.

Behind any single application fee stands a household that has already spent what it could on education, coaching, books, internet access and years of preparation.

For a family like that, a government post means a regular salary, a measure of security and an exit from long uncertainty, which explains why a young graduate will pay the fee for vacancy after vacancy.

Claims have circulated that collections rose sharply in 2026, with estimates of another Rs 25 crore.

That number awaits official confirmation and belongs to the agencies to publish, so the two-year total is the figure to argue from.

A reasonable fee to cover administrative costs is easy to defend. The bigger question concerns what candidates receive for the money: transparency, value and a realistic chance at a job.

Aspirants have come to see a government post as something closer to a lottery win than a career step. They prepare for years, apply to multiple vacancies, pay fees repeatedly and then wait through notifications, examinations, results, document verification and final appointments.

Several recruitment processes have become tangled in administrative delays, legal disputes and cancellations, and the candidate who paid at the start is left holding an uncertain future.

Vacancies lie unfilled while thousands of qualified candidates wait outside them. The fees themselves prove how many willing applicants exist.

A delayed recruitment cycle costs a young person another year of working life, taken from the prime of that life, and the fee collected at the beginning does nothing to repay it.

The debate over the reservation and selection framework sits inside this frustration.

Social justice and equal opportunity for disadvantaged communities are essential in a democracy, and the system should protect those constitutional rights while keeping fairness and accountability intact for everyone.

That second task depends on public confidence, because a candidate who has studied for years should be able to believe that academic performance and merit still count.

Transparency answers both concerns, since a recruitment body that publishes its process gives every candidate, whatever the category, grounds for trust.

Unemployed youth are a human resource that Kashmir badly needs to put to work, and a government that treats them as a revenue line has misread them.

Collecting crores in application fees without timely and predictable recruitment raises legitimate questions of institutional accountability, and the remedies are specific.

Authorities can publish annual statements listing fee collections, administrative expenditure, refunds, vacancies advertised, examinations conducted and appointments completed.

A published recruitment calendar with strict deadlines would let a candidate plan a year ahead. Automatic refunds would follow wherever an examination is cancelled or a process abandoned in circumstances that warrant reimbursement.

Recruitment can absorb only so many people, so the government also needs a comprehensive strategy for jobs in the private sector, industry, tourism, technology, agriculture and entrepreneurship, one that goes past the occasional employment announcement.

Kashmir's educated youth are asking for opportunities, transparency and a fair chance to build their future. Sympathy, political slogans and temporary assurances satisfy none of the three.

A government can count the recruitment notifications it issues and the crores its examinations collect, and both numbers will look impressive in a press release.

The measure that tells more is how many lives a job has changed.

Until that number is published alongside the other two, the arrangement runs in one direction: candidates finance the process, and nobody finances their waiting.

> **A government can count the recruitment** notifications it issues and the crores its examinations collect, and both numbers will look impressive in a press release. The measure that tells more is how many lives a job has changed. Until that number is published alongside the other two, the arrangement runs in one direction: candidates finance the process, and nobody finances their waiting.

The author is a senior journalist and former Editor at the Abu Dhabi-based Gulf Time daily.

Kashmir's Next Export Should Be Ideas

The valley can become a global meeting place for practical innovation by bringing technology, healthcare, education and public policy together.



Dr Satish Prasad Rath

Some of the world's most influential leaders travel to Davos, a small Swiss town, every January because that is where the people they want to meet come together.

Kashmir has many of the same advantages: mountains, snow, a break from the daily rush and a tradition of hospitality known around the world.

The valley has also shown that it can host major international gatherings.

Srinagar welcomed G20 delegates in May 2023. This year, the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) brought together young entrepreneurs at ASCEND J&K.

The question now is what Kashmir wants to bring the world together for.

My choice would be something the world needs but often struggles to deliver: technology that reaches the people it is meant to help.

Too often, technology falls short because the people developing it work in separate fields.

Telemedicine depends on reliable internet access. Artificial intelligence often needs expensive computers. New government policies, meanwhile, count on people on the ground to put them into practice.

These ideas may look good on paper, but they often face difficulties in a village, a school or a crowded hospital.

Real life is more complicated than any single field can understand.

Children's health is a good example.

A child's wellbeing depends on parents, teachers, nurses, doctors, health workers, government officials and the engineers who build the tools they use. A solution that reaches only one of these groups cannot fully address a child's needs.

The approach is clear, even if putting it into practice takes work.

Bring together everyone involved in solving a problem. First agree on what needs to change, then decide which technology can help. Listen to people who are often left out and test the solution in difficult conditions.

If it works there, it has a better chance of working elsewhere.

On Children's Day, November 14, SKIDS joined Paras Health Srinagar to launch a programme to screen children for health and developmental problems. Deputy Commissioner Akshay Labroo attended the launch. A hospital, a school, a technology team and the district administration came together with one shared aim: to identify health problems early, including those children may not be able to explain themselves.

The first screenings were held at Green Valley School, where 600 children were examined. Most appeared healthy, but the screenings picked up problems that had gone unnoticed.

Some children had anaemia, which adults had mistaken for laziness. Others had poor eyesight that may have affected their performance in class.

There were also ear and throat problems, as well as concerns about weight and growth that parents had not noticed.

This is where technology can make a real difference.

A single, gentle screening can check more than 70 health parameters. It does not need a specialist to be present and can be used at home, in schools, community camps, government programmes and hospitals.

Ten nurses from Paras Health, trained by SKIDS, carry out the screenings. Parents receive a report on their phones after it has been reviewed by a doctor. Children who need further care can then be treated by Paras specialists.

The important point is that technology does not replace the people already working in the system. Teachers, nurses, doctors and government officials continue to do their jobs, but now have better information and tools to support their work.

The platform connects their efforts instead of competing with them.

There is also a strong economic case for investing in children's health early.

A 2016 study published in Health Affairs estimated that childhood immunisation programmes in low- and middle-income countries return about 16 times their cost. Nobel laureate James Heckman and his colleagues found that quality early-childhood programmes can generate annual returns of about 13 per cent. Few public investments have such strong evidence behind them.

> **The Government of India could bring its national health, technology and startup missions to Kashmir, much as it brought the G20 to Srinagar. Holding at least one major meeting of a national mission here every year would connect local talent with wider national and international networks.**

Kashmir could become a place where this type of practical innovation is developed, tested and shared with the world. Making that happen will take action at three levels.

The Jammu and Kashmir government could turn the valley into a regular meeting place for people working in technology and social development. It could support an annual gathering at SKICC, with a winter edition in Gulmarg. Selected public programmes could also be opened to visitors, allowing them to see solutions working on the ground rather than simply hear about them in presentations.

The Government of India could bring its national health, technology and startup missions to Kashmir, much as it brought the G20 to Srinagar. Holding at least one major meeting of a national mission here every year would connect local talent with wider national and international networks.

Kashmir's doctors, teachers, engineers and young entrepreneurs also have an important role. They need to recognise that their daily work can produce lessons others can learn from. A nurse screening children in a winter school, a teacher noticing that a student cannot see the classroom board clearly, or a young entrepreneur developing technology for areas with poor internet connectivity may have ideas that can help communities well beyond the valley.

Kashmir has its own challenges. Internet connectivity remains uneven in some areas, winters are long and access to specialist healthcare is limited.

These conditions make the valley a demanding place to test new ideas, but they also create an opportunity.

A solution that works here could work in many parts of India and elsewhere in the world.

People have travelled to Kashmir for generations for its mountains, lakes and snow. Now the valley has a chance to draw the world for something more: ideas that solve real problems and improve lives.

The author is a paediatrician-scientist and founder of SKIDS, a child health screening platform. He holds 11 US patents and has led health innovation at Philips, Intel, Wipro and Aster DM Healthcare.

The Trouble With Reality TV

Reality television and sensational crime shows are turning anger, humiliation and human suffering into entertainment, raising difficult questions about what viewers, particularly young people, are being taught to accept as normal.



Mohammad Ilyas Bhat

I once visited the clinic of a well-known gastroenterologist, who happens to be the brother of a friend.

While prescribing treatment to a patient who frequently ate outside, the doctor gave him a simple piece of advice: be careful about what you are being fed.

He was speaking about food and physical health, but his words resonated with me for another reason.

They made me think about the food we consume through our television screens and mobile phones, and the effect it may have on our minds.

We have grown accustomed to checking what goes into our bodies. We worry about unhealthy food, excessive sugar and substances that can damage our health. Governments regulate drugs and intoxicants, while public health agencies warn people about the effects of excessive noise and the misuse of sedatives.

But our concern becomes considerably weaker when the subject shifts to the content millions of people watch for hours.

Kashmir, like the rest of the country, has developed a growing appetite for reality television. Bigg Boss is a common presence in many homes, returning season after season with new contestants and the same basic formula.

Arguments, personal accusations, provocative tasks and emotional outbursts dominate much of the spectacle. The programme appears to laud those who shout louder, provoke others and turn small disagreements into prolonged confrontations.

I often wonder what viewers are expected to admire in this arrangement.

The contestants are rarely judged by their intellectual abilities, creativity or capacity to communicate with others. Their tempers and willingness to expose personal differences before cameras seem to receive far greater attention.

A participant who maintains composure can easily become less interesting than someone who loses control during an argument.

The commercial logic is easy to understand.

A disagreement can be turned into an episode, a promotional clip and several days of online discussion. A bitter exchange can keep viewers watching longer than a sensible conversation.

Human relationships become material for entertainment, while humiliation becomes a means of attracting attention.

And the concern goes beyond television ratings.

Repeated exposure to aggression, verbal abuse and public humiliation can influence how viewers understand ordinary human behaviour. Watching such programmes does not automatically make someone aggressive, and the psychological effects will differ between individuals.

However, young viewers who repeatedly see hostility presented as amusing or desirable may gradually become less sensitive to disrespectful conduct. The danger lies in making behaviour that should concern us appear perfectly ordinary.

Television once occupied a different place in family life. People turned to it for news, education, stories and entertainment. Today, much of the content competing for attention relies on jealousy, personal quarrels, fear and emotional suffering.

Human conflict has become a commercial product, packaged into episodes and promotional material. The audience is invited to enjoy situations that would ordinarily cause discomfort if witnessed in a neighbour's home.

Crime programmes present another example of this growing appetite for sensationalism.

There is genuine public value in understanding criminal behaviour, the circumstances behind offences, the experiences of victims and the work involved in investigation. Such programmes can help viewers recognise dangers and understand the consequences of crime.

The difficulty begins when education gives way to spectacle.

Some channels recreate offences in elaborate detail, giving greater attention to dramatic violence than to the social consequences of criminal behaviour. Their promotional material on YouTube and other digital platforms can be equally troubling.

Sexually suggestive images and provocative thumbnails are sometimes used to attract clicks, even when they have little connection with responsible crime reporting.

The contradiction is difficult to miss.



A SOCIETY CAN ENJOY HUMOUR WITHOUT LAUGHING AT SOMEONE'S HUMILIATION. It can watch a crime documentary without becoming fascinated by violence, and appreciate dramatic storytelling without celebrating cruelty. The real test of entertainment lies partly in what it leaves behind in the minds of its audience.

A programme claims to educate viewers about criminal behaviour, while its advertisements rely on sensational imagery to attract an audience. The crime becomes the subject of investigation, while the marketing around it creates another spectacle.

I see a wider problem in the way television and digital platforms compete for human attention.

Anger, fear, jealousy, humiliation and sexual provocation generate reactions that keep viewers engaged. A calm discussion may end within minutes, while an argument can be divided into several episodes and promoted through short clips.

The business model rewards emotional disturbance because it gives audiences another reason to keep watching.

Commercial success, however, cannot be the sole measure of responsible broadcasting.

Millions of viewers may watch a programme without making it intelligent, healthy or socially useful. Popularity tells us how many people are watching, but it says little about the quality of what they are consuming.

Broadcasters and digital platforms have a responsibility to recognise their influence on public attitudes, particularly among younger audiences. Parents have an important role in monitoring what children watch, but the responsibility cannot rest with families alone.

Disclaimers and age classifications are useful, though they cannot replace serious editorial judgement about how violence, humiliation and exploitation are presented.

This argument should never become a demand to censor every uncomfortable subject or turn television into a classroom.

Drama needs conflict, comedy needs humour and crime reporting must sometimes confront disturbing realities. There is ample room for suspense, competition, disagreement and difficult stories.

The line should be drawn when conflict becomes cruelty and human suffering becomes entertainment in itself.

Viewers also have a part in this arrangement.

Producers frequently defend their choices by saying they are giving audiences what they want. Audiences, in turn, claim they are simply watching what channels put before them.

Both sides have a choice, although the commercial rewards of sensational content make it easier to keep the same formula running.

I keep returning to the doctor's advice. We should be careful about what we are being fed. His words were intended for someone concerned about physical health, but they apply equally to the content entering our homes through television screens and mobile phones.

A society can enjoy humour without laughing at someone's humiliation. It can watch a crime documentary without becoming fascinated by violence, and appreciate dramatic storytelling without celebrating cruelty. The real test of entertainment lies partly in what it leaves behind in the minds of its audience.

Perhaps the more uncomfortable question is what happens when we begin to find another person's humiliation entirely ordinary.

By then, the programme may have ended, the television may have been switched off and the contestants may have moved on.

The habits of looking, judging and reacting, however, remain with the people who watched.

— The author works in agricultural seed production and is currently writing his first short story collection. He can be reached at mbhatilyas@gmail.com.

The Scholar Who Outlived Six Rulers

From the final years of the Qajar dynasty to modern Iran, the 105-year-old cleric witnessed a century of upheaval while remaining committed to traditional Shia scholarship.

Alireza Talakoubnejad

Ayatollah Hossein Vahid Khorasani, arguably the most prominent remaining traditionalist Shia marja of the old generation, passed away on November 17, 2026, in Qom at the age of 105.

Khorasani's age alone made him fascinating. He was one of the few remaining Iranians that had seen the reign of six different rulers under three different regimes (Ahmad Shah Qajar, Reza Shah Pahlavi, Mohamad Reza Shah Pahlavi, Ruhollah Khomeini, Ali Khamenei, Mojtaba Khamenei).

Khorasani got his early education in Mashad and then moved to Najaf in 1949 where he studied under several of the most prominent scholars of the 20th century, particularly Seyyed Mohsen al-Hakim and Ayatollah Khoei.

He then returned to Mashad in the early 1970s and settled in Qom in 1973 where he stayed until his death.

He is firmly in the camp of the traditionalist Shia scholars - strongly rejecting modern reformist currents (for example he took public stances against Dr. Soroush & Ayatollah Fadlallah). He argued authentic religious knowledge only came from the Quran and ahadith of the 12 Imams rather than Greek influenced philosophy or speculative mysticism.

His influence was not limited to scholarly debates. Perhaps his single biggest legacy was expanding the public mourning ceremony of Fatimiyya to become something similar to the Muharram in the Shi'i calendar (he didn't invent the practice but it was not as widely commemorated in the way it was today before this).

The culmination of this was him successfully lobbying President Khatami's administration to declare the martyrdom of Hazrat Zahra to be a public holiday.

Khorasani's political stances were complex.

He was certainly not a revolutionary activist and did not publicly participate in the 1979 Revolution in the same way some other marjas did. Similar to his teacher Ayatollah Khoei, he was a quietist - he didn't entirely stay away from politics but was extremely cautious in speaking about it and tried to keep his organizations institutionally independent from the state.

As such, his most clear political stances were often from his silence. Most notably, he declined to meet with Ayatollah Khamenei in his trip to Qom in the aftermath of the disputed 2009 elections (widely interpreted to be a sign of disapproval). He also declined to meet with him in a few subsequent visits.

During that time I remember overhearing from many people associated with the security apparatus or more prominently pro government marjas that they considered Ayatollah Vahid and his followers to be insufficiently loyal and even opposition.

But in reality he was not entirely against the state either. One of his daughters married Sadegh Larijani, who later became head of the judiciary. He did later meet Ayatollah Khamenei at least once in Mashad and when Khamenei was in the hospital he sent his son to visit him.



He has on occasion made general criticisms of the state for political repression, economic conditions, and religious observance but these are few and far between. As a whole he stayed away from politics whether for or against.

I never met Ayatollah Vahid myself, though I had the pleasure of correspondence with several senior clerics in his office over the years. I found them to be quite intelligent and delightfully curious about the state of intellectual currents and people's concerns in Shi'i communities in the West (although I did always wish they had a similar feeling towards newer generations in Iran itself, something I never directly said out of politeness). They, alongside Ayatollah Vahid himself, were critical to my own religious and intellectual development, something I will be eternally grateful for.

I would be negligent here not to say that in the past 10 years I also witnessed a great deal of younger believers my age grow resentful of Ayatollah Vahid, someone they previously had extreme respect for, because they became extremely frustrated that he would not speak up at all.

I noticed this most keenly after the Aban 98 Gasoline Protests and these voices grew even stronger after the 2022 protests. They were frustrated why he (and Ayatollah Sistani) were not willing to take any public stance against the oppression and tyranny - compared to the level of fury they showed over, for example, a film showing the face of Hazrat Abalfazl, something they viewed as blasphemous.

This has even led some younger, traditionally observant Shi'is to question the institution of marja'iyya itself. What makes this particularly noteworthy is that these criticisms are emerging not from the religious reformist currents of the previous generation, but from within the very traditionalist communities that historically held the marja'iyya in the highest regard.

For better or worse, however, I think it is difficult to expect someone in his 90s or 100s to fundamentally reconsider a relationship with political power that had been shaped over nearly a century. His quietism was not a late life accommodation but a deeply ingrained approach to religious authority, one shared by many scholars of his generation. Whether that approach will remain viable for future generations of believers is another question entirely.

In the last decade he had also grown increasingly frail & slowly disappeared from public appearances. In the end he was only seen once or twice a year publicly, on Ashura and the Fatemiyye.

Ultimately, he was a giant in 20th and 21st century Shi'ism, whose extraordinarily long life spanned some of the most consequential transformations in modern Iranian history.

Through revolution, war, political upheaval, and profound social change, he remained a towering figure in the traditional Shi'i scholarly establishment.

— The author is an Iranian-American Muslim interested in contemporary Iranian society, sports, art, and culture.

Only Handful Of

efforts would further strengthen security and stability in the region.

"Only a handful of foreign terrorists remain; Jammu Kashmir will soon be terror-free," he said.

Sinha also alleged that an environment had been created in the past in which shops, schools and businesses remained closed for nearly half the year. He accused what he termed conflict entrepreneurs of promoting terrorism and separatism in the region.

He said that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government had taken steps to dismantle the ecosystem that sustained terrorism and separatism.

Emphasising the need to adapt policing to emerging security challenges, the Lieutenant Governor said threats were no longer confined to conventional forms of violence and could also emerge through digital platforms.

"Today's security threat may also come through a mobile screen, not just a gun. If we fight today's challenges with yesterday's methods, we will fall behind," he said.

He called for greater technological proficiency among police personnel, particularly in cyber forensics, digital evidence, forensic science and monitoring technology.

Sinha also highlighted the growing challenges posed by digital radicalisation, drone-based threats, narco-terrorism and other forms of asymmetric warfare, stressing the importance of intelligence gathering, technological capabilities and coordination among security agencies.

He urged police personnel to equip themselves with the skills and tools required to address contemporary security threats, saying modern policing must be technology-driven and responsive to changing circumstances.

Underscoring the importance of public engagement, the Lieutenant Governor said effective beat policing and strong community relations were essential for maintaining law and order.

He urged the newly inducted officers to serve with sensitivity, professionalism and integrity, adding that the police must act not only as guardians of public security but also as custodians of people's trust.

"Over the past six years, the stakeholders of peace in Jammu Kashmir have grown. Every citizen of Jammu Kashmir is committed to a safe home, good education, employment, business opportunities and a bright future for their children. Now, you must be not only the guardian of their security but also the guardian of their trust," he said.

Sinha said improved law and order had contributed significantly to investment, tourism, entrepreneurship and infrastructure development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor took the ceremonial salute and inspected the parade. He also felicitated officers who had excelled during their training.

An oath was administered to the newly trained officers to discharge their duties with dedication and honesty.

MLAs Pawan Kumar Gupta, Balwant Singh Mankotia and RS Pathania; Chief Secretary Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav; Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat; Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department, Chandraker Bharti; Director, J&K Forest Protection Force, Sarvesh Rai; Director, SKPA Udhampur, Dr Mohd Haseeb Mughal; senior police and security officials, civil administration officers and family members of the passing-out officers attended the function.

Kulgam Encounter: LeT Commander

exercised maximum restraint after establishing that Bhat was hiding inside a mosque, keeping in view the sanctity of the religious structure and the need to avoid damage to it.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kulgam Anayat Ali Chowdhary said security forces made prolonged efforts to persuade the trapped terrorist to surrender.

"We tried very hard and appealed to Lateef to surrender. Both I and the Commanding Officer (CO) of the Army had a very long conversation with him via a video call on a phone sent inside," Chowdhary told reporters.

He said officers reminded Bhat that he was still young and urged him to give up his arms, but he refused to relent.

According to officials, Bhat had taken shelter in a locked room on the upper floor of the mosque. When security personnel asked him to come out, he opened fire, confirming his presence inside the structure.

Videos of the appeals made by security personnel also surfaced on social media.

25 students, two teachers evacuated

The operation took a sensitive turn after security forces learnt that 25 girl students and two teachers were inside an adjoining seminary.

Officials said an officer of 9 Rashtriya Rifles volunteered to enter the seminary along with another soldier amid the exchange of fire and safely evacuated all 27 civilians.

After ensuring their safety, security forces fired tear gas shells into the mosque to flush out Bhat. He subsequently opened fire on the personnel, triggering an exchange of fire in which he was killed.

His body, along with a weapon, was recovered from the encounter site.

The mosque remained intact, with no damage reported to the religious structure, officials said.

Wanted in seven UAPA cases

Officials said Bhat was affiliated with the Lashkar-e-Taiba and its offshoot, The Resistance Front (TRF). He had joined terrorist ranks on November 18, 2025, after going missing from his home in Khrewan village of Kulgam district.

A former carpenter in his early 20s, Bhat had completed Class 12 in 2021 before dropping out of college, officials said.

He was wanted in seven UAPA cases and carried a reward of Rs 15 lakh.

According to investigators, his alleged involvement included the Lal Chowk attack in Anantnag, the Kelam attack in Kulgam and the November 11 attack on a CRPF checkpoint at Akhran near Mir Bazar, in which three CRPF personnel were injured.

He was also suspected of involvement in the July 22 killing of Special Operations Group head constable Ashiq Hussain in Anantnag and the July 31 shooting of two non-local workers from Chhattisgarh at a brick kiln in Kilam village of Kulgam.

Officials said Bhat and Umar Nisar Dar were involved in the November 11 attack on the CRPF personnel. Dar was killed in an encounter in the Laru bypass area on Monday, while Bhat managed to evade the security cordon.

Following the attack, security forces intensified search operations across Kulgam and adjoining areas to track down the two terrorists.

Army Commander reviews operation

Meanwhile, Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma visited south Kashmir to review the progress of Operation Zangalpora and assess the prevailing security situation.

In a post on X, the Army said the Army Commander appreciated the coordinated efforts, operational resolve and joint action by the troops.

He also commended the synergy among the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, CRPF and intelligence agencies in conducting counter-terror operations.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also lauded the security forces, describing the operation as one marked by a high degree of coordination among the agencies.

He said Bhat's killing marked the neutralisation of Lashkar's last known active local terrorist in the Valley, adding that his associate Umar Nisar had been killed in Kulgam two days earlier.

CRPF Director General G P Singh also congratulated the security forces for the operation.

Bhat is survived by his parents, a brother and a married sister, officials said. (inputs from agencies)

Op Marked By

last known active local terrorist in the valley, Lateef Bhat, was neutralised in an operation in Kulgam in the early morning hours today," Shah wrote.

He said Bhat's associate, Umar Nisar, had also been killed in Kulgam two days earlier, adding that the entire operation was marked by a high level of synergy.

"The nation salutes the brave Jawans of JKP, Army and CRPF and intelligence agencies," the Home Minister said.

Bhat was killed in an encounter in Zangalpora village of Devsar area in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Wednesday. He was wanted in connection with the November 11 attack on a CRPF checkpoint at Akhran, in which three paramilitary personnel were injured.

According to officials, Bhat had taken shelter inside a mosque and refused repeated appeals by senior Army and police officers to surrender. Security forces exercised restraint to avoid damage to the religious structure before concluding the operation.

Bhat and his associate Umar Nisar Dar were allegedly involved in the attack on the CRPF checkpoint. While Dar was killed in an encounter near the Laru bypass on Monday, Bhat had managed to escape the security cordon before being tracked down and killed on Wednesday.

Local Terrorist

two Kashmiri youths joining the Lashkar-e-Taiba during this period.

Addressing the passing-out parade of probationary Deputy Superintendents of Police, Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Directors of the Forest Protection Force at Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy (SKPA) in Udhampur, Prabhat said both the youths had been killed in separate encounters in Kulgam district.

He identified the two as Umar Nisar and Lateef Bhat, adding that Bhat, the last remaining terrorist among them, was killed in an encounter on Wednesday. Nisar had been killed in a separate encounter in the district two days earlier.

"We have brought local terrorist recruitment in Jammu and Kashmir to almost zero over the last two years. During this period, only two Kashmiri youths joined the Lashkar-e-Taiba," Prabhat said.

"Today, I would like to inform everyone that the last remaining terrorist, Lateef Bhat, was killed in Kulgam today. Two days earlier, Umar Nisar was also killed in Kulgam," he added.

1,603 police personnel laid down lives fighting terrorism

The DGP said the Jammu and Kashmir Police had been fighting Pakistan-sponsored terrorism for the past 35 years, paying tribute to the personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty.

"We have been fighting Pakistan-sponsored terrorism for the last 35 years. I pay my tributes and salute our 1,603 martyrs, including our two brave soldiers, martyr Babi Chand and martyr Rashpal Kumar, who laid down their lives for the nation in Kishtwar recently," he said.

He said the supreme sacrifices of police personnel continued to strengthen the force's resolve in its fight against terrorism.

"Their supreme sacrifices make us stronger and further strengthen our resolve. The memories of our martyrs always show us the way, remaining our guiding light and source of inspiration," he said.

Prabhat said the police were not only combating terrorists but were also targeting their support networks and the wider ecosystem sustaining terrorist activities.

Expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the DGP said the Jammu and Kashmir Police was continuing its operations under their guidance and leadership.

"We are not only combating terrorism but are also continuously striking at its ecosystem. Our endeavour is to completely dismantle and destroy the entire terror ecosystem," he said.

240 arrested under UAPA in 2025

Giving details of action against terror-related networks, Prabhat said 240 accused were arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in 2025, while 210 arrests had been made under the stringent law so far this year.

He said those arrested included individuals allegedly providing financial and logistical support to terrorist activities, adding that the police would continue to pursue those involved in such networks.

The DGP also shared details of action against properties linked to terrorism, saying 155 properties were attached in 2025 following due legal process, while 122 properties had been attached so far this year.

He said the action covered properties belonging to terrorists operating from Pakistan as well as other individuals involved in terrorism-related activities under the UAPA.

Meanwhile, officials said top Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Lateef Bhat was killed in an encounter with security forces in Kulgam district on Wednesday.

Bhat, along with another terrorist, Umar Nisar, was allegedly involved in the November 11 attack on CRPF personnel in Kulgam, which left three paramilitary personnel injured.

Nisar was killed in an encounter in Kulgam on Monday, officials said.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha was present at the passing-out parade, which was attended by senior police and civil administration officials and family members of the newly trained officers.

Kulgam's 5-year

in which 23 terrorists were killed. Several major operations targeting Lashkar-e-Taiba, Hizbul Mujahideen and Jaish-e-Mohammad networks followed in subsequent years.

The district has also witnessed attacks on civilians and security personnel, including targeted killings and attacks on security installations.

2026: Lateef Bhat, Umar Nisar killed; attacks on workers and CRPF

On November 18, LeT commander Lateef Bhat was killed in an encounter at Zangalpora in the Devsar area, two days after his associate Umar Nisar Dar was killed near Laroo.

On November 16, Dar was killed in an encounter near Laroo. Bhat managed to escape the cordon, prompting security forces to intensify searches to track him down.

On November 11, terrorists opened fire on a CRPF checkpoint at Akhran in the Nowpora area, injuring three personnel. Police later released CCTV footage purportedly showing the suspected attackers conducting reconnaissance at several locations in Kulgam ahead of the attack.

On July 31, two migrant workers from Chhattisgarh were shot at a brick kiln in Kilam village. Both later succumbed to their injuries. Police suspected Bhat's involvement in the attack.

2025: Prolonged operations in Akhal and Guddar

On September 8 and 9, two terrorists, including a Pakistani national, and two Army personnel were killed during an encounter in the Guddar forest area. The deceased soldiers were identified as Subedar Prabhat Gaur and Lance Naik Narender Sindhu. An Army Major was also injured.

Between August 1 and 12, a prolonged operation in the Akhal forest area resulted in the killing of a local terrorist and two Army personnel, identified as Lance Naik Pritpal Singh and Sepoy Harminder Singh. At least ten other security personnel were injured. The operation was called off after 12 days.

2024: Major encounters in Redwani, Kadder and other areas

On December 19, five terrorists, including Hizbul Mujahideen commander Farooq Ahmad Bhat alias Nali, were killed in an encounter in Kadder village. Two Army personnel were injured.

On July 6 and 8, simultaneous encounters in Modergam and Chinigam resulted in the killing of six terrorists and two Army personnel.

Between May 6 and 8, three terrorists, including LeT/TRF commander Basit Dar, were killed during a prolonged encounter in Redwani Payeen. The third terrorist was identified as Momin.

2023: Operations in Samnoo, Kujjar and Halan

On November 16 and 17, five LeT terrorists were killed during a prolonged encounter in Samnoo village.

On October 4, two Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists, Basit Amin Bhat and Saqib Ahmad Lone, were killed in an encounter in Kujjar.

On August 4, three Army personnel were killed during an encounter in the Halan forest area, while the terrorists managed to escape.

2022: At least 18 encounters, 23 terrorists killed

Kulgam witnessed at least 18 encounters during 2022, in which 23 terrorists were killed.

On September 26, Jaish-e-Mohammad commander Abu Hurrairah was killed in an encounter at Batpora.

On June 29, two LeT terrorists, identified as Yasir Wani and Raees Manzoor, were killed in an encounter at Nowpora village in the Mir Bazar area.

On June 27, two LeT terrorists, Zubair Ahmad Mir and Idrees Ahmad Dar, were killed in an encounter in Kulgam.

On June 19, two terrorists, identified as Haris Sharief of Srinagar and Zakir Padder of Kulgam, were killed in an encounter at Gujjarpora in the Damhal Hanjipora area. Police said Sharief was affiliated with LeT and Padder with Jaish-e-Mohammad.

On June 15 and 16, two Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists were killed in an encounter in the Mishipora area. Police said one of them was involved in the killing of schoolteacher Rajni Bala.

On June 11, a Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist was killed in an encounter at Khandipora.

On June 2, Vijay Kumar, a bank manager from Rajasthan, was shot dead inside the Ellaquai Dehati Bank branch at Areh village.

On May 31, Rajni Bala, a schoolteacher from Jammu, was shot dead outside Government High School in Gopalpora.

On May 8, two terrorists, including Pakistani LeT operative Haider and local terrorist Shahbaz Shah, were killed in an encounter at Cheyan Devsar.

On January 12, a Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorist and police personnel Rohit Chhib were killed in an encounter at Pariwan. Three Army personnel and two civilians were also injured.

On January 9 and 10, two Al-Badr terrorists were killed in an encounter at Hasanpora.

On January 4, two terrorists were killed in an encounter at Okey. (KNO)

New CS Yadav

and Mission Director of POSHAN Abhiyaan under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

His other assignments include serving as Adviser to the Administrator of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Commissioner of VAT, Chief Executive Officer of the Delhi Jal Board, Commissioner of Food and Supplies in the Delhi Government and Commissioner of the East Delhi Municipal Corporation.

Yadav has a diverse academic background. He holds a Doctor of Public Health degree from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, a Master of Public Affairs from the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota and an MBA from the Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi.

He also holds a Bachelor of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry degree from Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar.

His contributions to governance and public administration have been recognised with the National Award for e-Governance 2017–18 for outstanding performance in citizen-centric service delivery. He has also received the President of India's Medal for outstanding work in Census Operations.

Besides his administrative responsibilities, Yadav is an author and public policy commentator. His books include Scaling Mount UPSC: Inspiring Stories of Young IAS Officers, published in English by Penguin and in Hindi and Marathi by Manjul Publications, and India's Vaccine Growth Story: From Cowpox to Vaccine Maitri, which has been translated into 15 Indian languages.

He has also contributed articles to peer-reviewed national and international journals and leading newspapers.

According to the DIPR, Yadav was welcomed by senior administrative secretaries and other officers upon assuming charge as the Union Territory's top administrative officer.

'Don't Keep Us in

time has finally come to restore our statehood?" he asked.

Accuses Centre of using security incidents to delay statehood

Abdullah also accused the Centre of citing security incidents to justify the continued delay in restoring statehood, despite the elected government having no control over the police or law and order.

Referring to the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack and subsequent incidents in Kulgam, Reasi and Kishtwar, the Chief Minister said his government was being held accountable for matters outside its jurisdiction.

"We have no control over the police or law and order, yet we are told that because of the Pahalgam attack, perhaps statehood cannot be restored now. An incident takes place in Kulgam, and the same justification is given. An attack takes place in Reasi or Kishtwar, and again the same argument is put forward," he said.

"How can you hold us responsible for matters over which we have no control? We have fulfilled our responsibilities in the areas entrusted to us. Why should the people of Jammu and Kashmir suffer for the failures of others? What kind of justice is this?" he added.

Abdullah challenged the Centre to assess his government's performance on issues such as infrastructure, healthcare, education and governance rather than law and order, which, he said, remained outside its control.

"Either your intentions are not right, or you are not being sincere. If you do not want to restore statehood until the BJP gets its own chief minister, then have the courage to say so," he said.

Says Centre undermining elected representatives

The Chief Minister also accused the Centre of weakening the position of elected representatives by continuing the Union Territory arrangement.

Referring to protocol differences between officials and elected representatives in Union Territories and states, Abdullah said the status accorded to Chief Ministers, ministers and legislators in Union Territories was lower than that enjoyed by their counterparts in states.

"You do not want to weaken the chief secretary or undermine the chief justice. You want to weaken the people's elected government and humiliate their elected representatives," he said.

Recalling the assurances given by the Centre before the Supreme Court during proceedings concerning Article 370, Abdullah said the commitment had been to restore statehood after delimitation, Assembly elections and the formation of an elected government.

He said his government had passed a resolution seeking restoration of statehood in its very first Cabinet meeting and that he had personally submitted it to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Abdullah said he had repeatedly reminded the Prime Minister of the commitment during his visits to Jammu and Kashmir, including at the inauguration of the Sonamarg Tunnel and the Katra railway project. He also said he had raised the issue with Union Home Minister Amit Shah during a meeting in Delhi.

Despite the limitations of the Union Territory setup, Abdullah said his government had neither used its restricted powers as an excuse nor backed away from its responsibilities.

"We are not cowards who get frightened by difficult situations or use them as an excuse for our inability to deliver," he said. (PTI inputs)

Jhelum Water Levels

a gradual fall in water levels, while smaller streams and water channels, already flowing at considerably low levels, could face a greater risk of drying up if the precipitation deficit continues.

Although the anticipated dry spell may not trigger an immediate water crisis, Arif cautioned that its continuation beyond the expected period could worsen the situation, particularly in areas dependent on springs, streams and other local water sources.

He said a prolonged absence of rainfall and snowfall could also affect hydropower generation, as reduced river discharge would impact the natural inflows required for power projects.

Arif urged the administration and concerned departments to identify vulnerable areas and take precautionary measures to ensure an uninterrupted drinking water supply rather than waiting for water levels to reach critical levels.

He also called for regular monitoring of river and stream discharge and advance contingency planning for areas that could face shortages.

Urging people to use water judiciously, he said avoiding unnecessary wastage would be important during the extended dry period.

"There is no immediate reason for panic, but preparedness is necessary. If the dry spell continues well into December, the gradual decline in water levels could become a more serious concern," Arif said.

He said advance assessment and timely intervention by the authorities could help minimise the impact of any potential water shortage. (KNO)

Shopian Records

and Larnoo recorded a minimum temperature of minus 2.8 degrees Celsius each, while Pulwama settled at minus 2.3 degrees Celsius. Zethan Rafiabad recorded minus 2.1 degrees Celsius, followed by Gulmarg at minus 1.8 degrees Celsius.

Among other places, Khudwani recorded minus 1.5 degrees Celsius and Budgam minus 1.4 degrees Celsius, while Qazigund, Kupwara, Anantnag and Beerwah recorded minus 1.0 degrees Celsius each.

According to the data, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 0.0 degrees Celsius, while Bandipora and Magam settled at 0.3 degrees Celsius each. Baramulla and Ganderbal recorded 0.6 degrees Celsius each.

In the Jammu region, Banihal recorded the lowest minimum temperature at 3.8 degrees Celsius, followed by Kishtwar at 5.4 degrees Celsius and Batote at 5.6 degrees Celsius.

Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature of 11.1 degrees Celsius, while Katra and Kathua recorded 10.5 and 10.7 degrees Celsius, respectively. Udhampur was the warmest among the listed stations at 12.7 degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile, temperatures remained considerably lower in Ladakh, with Leh recording minus 8.0 degrees Celsius, while Kargil and Nubra Valley both settled at minus 5.6 degrees Celsius.

NIA Court Rejects

The case was firmly contested, setting out the gravity of the allegations, the nature of the offences and the strict statutory bars that govern bail in cases under the UAPA and the NDPS Act," an official said.

The officials further said charges against all the accused in the case were framed by the court on July 15, 2026, and the matter is now listed for recording of prosecution evidence.

The court rejected Poswal's bail application after hearing both sides and considering the prosecution's objections and submissions, they added.

HC Acquits Three

discrepancies in the prosecution version.

The Court observed that although conviction can be based on the testimony of a solitary injured witness, such evidence must be wholly reliable, confidence-inspiring and free from material contradictions. Greater caution is required where the case rests on the uncorroborated testimony of an interested witness.

It noted that the non-examination of the co-injured witness, Harvinder Singh, assumed significance as his testimony could have corroborated or contradicted the complainant on the presence of the accused, the manner of assault and the weapon allegedly used.

The Court further observed that the Investigating Officer's examination was particularly necessary in view of the failure to properly prove and exhibit the written complaint, uncertainty regarding its authorship, and questions surrounding the recovery of timber and an axe, preparation of the site plan and seizure proceedings.

Pointing to material improvements and inconsistencies in the complainant's testimony, the Court noted that his account of the accused initially fleeing the spot and subsequently returning to attack the forest officials was in conflict with the prosecution version.

It also highlighted discrepancies concerning the identification of the accused, observing that the complainant had referred to persons who allegedly disclosed their identities, but neither of those persons was examined during the trial.

It clarified that medical evidence could establish the existence and nature of injuries but could not, by itself, establish the identity of the assailants or the manner in which the injuries were caused.

Referring to a Supreme Court judgment, the Court observed that withholding material witnesses, whose testimony could have filled gaps in the prosecution case, may warrant an adverse inference against the prosecution.

Concluding that the prosecution had failed to establish the charges to the required standard, the Court held that the benefit of material doubts and lapses had to go to the accused.

PG Doctors Threaten

will wear black bands and resort to other peaceful forms of protest from November 19 to 22.

The association has further announced that routine Outpatient Department (OPD) services will be suspended from November 23 if the government fails to address their demands by then.

It has also indicated the possibility of withdrawing other non-essential services in subsequent phases, depending on the decisions taken collectively by the Resident Doctors' Associations.

Meanwhile, the All India Medical Students Association (AIMSA) said the agitation was receiving support from several district hospitals, with institutions including JLNM Hospital having submitted formal representations to their respective administrations in solidarity with the protesting resident doctors.

AIMSA representatives Dr Sanah Javaid, Dr K R Jaipal and Dr Abhishek Mittal from GMC Jammu have urged the Jammu and Kashmir Government to intervene without further delay and address the concerns of postgraduate doctors.

The protesting doctors are primarily seeking an immediate revision of stipends for all PG resident doctors, including those pursuing Diplomate of National Board (DNB) courses, besides ensuring parity with the stipends being provided to resident doctors in other states and Union Territories.

Another major demand relates to the implementation of maternity leave benefits for eligible resident doctors in accordance with the applicable directions of the High Court, with the association seeking an end to the delay in extending these benefits.

AIMSA Dental Head Dr Danish Hamid has also extended support to the agitation, highlighting the concerns of postgraduate dental residents and calling for their demands to be addressed alongside those of other resident doctors.

The growing support for the movement is also evident from various district hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir. Dr Ravi from JLNM Hospital, Dr Yamin from District Hospital Pulwama, Dr Karthik from RSSDH Poonch, Dr Yasir from District Hospital Kulgam and Dr Sriram from Gandhi Nagar Hospital have extended solidarity to the protesting doctors. AIMSA President Dr Mohammad Momin Khan questioned the continued delay in revising the stipends of PG resident doctors in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that several other states, including Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, had already undertaken revisions for their resident doctors. "If states like Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh can enhance stipends for their resident doctors, why is Jammu and Kashmir still lagging behind? Resident doctors across J&K deserve equal treatment, fair compensation and their rightful benefits. The Government must act now rather than allowing this issue to escalate further," he said.

AIMSA reiterated its support to all Resident Doctors' Associations, PG and DNB residents working in Government Medical Colleges and district hospitals across the Union Territory.

The association has urged the Health and Medical Education Department to initiate immediate dialogue with representatives of the protesting doctors and announce a concrete, time-bound decision on their demands.

It also cautioned that continued delay in resolving the issues could further intensify resentment among resident doctors, potentially leading to an expansion of the agitation and affecting routine healthcare services if the announced phases of protest are implemented.(KNO)

CM Omar Dedicates 13 Development Projects Worth ₹92.84 Cr To Mendhar

'Mughal Road to have all-weather connectivity with tunnel; work to commence soon': CM

Observer News Service



SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah dedicated 13 development projects worth ₹92.84 crore to the people of Mendhar in the frontier district of Poonch, giving fresh impetus to infrastructure development and strengthening essential public services in the border constituency.

The projects, spread across road connectivity, power infrastructure, flood protection, education and drinking water supply, include eight inaugurations and five foundation stone-laying ceremonies, reflecting the Government's continued focus on improving basic amenities and extending development to remote and border areas.

Among the major projects, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for a 50 MVA, 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station at Mendhar, being executed by JKPTCL at an estimated cost of ₹49.40 crore. The project is expected to significantly strengthen the power infrastructure and improve electricity distribution capacity in the area.

He also laid the foundation stone for flood protection works at vulnerable locations between Gursai and Mankote on both banks of Mendhari Nallah in Tehsil Mendhar, at an estimated cost of ₹12.13 crore, aimed at safeguarding vulnerable habitations and adjoining land against flooding.

In the road connectivity sector, the Chief Minister inaugurated six road projects covering a combined length of 16.30 kilometres. Completed at a cumulative cost of over ₹20.19 crore, these include Jaranwali Gali to Dhara Wali Gali via CFC Rehmatpur, Main Babu More to Battangiya via Mohalla Khatana Ghai Kallar, SK Main Road to Thallan Kalaban, Main Road SK to Dharan Faizabad, Adar to Charoon Gali via High School Gorisian, and Gurah Nima Chughan to Hudian Gali (Phase-I).

He also inaugurated a double-storey (5+5) building, including a toilet complex, at Government Model Girls Higher Secondary School, Mendhar, constructed at a cost of ₹1.59 crore, besides Water Supply Scheme for Dheri, Hundi, Dhakki and Narman villages of Behra under Jal Jeevan Mission, completed at a cost of ₹3.67 crore.

The Chief Minister further laid the foundation stone for a 1.50-kilometre road connecting Dharana Mohalla Naka to Mohalla Muqadama High School, Upper Dharana, at a cost of ₹1 crore.

In the education sector, he laid the foundation stones for a Model School for the Educationally Backward Block at Pathanateer, at a cost of ₹3.72 crore, and a teacher and staff hostel for a school under the DAJGUA scheme, at an estimated cost of ₹1.13 crore.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also flagged off J&K SRTC bus services on three new routes and two water tankers to further improve public transport and drinking water availability in Mendhar.

Tree Cutter Dies After Tree Falls On Him In Rathsun

BEERWAH: A 45-year-old man died after a tree reportedly fell on him while he was engaged in tree-cutting work in Rathsun village of Beerwah in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Wednesday.

The deceased has been identified as Manzoor Ahmad Khan, a resident of Chewdara. He sustained critical injuries in the incident and was immediately shifted to Sub-District Hospital Beerwah, where doctors declared him brought dead. The incident has left the bereaved family devastated. Khan reportedly leaves behind young children. [KNT]

4,000 High-Density Apple Rootstock Plants Stolen From Beerwah Nursery

BEERWAH: Around 4,000 high-density apple rootstock plants worth lakhs lakh have been stolen from a nursery in Alalguchoo area of Beerwah in Budgam district, causing a major financial loss to its owner.

The nursery belongs to Yawar Ahmad Malla, son of Abdul Razak Malla, who had recently invested in establishing the venture to promote high-density apple cultivation.

Bashir Ahmad Lone, a family member, said the theft had dealt a serious financial blow to the family, which had invested considerable resources in developing the nursery and its rootstock business.

A complaint has been lodged at Police Station Beerwah, and the family has sought police intervention to trace the stolen plants and identify those involved. The theft has also raised concerns among local horticulture growers and nursery owners over the security of valuable planting material, particularly as high-density apple cultivation is expanding across the region. [KNT]

J&K Bank Launches 'Project HRIDHAAN' For Paediatric Cardiac Care

Observer News Service



SRINAGAR: J&K Bank today launched Project HRIDHAAN - an initiative under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme – by flagging off over 20 children for advanced heart treatment at various hospitals in Delhi-NCR. Under the project, 34 children from economically disadvantaged families in Baramulla district have been identified by the Child Heart Foundation (CHF), a Delhi-based not-for-profit organization, for availing specialised cardiac care.

The children and their parents attended the launch ceremony chaired by Executive Director Sudhir Gupta in presence of General Manager Mohammad Muzaffar Wani, Deputy General Manager Syed Adil Bashir Andrabi and CEO Child Heart Foundation (CHF) Sunita Harkar Shalla, Dr Riyaz Ahmad from Rashtriya Bal Seva Kendra (Baramulla) besides other senior officials of the Bank and the Foundation.

Speaking on the occasion, Executive Director Sudhir Gupta said, "Our CSR priorities are guided by the needs of the people we serve. Healthcare is a priority for the Bank because timely access to treatment can shape the course of a child's life and ease the strain on an entire family."

"Specialised paediatric cardiac care is limited in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, so families often have to travel outside the UTs for advanced treatment. Through Project HRIDHAAN, we are working with Child Heart Foundation to help children receive specialised cardiac care when they need it. Through such partnerships, we aim to ease the financial burden on families so they can focus on their child's treatment and recovery, " he added.

He further said, "As the first group leaves for treatment, our immediate priority is to ensure that families have support at every stage. The project covers treatment, travel and stay, and a dedicated coordinator from CHF will assist families with hospital admission, treatment and follow-up care."

Thanking the Bank for extending support to the children, CEO Sunita Harkar Shalla said, "On behalf of CHF, I thank J&K Bank for helping these children receive the specialized care they need. For parents travelling far from home, it makes a difference to know who will meet them at the hospital, whom they can call with a question and how their child's recovery will be monitored after they return. Our team will stay in touch with families throughout that journey and thereafter."

She further said that Child Heart Foundation has over a decade of experience in paediatric cardiac care, including screening and treatment initiatives across India.

Earlier, welcoming the participants, DGM Syed Adil Bashir Andrabi said, "For the families here today, travelling to Delhi for their children's treatment is a big step. By partnering with CHF, the Bank has ensured that these children receive the life-saving care they deserve. We wish them all a safe journey and a speedy recovery."

Senior Citizen Recreation Centre to Come Up At Zewan

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, today visited the proposed site for the establishment of an approved Senior Citizen Recreation Centre at Zewan.

He also inspected the ongoing construction work of the new Tehsil Office Complex at Panthachowk.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer, R&B, Tatheer Manzoor, SDM East Zubair Ahmad, District Social Welfare Officer Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Executive Engineer, R&B, Fareed Khan, BDO Harwan Mohammad Muqsit, DMO Mohsin Noor and other concerned Officers.

During his visit to Zewan, the DC inspected the proposed site identified for the establishment of the Senior Citizen Recreation & Facilitation Centre, an initiative aimed at providing senior citizens with a dedicated space for recreation, rehabilitation, social interaction and participation in various social activities.

The DC assessed the suitability of the site and reviewed the proposed arrangements for taking the project forward. He directed the concerned authorities to initiate the tender allotment process at the earliest to ensure that construction work commences without delay.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited the under-construction Tehsil Office Complex at Panthachowk and took stock of the progress of the ongoing construction work. He reviewed the construction status and assessed the pace of execution, stressing the importance of timely completion of the project.



On the occasion, the DC stated that the new Tehsil Office Complex is nearing completion and is expected to provide improved infrastructure and better facilities for the smooth functioning of revenue administration in the Tehsil.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

(E-Auction Notice)

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:

SN	Catalogue No.	Name of contract
Date of Auction: 30.11.2026		
1	EAFZR-ADVT26-28	Advertisement rights through Vinyl wrapping on exterior of coaches of Train No. 14680/79/82/81, 14622/21/26/25 & 20424/23.
2	EAFZR-PRKG26-16	Allotment of Parking lot (comprehensive) on contract at Jalandhar City Railway station.
Date of Auction: 01.12.2026		
3	EAFZR-PnU26-13	Operation and maintenance of Pay & Use Toilet blocks at Batala, Mukatsar & Kotkapura Railway Stations.
Date of Auction: 02.12.2026		
	EAFZR-CTG26-16	Allotment of Catering Stall on contract at Khemkaran, Fazilka, Sultanpur Lodhi, Kotkapura, Makhu, Khuradpur, Gangsar Jaito, RCF Kapurthala Halt, DAV College Jalandhar Halt, Goneana Bhai Jagta, Phagwara Railway Stations.
	FZR-Linen-26-8	Allotment of contract for Procurement of Linen Covers with Advertisements rights for supply in AC Coaches of Mail/ Express Trains having primary maintenance over Firozpur Division.
	EAFZR-PnU26-14	Operation and maintenance of Pay & Use Toilet blocks at Amritsar & Dhandari Kallan Railway Stations
	EAFZR-PRKG-26-17	a) Allotment of space for parking of exclusively registered Call Taxi/Radio Taxi/App-based cabs at Ludhiana b) Allotment of Parking lot (comprehensive) on contract at Batala, Kapurthala & Bhagtanwala Railway station.
Date of Auction: 03.12.2026		
	EAFZR-CTG26-17	Allotment of Catering Stall on contract at Tarn Taran, Sahnewal, Firozpur City, Jagraon, Moga, Hoshiarpur, Chheherta, Kapurthala, Kapurthala and Verka Railway Stations.
	EAFZR-MIS26-22	a) Setting up and operation of Pooja Samagri Kiosk at Amritsar Railway Station. b) Setting up and operation of Water Vending Machines at Beas, Phagwara & Firozpur Cantt. Railway station. c) Setting up and operation of Food Van at Mukatsar, Ludhiana Railway premises adjoining to wall of Jagraon Bridge in Colony No. 10 and small food van near TTE Rest house at Ludhiana Railway Station.
	EAFZR-MPS 26-10	Allotment of Multi-Purpose Stall (MPS) at Amritsar, Beas & Firozpur Cantt Railway Station
	EAFZR-TSV26-3	Allotment of contract for Train side vending (TSV) of various catering items by Train No. 14654/53 (Amritsar-Hissar-Amritsar).

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in

No. NR-FZR0COML(NFR)/18/2024 Date: 18/11/2026

4021/2026

Serving Customers With A Smile

Government of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PW (R&B) CIRCLE KULGAM

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No. 06 OF RNB/CIRCLE KULGAM/2026-27/E-TENDERING DATED 18/11/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on % age basis from approved and eligible Contract or 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 (in Lacs)	Basic Cost (In Lacs)	GST Amount (In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	DRAINAGE SCHEME YARIPORA	365.051	309.365	55.686	5500	730100/=	18 Months	Drainage Sector	AAY Class

AAA = Administrative Approval Accorded by Director Urban Local Bodies Kmr Vide Order No: DULB/Plg/773 of 2026 Dated: 25-07-2026.
TS= TS given by Chief Engineer PW(R&B) South Kashmir Vide Order No: CE(R&B) SK/TS/115 of 2026-27 Dated: 07-11-2026.
Position of funds= Approved.

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 website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated		
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice		18-11-2026	
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From	19-11-2026	(11:00AM)
		To	09-12-2026	(04:00PM)
3	Date, Time and Place of Pre-Bid meeting	23/11/2026 at 2.00 PM in the OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PW (R&B) CIRCLE KULGAM		
4	Bid submission Start Date	From	19-11-2026	(11:00AM)
5	Bid Submission End Date	To	09-12-2026	(04:00PM)
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)		10-12-2026	(11:00 AM)
		In the office of SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PW (R&B) CIRCLE KULGAM		

2. EMD/BID SECURITY & TENDER FEE, PERFORMANCE SECURITY, SECURITY DEPOSIT/RETENTION MONEY, SAFETY CIRCULAR AND GST :
2.1 EMD/BID SECURITY & TENDER FEE: -Bidders shall deposit the prescribed Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Fee through online mode into the designated Centralized Pooling Account No. 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG) (M/S Centralized Pool Account PW R&B), strictly in accordance with Finance Department Circular No. FD-Code/290/2026 dated 22.05.2026 and Office Order No. CE/R&B/SK/WS/2095-2111 dated 05.06.2026 issued by the Chief Engineer, PW(R&B) Department, South Kashmir. Submission of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/TDR/Bank Guarantee or any other instrument shall not be permissible. The Division Name, NIT No. & S.No./Name of the Work including transaction ID against all the required deposits should be clearly mentioned on the Documentary proof/receipt evidencing of successful remittance of the EMD and Tender Fee and it shall be uploaded along with the bid, failing which the bid shall be liable for rejection as non-responsive. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.
Note: - Non mentioning of transaction ID shall render the bid as non-responsive.
2.2 PERFORMANCE SECURITY/PERFORMANCE GAURANTEE (including APS) :- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce Performance Security (Performance Guarantee) 5% and Additional Performance Security wherever applicable within 7 Days before fixation of Contract in account no bearing 0756010200000022 PERFORMANCE SECURITY A/C SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PW (R&B) CIRCLE KULGAM and shall be released after DLP obligations are over. Notwithstanding the above, the Bid Security deposited by the successful bidder(s) shall stand retained and shall be credited to the account of the concerned Division's Performance Security and adjusted under the applicable Performance Security Deposit Head,
Failure to produce 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.
As per circular issued by J&K Finance Department (Codes Division) under No.: - FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated: 08-08-2025, for Seeking additional performance Security for the selected bidders who have abnormally low bid price-Reg
33. The tender/bid shall be liable to rejection if the bidder fails to fulfil the requirements stipulated in the NIT.
34. All other terms and conditions shall be as per PWD Form-25.

No. SE/R&B/KUL/13114-18
DATED: - 18 -11-2026

DIPK-7795-26
DT: 18/11/2026

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
PW(R&B) Circle Kulgam

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ELECTRIC DIVISION - IV, KPDCL.

KHANYAR, SRINAGAR. PHONE # 0194-2477608.

E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER (e-NIT).

e-NIT No.:30 of ED-IV/2026-27. Dated: 17 /11/2026.

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL). Executive Engineer, Electric Division-IV, Khanyar, Srinagar invites e-bids from reputed Contractors having valid A-Class Electrical Contractor License or equivalent license issued by Chief Electrical Inspector of J&K PDD/ Relevant issuing authority/ Registered firms/ Bidders enlisted with CPWD/ MES/Railways for following works.

S.No.	Particulars	Est. Cost (Rs)	EMD (Rs)
01.	Shifting of Poles along Mughal Lane, Habak. Under the jurisdiction of Sub-Division Rainawari under CDF 2026-27(SXRCDF26270376)	1.5 Lacs	3000

The Complete tender document is available at website http://jktenders.gov.in. Interested bidder/ tenders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of quantities, Terms and conditions of Contract and other details.

S.No.	Particulars	Details
01.	Date and Time of downloading/ Sale (Start) of Tender Document.	17-11-2026; 10:00 Hrs
03.	Date and Time of Bid Uploading (Start).	18-11-2026; 10:00 Hrs
03.	Date and Time of Bid Uploading (End).	8-12-2026; 14:00 Hrs
04.	Online Commercial/ Technical Bid Openinq Date & Time.	10-12-2026; 14:00 Hrs
05.	Financial Bid Opening.	Shall be declared later for the technically qualified bidders.
06.	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Openinq.	Office of Executive Engineer, ED - IV, Khanyar, Srinagar.
07.	Cost of e-Bid document.	Rs. 200 (Rupees Two hundred Only) Non-Refundable.
08.	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit.	Rs.3000 (Rupees three Thousand Only)

The Bidder needs to upload all the following documents to avoid cancellation in Technical Evaluation Process.

1) Cost of e-Bid Document, amount specified in the table. (Treasury Challan/ Treasury Receipt (TR) / DD (Non Refundable).
2) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD).
(Note: The Bidders shall mention the e-NIT No. and Name of the firm on both Treasury Challan and EMD in order to avoid using the same multiple times for different works.)
3. PAN Card along with latest ITR.
4. Valid Registration Card with validity up to date.
5. GST Registration along with return.
6. SBD Signed.
7. Earnest Money Deposit.
8. Experience as per Conditions (as per SBD)

The bidder must have successfully completed similar / electrical works during the last seven (07) years (i.e., up-to ending previous Financial Year) any of the following manners:
Three similar Electric completed works costing not less than the Amount equal to 40% of estimated cost in aggregate.
OR
Two similar Electric completed works costing not less than the amount equal to 50% of estimated cost in aggregate.
OR
One similar Electric completed work costing not less than the amount equal to 80% of the estimated cost.

9. Affidavit as per SBD (Latest)
10. Labour License along with Insurance.
11. The bidder must have an Average Annual Financial Turn Over of not less than 30% of the estimated tender value during the last three (03) years. Documents certified by Chartered Accountant regarding the same, should be submitted.

DIPK-NB-2162-26
DT: 18/11/2026

Executive Engineer
ED-IV, Khanyar
Srinagar

Coconuts are Oilseeds, Can't Be Sold in Fruit Markets: HC

Press Trust of India



LUCKNOW: The Allahabad High Court has ruled that coconuts cannot be sold in fruit and vegetable markets, as they are classified as an oilseed under the applicable agricultural produce classification.

A division bench of Justice Alok Mathur and Justice Amitabh Kumar Rai passed the order on November 12 while dismissing a petition filed by Ghaziabad-based M/s Three Star Fruit Company.

The firm had sought permission to sell green coconuts at the New Fruit and Vegetable Market in Sahibabad and challenged the classification of coconut as an oilseed under the Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1964.

The petitioner argued that coconut is botanically a fruit and should therefore be allowed to be sold in the fruit and vegetable market. It also claimed that it had been engaged in the business at the market since 2003 and was earlier permitted to sell coconuts.

Opposing the petition, the state government submitted that coconut was classified as an agricultural oilseed through an amendment dated January 30, 1995. It said coconuts could instead be sold at the foodgrain market in Govindpuram, Ghaziabad, after payment of prescribed charges.

Upholding the government's position, the bench observed that a commodity's classification was determined not only by its botanical identity but also by its commercial use and market identity.

The court noted that coconut exists in different forms, including green, tender and mature coconut, besides dried coconut. While green coconut may be consumed as a fruit, dried coconut is used for extracting oil.

"Merely because green coconut is consumed as a fruit, the entire category cannot be treated as fruit for commercial purposes," the bench observed.

It also said that previous inaction by authorities or their failure to prohibit coconut trading in the market could not create a legal right for the trader to continue the practice. Holding the 1995 classification valid, the court dismissed the petition.

Atiqa Mir Ends Italy Campaign on Podium, Sets Rookie Records

Press Trust of India



FRANCIACORTA (ITALY): Indian racing prodigy Atiqa Mir capped off a successful campaign in the Champions of the Future Academy karting series with a podium finish in the finale here, underlining her growing credentials with a record- breaking rookie season.

Atiqa's third podium of the season, a third-place finish, came in the all important final of Champions of the Future Academy Round 5.2 after kart and engine issues pegged her back at the start of the weekend. The honour of the fastest lap also belonged to Atiqa who is the first Indian to be backed by the Formula 1 Academy.

In her first season in the age 12-14 category, Atiqa not only punched above her weight, she also battled with the more experienced drivers neck and neck.

She became the youngest driver in the championship history to win a feature race, get pole position, set the fastest lap and clean sweep an entire round (Greece).

Her exploits in Greece turned heads and she earned the respect of rivals up and down the paddock.

That was followed by a sensational pole position in the following round in Viterbo, Italy, where she outpaced Mercedes F1 junior Niccolo Perico. Atiqa's first podium of the season came in Valencia.

She raced majority of the championship as an 11-year-old before turning 12 only last week.

In her maiden season in the junior category, Atiqa finished a commendable fifth out of 53 drivers in the championship. Atiqa races for Kart Republic -- a team known for producing a battery of Formula 1 drivers.

Reflecting on her rookie COTFA campaign and the final weekend, Atiqa said: "The weekend taught me a lot. We struggled with pace but fought through it. But I didn't give up and kept fighting and a podium felt really sweet and good way to end the championship.

"We had moments of brilliance this year but didn't score in a lot of races which is something I need to work on and improve my consistency through the year. Big thanks to Raise and JK Tyres for making this possible."

India Signs ₹1,976-Cr Defence Deal with Israel

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The defence ministry on Wednesday signed a contract worth nearly Rs 1,976 crore with Israel Aerospace Industries for upgrade and obsolescence management of Barak point defence missile system for the Indian Navy, officials said on Wednesday.

The upgrade of the system would ensure enhanced features and "potent range anti-air defence capability" of the Indian naval platforms. As part of the contract, a "comprehensive upgrade" of hardware and software of the system would be undertaken, they said.

The Rs 1,976.40-crore contract between them, under "Other Capital Procurement Procedure", was inked on November 18 in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi.

The ministry said it has signed the contract with Israel Aerospace Industries for the upgrade and obsolescence management of Barak point defence missile system onboard Indian Navy ships.

Muslims Projected to Surpass Christians by 2035

AP

NEW YORK: Islam is expected to surpass Christianity as the world's largest religion by 2035, according to detailed projections released Wednesday by the Pew Research Center.

Pew, which has been issuing authoritative reports on religious demography for 25 years, said both Islam and Christianity are growing, but Islam is growing much faster. A key reason, Pew said, is that Muslims tend to have more children than other major religious groups.

"It's the babies," said Pew senior demographer Conrad Hackett, explaining that conversion and other ways of changing religious identity are much smaller factors than fertility rates.

During 2020-2025, the fertility rate for Muslims was 3.1 children per woman, followed by the rate for Christians at 2.5, according to Pew. The average fertility rate for all other women was 1.6, below the level of 2.1 that's considered necessary for each generation to replace itself.

According to Pew's latest estimates, there were 2.27 billion Christians and 2.02 billion Muslims worldwide in 2020. Pew's new projections forecast that there will be 2.57 billion Muslims and 2.52 billion Christians by 2035. By 2070, if recent trends continue, there will be more than 3.6 billion Muslims and just under 3 billion Christians worldwide.

The estimates are part of a broader Pew project examining how the size of major religious groups could change between 2020 and 2070. The projections take into account recent differences between religious groups' age profiles, fertility rates, and patterns of religious switching and migration.

Among the many notable findings: Pew projects that the United States, within 40 years, will no longer have a Christian majority. Christians now account for 62% of the population, according to Pew, and will fall below 50% by 2065.

In neighboring Canada, Christians are expected to drop below 50% by 2030, Pew said.

In both countries, a significant reason for the drop is the concurrent increase in the number of people with no religious affiliation. By 2070, they are projected to account for 41% of the U.S. population and to outnumber Christians in Canada.

Muslims and Christians are expected to keep pace with population growth

The world's population is projected to increase by 29% between 2020 and 2070, Pew said. Of the religious groups it analyzed, Muslims and Christians are the only ones expected to keep pace, with Christians growing by 30% and Muslims by 80%.

Although Hindus and Jews are growing in absolute numbers, they are projected to decline as a percentage of the global population, Pew said. It forecasts that Buddhists would shrink both in number and as a portion of the world's population, in part due to expected declines in the overall populations of China, South Korea and Japan.

Over the coming decades, Pew said, most of the world's population growth is expected to occur in Africa, particularly south of the Sahara Desert, where most people are Christians or Muslims. The region's high fertility and rising life expectancy will boost the global numbers of both faiths, Pew predicted.

By 2070, Pew said, more than half of the world's Christians will live in sub-Saharan Africa, and Congo will surpass the United States as the country with the most Christians, with their ranks increasing threefold to 270 million.

The populations of other major regions are expected to grow more modestly, or even decline.

For example, the number of people living in Europe will shrink by 17% by 2070, Pew said, and the number of Christians there will drop by a third, from 505 million to 324 million. Over the same period, the percentage of Europe's population that is Muslim is expected to increase from 6% to 13%.

In the U.S., Pew projects that the number of Christians will decline from about 217 million in 2020 to about 174 million in 2070.

Several mainline Protestant denominations in the U.S. have faced declining membership over many years. However, Jeffrey Brodd, a religious studies professor at California State-Sacramento, suggested a rebound was possible following congressional election victories this month by several Democrats active in these moderate-to-liberal denominations.

Fertility rates are a driving factor

By Pew's estimates, Muslim women gave birth to more babies than women in any other religion during 2020-2025. About 252 million babies were born to Muslim mothers, compared with 208 million born to Christian mothers.

Muslims are the only major religious group expected to have growing numbers of births in the decades ahead. The other groups are projected either to have steady numbers of births or to experience gradual decline.

If recent trends continue, according to Pew, Pakistan will have the largest Muslim population by 2070, followed by India, Nigeria and Indonesia — which currently has the most Muslims.

Gina Zurlo, a senior research-

