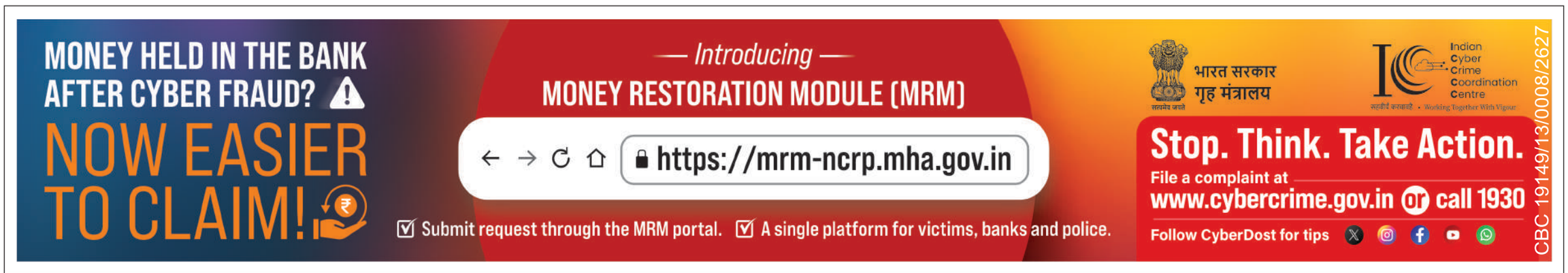
29th year OF PUBLICATION

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OPD Shutdown Looms As Stipend Row Hits GMC



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The stipend agitation by postgraduate and Senior Resident doctors has spread to Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, with resident doctors joining the ongoing protest on Friday and warning of suspension of routine OPD services from November 23 if their demands remain unresolved.

The doctors are seeking an immediate enhancement of stipends and parity with their counterparts in other States and Union Territories, besides resolution of other long-pending service-related grievances.

The protest at GMC Srinagar comes amid a widening agitation across Jammu and Kashmir, with resident doctors at GMCs Jammu, Doda, | More on P6

River Levels Dip Across Kashmir, Jhelum Runs Low

Gauge Readings Show Jhelum, Major Tributaries Below Reference Marks At Monitoring Stations

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Water levels in the Jhelum and its major tributaries remained substantially below their respective reference marks across Kashmir on Friday, with gauge readings at all monitoring stations indicating low levels.

According to data, the Jhelum was flowing at minus 0.64 feet at Sangam against the reference mark of 21 feet. At Munshi Bagh in Srinagar, the water level stood at 3.81 feet against a reference mark of 18 feet, while at Asham it was recorded at 1.30 feet against 14 feet.

At Pampore, the river level was recorded at 1.01 metres against the reference mark of 4.5 metres.



Wular Lake's water level stood at 1,573.90 metres, 4.10 metres below its reference level of 1,578 metres.

Among the major tributaries, Vishow Nallah at Khudwani recorded 2.41 metres against a reference mark of 7.75 metres, while Rambiyara Nallah at Wachi stood at minus 0.44 metres against 5.4 metres.

Lidder Nallah at Batkoot recorded minus 0.66 metres against a reference mark of 1.5 metres. Doodhganga Nallah at Barzulla stood at 0.26 metres against 3.65 metres, while Sindh Nallah at | More on P6

J&K To Remain Dry Till Month-End

Dry weather is expected to prevail across Jammu and Kashmir until November 30, with temperatures likely to dip further in the coming days, even as night temperatures improved marginally across most parts of the region. Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 0.2 degrees Celsius on Friday, moving above the freezing point after several days. The temperature was up from minus 0.2 degrees Celsius recorded the previous night. A weather department official said that tourist resort Pahalgam in south Kashmir recorded a minimum | More on P6

HC Quashes 2 PSA Detention Orders

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Friday quashed the preventive detention orders of two persons booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA), observing that vague and non-specific allegations violate constitutional safeguards and deprive detainees of their right to make an effective representation against their detention.

A bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar passed separate judgments in the petitions filed by Rashid Bashir Pir and Anayatullah Wani, challenging their detention orders issued by the District Magistrates of Kupwara and Shopian respectively in April and May 2025.

In the case of Pir, the Court quashed the detention order dated May 3, 2025, observing that the grounds of detention contained vague allegations without specifying the details of the alleged subversive activities or the period during which he had allegedly indulged in such activities.

The Court noted that the grounds referred to phrases such as "recent | More on P6

Dismantle Terror-Separatist Ecosystem: LG To Police

» Calls For Winter Vigil, Prioritises Seizure Of Terror-Linked Properties

» Directs DCs, SSPs To Intensify Border Vigil, Crackdown On Illegal Activities

Observer News Service

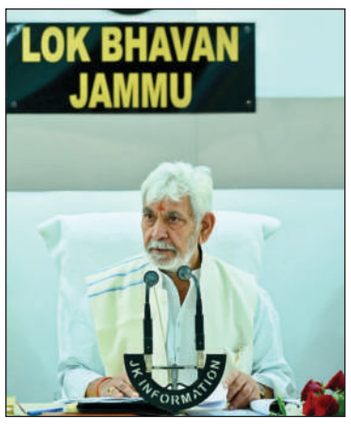
Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday directed officials to dismantle the entire terror and separatist ecosystem, calling for intensified winter surveillance, security preparedness and action against networks sustaining terrorism.

Sinha chaired a high-level meeting with Deputy Commissioners, SSPs and senior officials to review the security situation, winter readiness and progress on key infrastructure projects across Jammu Division.

"Our goal cannot stop at neutralising terrorists. We must tear down the entire terrorist, separatist ecosystem that sustains them," the Lieutenant Governor told police officials.

He directed Deputy Commissioners and SSPs to appoint dedicated nodal officers and set district-specific targets for the seizure and forfeiture of properties linked to terrorist and separatist elements.

"Attaching and forfeiting properties linked to terrorist and separatist elements must be treated as a top priority," he said.

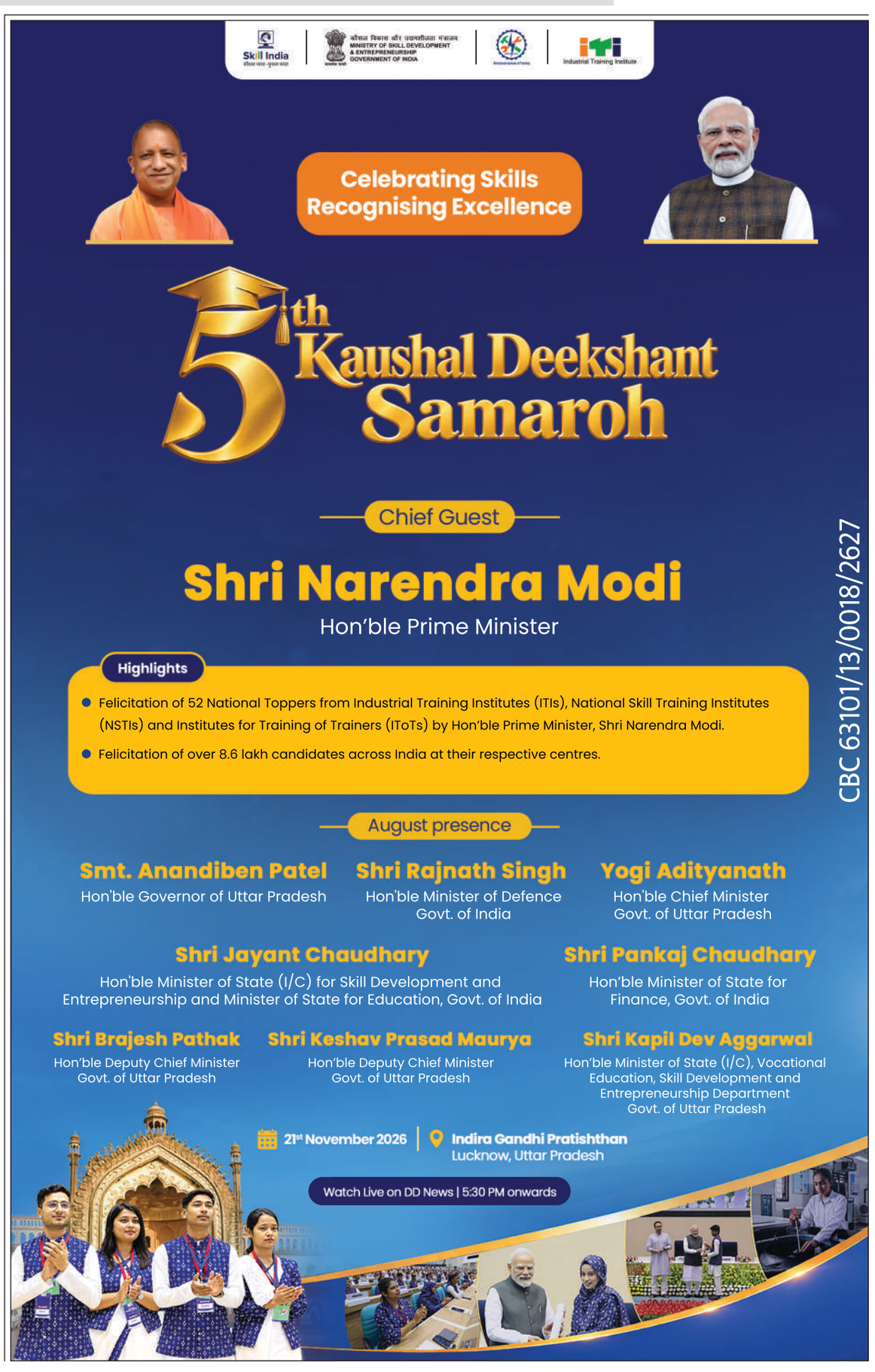


The Lieutenant Governor called for intensified winter surveillance, stronger security preparedness and complete operational control, while stressing the need to strengthen security frameworks and implement actionable roadmaps to ensure lasting peace and accelerate development in the region.

He also | More on P6

Every Terror Fugitive Will Be Brought Back: Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday asserted that every fugitive involved in terrorism, organised crime or narcotics offences operating from abroad would be brought back to India to face trial, while calling for stronger state Anti-Terrorism Squads (ATS) and greater coordination among agencies to counter terrorism. Addressing the two-day 6th Anti-Terror Conference organised by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in New Delhi on November 19 and 20, Shah stressed the need for coordinated action against cross-border terrorism and the wider terror ecosystem. He said terror networks, organised crime syndicates and | More on P6



AQI 354 vs 59: Contrasting Air Quality Readings Put Srinagar In Spotlight

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar's air quality readings differed sharply on Friday, with a real-time pollution tracking platform placing the city's Air Quality Index (AQI) at 354, in the severe category, while official data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) recorded it at 59, categorised as satisfactory.

According to AQI.in, Srinagar recorded an AQI of 354 at around 2:51 pm, placing it in the severe category and ahead of several Indian cities reporting elevated pollution levels.

The platform's rankings placed Hisar in Haryana second with an AQI of 328, followed by Ludhiana at 309 and Amritsar at 302. Delhi, which frequently records high pollution levels during winter, stood ninth with an AQI of 277, while Gurugram recorded 240.

However, data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) presented a contrasting picture, placing Srinagar's AQI at 59, categorised as satisfactory.

The wide disparity between the readings reported by the two platforms highlights the variations in air quality measurements and underscores the need to distinguish between third-party real-time estimates and official monitoring data.

AQI.in's dashboard | More on P6

SC Asks Centre to Consider Law on Blood-Relative Marriages

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Saying it did not want to direct but only sensitise the government, the Supreme Court on Friday asked the Centre for its response on the "desirability" of bringing in legislation on marriages between those who are closely related by blood.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana also noted that the court can't regulate such 'consanguineous marriages'.



It observed that regulating such marriages through social reform legislation falls exclusively within the domain of the legislature.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by Charvi S, a law student residing in Bengaluru, who urged it to consider whether the law should continue to permit a practice that exposes children to foreseeable and avoidable genetic harm simply because it is customary.

"We are issuing notice for the limited purpose of impressing upon the Union of India to consider the desirability of bringing a suitable legislation, or to ensure wide publicity through different channels, including a proper curriculum...," the bench said.

"We can issue notice for the limited purpose of impressing upon the Union of India to consider the need for a suitable legislation. We will not direct them. We will only sensitise them," the bench observed.

The plea, filed through advocate Anjuman Tripathy, said recent medical studies indicate that 'consanguineous marriages' significantly increase homozygosity, which raises the likelihood of recessive genetic conditions, congenital malformations, sensory impairments, developmental disabilities, | More on P6

Heatwave Risk: India Ranks Among Top Countries For Exposure Among Infants, Elderly

Press Trust Of India

India ranked among the top countries with the highest heatwave exposure for both vulnerable age groups -- infants and older adults -- along with China, the US and Russia, according to the tenth indicator report of the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change.

Globally, the total number of heatwave days decreased from 2024's historical high of 15.3 billion person-days for older adults and 2.3 billion person-days for infants. The year 2025 was the second highest on record for heatwave exposure for both vulnerable groups combined as older adults were exposed to 10.8 billion person-days of heatwaves, while infants experienced 1.1 billion person-days, the report said.

When normalised by population size, older adults experienced on average 12.8 heatwave days per individual in 2025, while infants experienced on average 8.7 heatwave days per individual, it said.

Authors of the report, led by those at the UK's University College London, said climate action is picking up around the world, but failing to keep pace with global warming, especially as health harms of climate change grew faster in the decade since the 2016 Paris Agreement, compared to the previous one.

A decade after the Paris Agreement, the report's authors are calling for climate change to be formally declared a global health emergency, for a new WHO instrument to enable a coordinated global response, and for governments to put health at the centre of every climate decision, from emissions targets to climate funding.



Priorities include urgent, fair cuts to greenhouse gas emissions, sustained investment in science, and climate finance for health delivered as grants rather than loans, so that countries can adapt without taking on more debt, they said.

"A decade after the Paris Agreement, our findings are unambiguous: the health harms of climate change are growing faster than the world's response to them, and in many cases even accelerating," author Marina Romanello, executive director of the Lancet Countdown, professor at University College London, said.

Real progress has been made in clean energy, health system readiness, and health-protective regulation, all of which are already delivering health benefits to local communities, Romanello said.

"However, progress has been too slow, too small, and isn't reaching those who need it most. That is why we are calling for climate change to be formally recognised as a global health emergency, with health placed at the centre of every climate decision," Romanello said.

In 2023 alone -- the hottest year during 2016-2025 -- heat was linked to a record 710,000 estimated deaths, exceeding those from malaria or HIV, with 71.5 per cent of them driven by climate change. Altogether, climate change is estimated to have caused almost 3 million heat deaths between 2016 and 2023, the authors said.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

Muthi, Akhnoor Road, Jammu/ZamZam Complex Rambagh, Srinagar
www.jkssb.nic.in

Notice

Subject: Issuance of Admit Cards to the candidates for Written Examination for the post of Sub Inspector, Home Department scheduled to be held on 29.11.2026.

The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) is scheduled to conduct the OMR-Based Written Examination for the post of **Sub Inspector,** Home Department on 29th November 2026. The schedule of the examination and the availability of Admit Cards is given as under:

S. No.	Name of the post	Notification No.	Item No.	Date of Examination	Admit card available w.e.f.
1.	Sub-Inspector (Home Dept.)	02 of 2024	07	29.11.2026	26.11.2026

In this regard, the Admit Cards of the eligible candidates shall remain available for downloading on JKSSB's official Website (www.jkssb.nic.in) from the above-mentioned dates. The candidates can download their admit cards using their credentials. The following steps are to be followed while downloading the Admit Card:-

i. To download E-Admit Card, first visit the official website of JKSSB, i.e. www.jkssb.nic.in
ii. On the homepage, there will be a link to download E-Admit Card.
iii. Enter log-in credentials i.e., Username and Password.
iv. Enter the OTP received on your registered Email ID and Mobile Number.
v. Download and print your JKSSB Admit Card.
vi. Candidate must bring along a clear printed copy of E-Admit card on the day of examination.

In case a candidate is unable to download his/her Admit Card or has any mismatch in the photograph on the Admit Card, the candidate may approach the Board through email id **ssbjk-grievance@jk.gov.in** and share the candidate particulars (Name/Father's Name/Mother's Name/DOB/Application No./Post Name/Advt. No.) or may visit the Board personally two days before the Examination Date with a valid proof of having submitted the online application form and online fee. No claim shall be entertained later by the Board or by the Centre Superintendent/staff on duty on the day of the examination.

Candidates are advised to take print-out of the Admit Card well in advance to avoid any last-minute rush. Candidates are advised to report to their respective examination centres at least two (02) hours before the scheduled examination time for Biometric/Facial Authentication and for completion of other identification processes.

The candidature of candidates claiming eligibility by misrepresentation, concealment of any material facts, impersonation, fraud, etc. shall be liable for cancellation and disciplinary action, as deemed appropriate, shall be initiated against such candidate(s) without further notice.

The Board reserves the right to cancel the candidature of any candidate at any stage at which he/she is found ineligible.

The candidates are also advised to be in touch with JKSSB's Official Website (**www.jkssb.nic.in**) for the latest updates on the examinations and are advised to read and follow the instructions contained in the Admit cards strictly.

Candidates shall have to submit their Admit Cards back to the Invigilation staff duly signed by the candidate and the concerned Invigilator after the completion of examination.

20.11.2026
(Reyaz Ahmad Malik) JKAS
Controller of Examinations
J&K Services Selection Board

DIPK-7847/26
dated: 20-11-2026

No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM (UT)/6/2026-03 (7990247) Dated: 20.11.2026

Public Notice

I, Bilal Ahmad Hajam, Father of Farhat Bilal, R/o Check Freshiti Reshi, Dewa Pora, Tangmarg, District Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir, do hereby inform the general public that the name of my daughter has been wrongly recorded as Farhat Jan in her Aadhaar Card bearing No. 7065-5266-7319, whereas her correct and actual name is Farhat Bilal.
I am a permanent resident of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and have applied for publication of a Gazette Notification regarding the aforesaid name correction in Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu.
Objections, if any, may be submitted within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.
Bilal Ahmad Hajam F/o Farhat Bilal
R/o Check Freshiti Reshi, Dewa Pora,
Tangmarg, District Baramulla
Cell No.: 9797340367 fko

Public Notice

I, Zoona Begum, W/o Mohd Sabir Lone, R/o Hanjiwera Bala, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir, do hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Zona Begum in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 4347-7215-9039, whereas my correct and actual name is Zoona Begum.
I am a permanent resident of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and have applied for publication of a Gazette Notification regarding the aforesaid name correction in Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu.
Objections, if any, may be submitted within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.
Zoona Begum
W/o Mohd Sabir Lone
R/o Hanjiwera Bala, Tehsil Pattan,
District Baramulla
Cell No.: 9797340367 fko

Public Notice

I have lost my 10th pass qualification ceertificate bearing Regd no: 1921000000080083 roll no 12412213 session Annual Year 2020 . 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 office of the Assistnat /Deputy Secretary Certificate JKBOSE within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Sheikh Faisal Bashir bmg
S/o Bashir Ahmad Sheikh

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Beerwah

Application from Fayaz Ahmed Ganie, S/o Sunaullah Ganie, resident of Warihama, Beerwah. for issuance of EWS Certificate

Public Notice

An application has been submitted for EWS certificate verification. In this regard, the particulars regarding the applicant's family members, their residence and occupation are to be taken into consideration. It is stated that the applicant's family members have neither migrated nor shifted their residence elsewhere, and the matter regarding EWS certificate verification is under process.
Accordingly, a report has been sought from the concerned area in respect of the particulars of the applicant's family members. The details are as follows:

Name	Occupation	Monthly Income
Riyaz Ahmed Ganie	Labourer	Rs. 6,000/-
Fayaz Ahmed Ganie	Student	Nil

The concerned persons and the general public are hereby informed that the matter is being processed in accordance with the prescribed procedure. Anyone having any objection regarding the issuance of the said EWS certificate may submit their objection, if any, to the concerned office within the prescribed period.

Tehsildar, Beerwah
fzk

Office of the Principal
Mehjoor Educational Institute
Kandhama Beerwah.

Public Notice inviting objection

It is hereby informed to the general public that the list of committee members of Mehjoor Edu Instt Kandhama has been proposed and published as per the prescribed format .
If any person has anny objection claim or suggestion regarding the published committee members, they may submit the same in writing along with supporting documents to the office of the institute within seven (7) days from the date of publication of the notice
No objection received after the stipulated period will be entered .

1. Firdous Ah Qureshi Chairman
2. Sabia Rashid
3. Syed Ayaz Ah
4. Gh HASSAN Matoo
5. M Shafi Matoo
6. Jameel Ah Masoodi
7. M. aMIN Pandith

Principal
Mehjoor Educational Institute
bmg Kandhama Beerwah.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certficiate in favour of my son Uzair Ahmad Tali who was born on 14-03-2015. 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.
Shabir Ahmad Tali
F/o Uzair Ahmad Tali bmg
R/o Hardu Surash

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as MOHD YOUNIS KHAN While as my actual name is MOHD YOUNUS KHAN C/O ZULUFKAR KHAN R/O GULGAM KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222 Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.
MOHD YOUNUS KHAN
C/O :- ZULUFKAR KHAN
R/O :- GULGAM , KUPWARA fko-r

आईआरईएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड
IREL (India) Limited
(formerly Indian Rare Earths Limited)
Rare Earths Division, Kochi, Kerala, ernal purchase-red@inel.co.in
CIN: U15100MH1950G01008187
An ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Company

TENDER NOTICE

IREL (India) Limited, Rare Earths Division, Udyogamandal, invites tender for the following item/job description:

Item/job description	Availability of Tender in GeM Portal
Transportation of Rare Earth Chloride Solution	21.11.2026

For details visit the following websites:

gem.gov.in, www.irel.co.in/tender-information https://eprocure.gov.in/cppp

Any corrigendum/extension to above tenders shall be hosted in above websites only.

Date: 18.11.2026

Sd/-
GM & Head, RED

cbc 48145/11/0008/2627

Public Notice

I, Tanveer Ahmad Dar, Father of Wahid Tanveer, Resident of Sumbal, Bandipora, Jammu and Kashmir, do hereby inform the general public that the name of my son has been wrongly recorded as Veer Ahmed Dar in his Aadhaar Card bearing No. 3304-2508-6645, whereas his correct and actual name is Wahid Tanveer.
I am a permanent resident of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and have applied for publication of a Gazette Notification regarding the aforesaid name correction in Govt. Ranbir Press, Jammu.
Objections, if any, from the general public may be submitted within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.
Tanveer Ahmad Dar
F/o Wahid Tanveer
R/o Sumbal, Bandipora
Cell No.: 7006446686 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that the electric connection of the unit at Sangeen Darwaza, Hawal, Srinagar, bearing Consumer I**D: 0204040017524, having Account ID: 2666017524, registered on the name of Ghulam Mustafa Purra, has been cleared from all its dues from KPDCL.**We, Asif Mustafa Purra and Suhail Mustafa Purra, both the sons of Late Ghulam Mustafa Purra, have applied to KPDCL(Baghi Ali Mardan)for the **cancellation of the above-said electric connection bearing Consumer ID: 0204040017524, with immediate effect.**If any person has any objection regarding the cancellation of the above-mentioned electric connection, they may contact the concerned department within 7 days from the publication of this notice. After that, no claim or objection shall be entertained.

MEDIA LINE ADS

Public Notice

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th)under Roll No:. 121029003 Session: Nov-Dec Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed against my father's name and Mother's name as Mohammad Ashraf Dar, Gulshan instead of Mohd Ashraf Dar and Gulshan Ara respectively Now, I have applied for correction/ rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education Sub Office Magam , if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub Office Magam within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.



Name: Taheem Ashraf Dar
Father's name: Mohd Ashraf Dar
Mother's Name: Gulshan Ara
DOB: 08-07-01-2010
Residence: Hagerpora Budibugh
Mobile no: 954115389

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

The DOB of my son has been wrongly written in his DOB certificate as 30-09-2013 in my schoor records and adhaar card while his correct DOB is 28-08-2014. Now I have applied fo the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned offices within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Abdul Latief Khan
F/o Arsalan Ahmad Khan fko
R/o Ganjipora Buran Pattan

کاغذات کی گمشدگی

میری گاڑی(SWIFT VXI) زیرنمبر JK01V-5247 کی NOC جو کہ MAH AND MAH FINANCIAL SERVICE SGR کی ہے کہیں گم ہوگئی ہے۔ بہت ڈھونڈنے پر نہیں ملی۔ اگر کسی نے اٹھائی ہو تو وہ برائے انسانیت نیچے دیئے ہوئے پتہ پر واپس کریں۔ بصورت دیگر اسکی ڈپلیکیٹ نکالنی مطلوب ہے ۔اس بارے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر MAH AND MAH FINANCIAL SERVICE SGR کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد از میعاد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

بلال احمد بٹ ولد نذیر احمد بٹ ساکن کرالہ پورہ سرینگر بڈگام۔

اطلاع عام

ہر خاص وعام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کی جاتا ہے کہ مجھے اپنے بجلی ایگریمنٹ زیر کنزیومر نمبر 0206010001887 جو کہ میرے والد کے نام پر یعنی ولی محمد وانی کے نام پر ہے۔ اب اسکو میرے نام یعنی عاشق حسین وانی کے نام پر کروانا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر ایگزیکٹیو انجینیر پی ڈی ڈی بڈگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ میعاد گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

عاشق حسین وانی ولد ولی محمد وانی
ساکن آری گام بڈگام۔
MBC۔ 6006716858 فون

Ambulance Dedicated To Improve Healthcare Access In Dal Lake Interiors

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a move aimed at improving emergency healthcare access in the interior areas of Dal Lake, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo dedicated an ambulance to Medical Block Hazratbal during a visit to Mir Behri Dal, where he reviewed developmental initiatives and interacted with residents over civic concerns.

The initiative assumes significance in view of the longstanding challenges faced by residents of Mir Behri Dal in accessing essential services, particularly healthcare. Despite being part of Srinagar city, the area has historically faced a shortage of basic medical facilities and connectivity-related difficulties.

In September 2025, a free medical camp was organised in the locality, which was described by local representatives as the first of its kind in the area. The issue of inadequate healthcare infrastructure has also figured in subsequent reviews of developmental requirements in the constituency.

The latest ambulance initiative is expected to strengthen emergency medical response and facilitate the timely transportation of patients from Mir Behri Dal and adjoining interior localities to nearby healthcare institutions.

During his visit, Labroo toured the interior localities and took stock of ongoing developmental initiatives and the delivery of essential public services. He also interacted with residents and sought feedback on their day-to-day concerns, particularly those concerning healthcare and other basic civic amenities.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for effective implementation of developmental works and improved public service delivery, with particular emphasis on interior and relatively inaccessible areas of the district.

He formally handed over the ambulance to the Block Medical Office, Hazratbal, for the benefit of the local population.

The ambulance is expected to improve access to emergency healthcare facilities and help reduce delays in shifting patients to nearby medical institutions, particularly during medical emergencies.

SWD Celebrates Child Rights Day 2026

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Srinagar, through SANKALP–Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), celebrated Child Rights Day, 2026 at Al Haleem Public School, Guzarbal Palpora, with the aim of sensitizing students about their rights, protection, welfare and overall development.

The programme focused on creating awareness among students regarding the fundamental rights of children, including the right to education, protection, participation, health and a safe environment. Students were sensitized about the importance of safeguarding themselves against abuse, exploitation, discrimination and other forms of violence, while encouraging them to speak up and seek help whenever required.

The programme also highlighted the importance of providing children with a supportive and inclusive environment where they can grow, learn and develop their potential without fear. Participants were informed about various child protection mechanisms and the role of institutions, parents, teachers and the community in ensuring the safety, dignity and well-being of children.



Patients Flag Staff Shortages At JLNM Hospital, Allege Dependence On PG Students

Only one radiologist available five days a week; CT scans reviewed by radiologist, PG residents work under supervision, says official

Agencies

Srinagar: Patients and attendants visiting Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial (JLNM) Hospital at Rainawari in Srinagar have raised concerns over the functioning of several departments, alleging that an acute shortage of qualified medical staff and inadequate manpower are affecting healthcare services at the government-run facility.

The patients, as per KNO, alleged that the hospital, which caters to a considerable number of people from Srinagar and adjoining areas, is facing a shortage of doctors, particularly in the Radiology Department, while the limited availability of medical officers is also putting additional pressure on the existing staff.

According to patients and attendants, the hospital presently has only one Radiologist available for five days a week, leaving the department under considerable pressure, particularly in view of the number of patients requiring ultrasound, CT scans and other diagnostic investigations. They alleged that the shortage of specialist doctors has raised questions about the timely availability of diagnostic services, with patients often having to wait for investigations and reports.

"The hospital receives a large number of patients every day, but the availability of specialist doctors is not proportionate to the patient load. Having only one Radiologist for five days a week is a matter of concern, particularly for patients who depend on the hospital for timely diagnosis," an attendant said.

Several patients also claimed that postgraduate students are involved in the reporting of CT scans, raising concerns about the extent of their responsibilities and the availability of senior specialists for reviewing diagnostic findings. They further alleged that students are also seen performing or assisting in X-ray-related work.

Attendants said that although medical students and postgraduate residents are part of the academic and practical training system, their involvement should not create an impression that essential diagnostic services are being managed without adequate availability of qualified professionals. "There should be sufficient senior doctors and technical staff to ensure that patients receive proper attention and that all investigations are conducted under adequate professional supervision," another patient said.

Concerns have also been raised over the availability of Medical Officers during night hours, with patients alleging that only a limited number of doctors are deployed on night duty, making it difficult to manage the patient load, particularly during emergencies. Some patients also claimed that certain departments are being headed or managed by doctors engaged under the National Health Mission, reflecting the shortage of regular medical personnel.

The attendants urged the Health and Medical Education Department and hospital administration to assess the existing manpower position, fill vacant specialist and Medical Officer posts and ensure adequate staffing across departments.

Responding to the concerns, an official acknowledged that the hospital was facing considerable manpower constraints, particularly in the Radiology and Ultrasound sections. The official said JLNM Hospital presently has only one Radiologist available for five days a week, resulting in a considerable workload.

Clarifying the concerns over CT scan reporting, the official said all CT scans are reviewed by the Radiologist himself, while preliminary documentation and reporting are undertaken by postgraduate residents under his direct supervision and guidance. "The final interpretation and supervision remain the responsibility of the Radiologist," the official said, adding that the arrangement was part of established academic practice in teaching hospitals.

On the shortage of Medical Officers in the Ultrasound Section, the official said the situation had worsened following the transfer of a senior Sonologist without a replacement, and another doctor being on maternity leave for the past two months.

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR

10 Jumada al-Sani
1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 40
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	3: 50
Magrib	5: 30
ISHA	6: 51

This Day In History

- 235 - St Anterus begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 695 Pope Sergius names Willibrord as Archbishop Clemens of Friezen
- 1272 - Following Henry III of England's death on November 16, his son Prince Edward becomes King of England.
- 1317 - Frederik of Sierck/Zyrick becomes bishop of Utrecht
- 1620 - Pilgrim Fathers reach America: Provincetown Harbor, Mass
- 1729 - Netherlands signs Treaty of Seville
- 1759 - Battle at Maxen: Prussian army surrenders to Austrians
- 1794 - Honolulu Harbor discovered
- 1806 - Decree of Berlin: Emperor Napoleon I bans all trade with Britain
- 1813 - Stettin surrenders to allied armies
- 1818 Russia's Tsar Alexander I petitions for a Jewish state in Palestine
- 1877 - Thomas Edison announces his "talking machine" invention (phonograph), the 1st machine to play and record sound
- 1906 - China prohibits the opium trade
- 1914 - British army conquers Bazra
- 1917 - Maxim Gorky calls Vladimir Lenin a blind fanatic and unthinking adventurer
- 1918 - 2 German ammunition trains explode in Hamont Belgium, 1,750 die
- 1924 - British Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin cancels Labour contract with USSR
- 1942 - Hitler names field marshal Erich von Manstein commander of the newly-created Army Group Don (Heeresgruppe Don)
- 1944 - Personnel & executive staff of Philips demonstrate for more food
- 1945 - Benjamin Britten's 2nd String quartet in C premieres
- 1945 - General Motors workers go on strike
- 1946 - Georgi Dimitrov elected premier of Bulgaria
- 1946 - Harry Truman becomes 1st US President to travel in a submerged sub
- 1947 - Bill Longson beats Lou Thesz in St Louis, to win National Wrestlingg Association world heavyweight title
- 1949 - Bill Veeck sells Indians for $22 million
- 1952 - 1st US postage stamp in 2 colors (rotary process) introduced
- 1953 - Authorities at the British Natural History Museum announce the "Piltdown Man" skull, one of the most famous fossil skulls in the world, is a hoax

IN THE COURT OF SPECIAL MOBILE MAGISTRATE AT BUDGAM

CNR NO:-JKBG030044732026

Filing Number: Misc. Application/10058/2026

Filing Date:-13-11-2026

In the matter of
Gh Mohammad Rather S/O Gh Hussain Rather
R/O Ichgam Tehsil and District Budgam — Applicant

Versus

Registrar Births & Deaths/Block Development Officer, Budgam — Non-Applicant

PUBLICATION

Whereas, the applicant Gh Mohammad Rather, has approached this Court seeking an order for delayed registration of birth of applicant namely Gh Mohammad Rather S/O Gh Hussain Rather R/O Ichgam Tehsil and District Budgam, stated to have taken place on 01-04-1984 at home Ichgam Tehsil and, District Budgam.

Now, therefore, public notice is hereby given to all persons concerned that if any person has any objection to the registration of the said birth of applicant above named or to the relief sought by the applicant, he/she may file the same before this Court on 01-12-26

No objection shall be entertained after the expiry of the aforesaid period

mcb

Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Ltd.

Office of the Executive Engineer, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar

Near Silk Factory Rajbagh Srinagar

e-mail: xened-2@jk.gov.in Tel/Fax:01942311374

Extension Notice No. 1

Due to poor response, the last date for submission of e-bid in respect of this office's **e-NIT No. ED-II/22 of 2026-27; Dated: 04/11/26** issued vide this office endorsement No. ED-II/TS/13467-72; Dated: 04/11/26, having **Tender ID : 2026_PDD_330299_1** for "**Replacement of Wornout Conductor and Rotten Poles within the jurisdiction of KPDCL Rajbagh , Srinagar under scheme code PDDSS2627100228"** is hereby now extended with the details enumerated below :

Last Date for receipt of e-Bids online (Extended)	**28-11-2026; 03:00 PM**
Bid Opening Date (Extended)	**01-12-2026; 02:30 PM**

However, the rest of the terms and conditions as laid down in the e-NIT shall remain the same.

-SD-
Executive Engineer
KPDCL, ED-2nd,Rajbagh
Srinagar

No.:ED-II/TS/14161-65
Dated: 20-11-2026

DIPK-NB-2191/26 dated: 20-11-2026

J&K Bank

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Business Unit :Zewan
Email:- zewan@jkbmail.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

Notice under Section 13(4) of the SARFEASI 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 & Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFEASI) 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 08.06.2026 thereby calling upon the Borrowers namely 1. Firdous Ah Hajam S/O Gulzar Ahmad Hajam R/O Pantha Chowk 2. Nisar Ahmad Hajam S/O Gulzar Ahmad Hajam R/O Pantha Chowk 3. Tariq Ahmad Hajam S/O Gulzar Ahmad Hajam R/O Pantha Chowk 4. Mohammad Ashraf Mir S/O Abdul Rehman Mir R/O Pantha Chowk 5. Mukhtar Ahmad Baba S/O Mohammad Yousuf Baba R/O Pantha Chowk to repay an amount of Rs 15,36,068 (Rupees Fifteen Lacs Thirty Six Thousand & Sixty Eight & paisa Eighty Only.) being balance outstanding as on 05.05.2026 in the accounts of the borrower, within 60 days from the date of said notice together with future interest and other charges thereon(liability of the guarantors being restricted to the balance outstanding in the particular loan accounts to which they have stood as guarantors).

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 Jammu & Kashmir Limited 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 with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on 20.11.2026.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charges of the J&K Bank Limited for an amount aggregating to Rs 14,75,302.80 (Rupees Fourteen Lacs Seventy Five Thousand Three Hundred Two & Paisa Eighty Only.) together with future interest and other charges 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 time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property.

Land measuring 15 Marlas (4080 Sft) along with residential house thereon falling under Khasra No 1244/956 min of Khata No 733 and Khewat No. 117 situated in Mouza Panthachowk district Srinagar standing in the name of Mr Firdous Ah Hajam, Nisar Ahmad Hajam & Tariq Ahmad Hajam all sons of Gulzar Ahmad Hajam & residents of Pantha Chowk Srinagar.

Place : Srinagar

Sd/-Authorized Officer
Shagufta Parveen

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that my daughter, ANAH FIAZ, bearing Roll No. 13129810, who appeared in the CBSE Class 10th (Secondary School Examination) 2026 from Delhi Public School, Athwajan, Srinagar, has her name incorrectly recorded in the school and CBSE records as ANAH FIAZ.

Her correct name, as reflected in her Date of Birth Certificate, Aadhaar Card and Passport, is ANAH FIAZ DAR.

Accordingly, we intend to seek correction of her name in the school records and the records of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) from ANAH FIAZ to ANAH FIAZ DAR.

Any person having any objection to the proposed correction may submit the same, along with supporting documents, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Fiaz Ahmad Dar (Father)
Sana Malik (Mother) — inf
Address: Shah Anwar Colony, Bypass West, Hyderpora, Srinagar, 190014.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sr. DEE/TRS/LDH acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No 2026-27-08A. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids upto closing **date 14.12.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.** only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall not be considered. Bidders are allowed to make payments against this tender towards cost of tender document and earnest money through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc.

Tender No.	**2026-27-08A**		
Name of work	Comprehensive repair/renewal of CCB Brake system in 3-phase electric locomotives.		
Approx. Cost (₹)	₹3,74,44,909.92	**Cost of Tender Form (₹)**	0.00
Date & time of submission of tender	Up to 14.12.2026, 15:00 Hrs		
Earnest Money (₹)	₹7,48,900/-	**Completion Period**	24 Months
Opening of Tender	14.12.2026 at or after 15:00 Hrs.	**Website:**	www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Notice No.: 230-Elect/TRS/LDH/WC/CCB/2026-27/08A
Dated : 20.11.2026 — 4057/2026

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KO VIEW

The Recruitment Rot

Public recruitment in Jammu and Kashmir has become a test of institutional credibility, and the government is failing that test.

Repeated examination cancellations, allegations of paper leaks and suspected manipulation of selection processes have weakened public confidence in a system that thousands of young people depend on for economic security.

The administration must recognise that recruitment fraud goes well beyond individual examinations. It damages faith in merit, fairness and the credibility of government institutions.

The latest controversy surrounding the Finance Accounts Assistant examination shows the scale of the problem.

Around 1.62 lakh candidates competed for 600 posts on November 15. Police arrested 14 people, seized eight wireless sets and 22 mobile phones, and registered three FIRs. A Special Investigation Team has been constituted to investigate the suspected cheating network.

These arrests point to a serious attempt to compromise an examination, although the investigation must establish whether the selection process itself was affected and whether any candidates gained an unfair advantage.

The history of recruitment cancellations makes the latest controversy harder to dismiss as an isolated incident.

In 2022, the administration cancelled the selection list for 1,200 police sub-inspectors after an inquiry established paper leakage and examination fraud. The selection process for 972 Finance Accounts Assistant posts was also scrapped that year following allegations of irregularities. Recruitment for junior engineers in the Jal Shakti and Public Works departments faced similar cancellation. In December 2025, 103 firemen and fireman drivers appointed through a 2020 recruitment process lost their jobs after an investigation found large-scale tampering with recruitment records.

These cases expose a serious institutional failure. Candidates who prepare honestly pay the price of administrative misconduct and examination fraud. They lose time, money and confidence, while repeated cancellations create uncertainty about the value of their qualifications and preparation.

Public recruitment should give young people a fair route into employment. Its credibility cannot survive repeated questions about the integrity of selection procedures.

The JKSSB has described the latest incident as an isolated attempt and maintained that the examination remained uncompromised. Such a claim must rest on evidence.

The investigation should establish the full extent of the suspected network, examine possible involvement of officials and disclose whether any candidate benefited. Blanket cancellation without evidence would punish innocent candidates, while a premature clean chit would weaken public confidence further.

Biometric verification, CCTV surveillance and electronic jammers can help prevent cheating, but technology alone cannot repair institutional failures. Transparent examination procedures, independent oversight and timely disclosure of investigation findings are equally necessary.

The government must make merit the governing principle of public employment. A recruitment system that repeatedly leaves candidates questioning its fairness cannot command public trust.

Restoring that trust begins with accountability, credible investigations and consequences for those who compromise the selection process.

The Missing Reasons in Court

The Supreme Court has the authority to suspend life sentences pending appeal, but its decision must explain why such relief was justified and whether the survivor had a fair opportunity to be heard.



Farooq Ahmad Khan

"I will fight this order. I must."

Bilkis Bano spoke those words after learning, through press reports, that the Supreme Court had suspended the life sentences of two men convicted in the case arising from her gang rape and the murder of members of her family during the 2002 Gujarat riots.

She says no one gave her a chance to be heard.

And now, after more than two decades of litigation, she faces another walk into a courtroom.

The order is easy to misdescribe, so its limits should be stated plainly.

On October 28, 2026, the Supreme Court left the convictions of Bipinchand Kanaiyalal Joshi and Pradip Ramanlal Modhiya standing. It suspended their sentences and granted them bail while their appeals wait for a decision.

Should the convictions be upheld, the sentences remain to be served in accordance with law.

An appellate court holds the power to grant such relief, and a person convicted of a grave offence keeps the right to challenge the conviction.

Years in prison while an appeal sits undecided weigh heavily in any honest calculation.

The Court recorded that both appellants had spent more than 17 years in custody, that one has a severe handicap, and that their appeals raise questions of fact and law.

The government opposed release, pointing to the seriousness of the crimes and to the findings of the trial court and the Bombay High Court.

Two courts below had examined this case, and the state itself argued against bail. An order that sets that opposition aside needs to answer it.

The reasons here are recorded but brief, and they leave the central questions open.

Which questions of fact or law have enough weight at this stage? How did the Court balance the gravity of the offences against long incarceration and one appellant's condition?

A reader finishes the order knowing the outcome and guessing at the weighing.

The Supreme Court has demanded more of others. In Shivani Tyagi v State of Uttar Pradesh, an acid attack survivor challenged bail granted to people sentenced to life imprisonment, and the Court set those orders aside, insisting that the assessment be objective and appear in the order itself.

In another decision, it repeated that suspending a sentence in a murder case is ordinarily exceptional and that the nature and gravity of the offence must be weighed.

A standard the Court sets for others applies equally to its own orders. Precedent cuts the other way too.

In a September 2025 order concerning appellants who had spent about 16 years in custody, the Court suspended sentences pending appeal.

Length of custody can plainly weigh heavily. That example cannot settle whether relief was justified here without an examination of the underlying convictions, and a given order must show how the law meets the facts before the Court.

> **Bilkis Bano** has said she will return to court. The immediate question is whether the suspension of the sentences will stand after her objections are heard. The bigger question is whether a few general lines are enough to justify a decision of such consequence, and why a survivor should have to read about it in a newspaper rather than hear it from the court.

Bano's account of not being heard adds a second concern.

The order records appearances for the appellants and for the respondent authorities. It records none for her.

The court order alone does not tell us whether notice was served. The court record can clarify that. But the human contrast remains stark.

The two men whose sentences were suspended had lawyers present in court. The woman whose family was destroyed learnt about the decision by reading it in a newspaper.

Her request to be heard merits careful consideration when she challenges the interim relief.

The harrowing history of the case itself sharpens the need for clarity.

In 2024, the Supreme Court set aside the Gujarat government's premature remission of the sentences of all 11 convicts. The present order rests on a different legal power, judicial suspension pending appeal, and the distinction is sound in law.

A survivor who has already had to contest the convicts' release is entitled to know why this new relief was granted, so is the public.

Courts keep public confidence by showing, with enough clarity, why the law permits bail in a particular case, even when the crime shocked the country.

A reasoned order protects the rights of the appellants, lets the survivor address the grounds for their release, and lets the public follow the decision without guessing at the Court's thinking.

A thin order protects none of them, and it leaves the appellants with relief that anyone can describe as unexplained.

Bilkis Bano has said she will return to court. The immediate question is whether the suspension of the sentences will stand after her objections are heard.

The bigger question is whether a few general lines are enough to justify a decision of such consequence, and why a survivor should have to read about it in a newspaper rather than hear it from the court.

The author is an Advocate and former District Development Commissioner. He writes on governance, public affairs and social issues. He can be reached at advofarooqahmadkhan@gmail.com.

Can Investment Survive Political Change?

Indian states need laws that protect legitimate agreements without giving governments a licence to shield flawed deals.



Sri Varshith Kumar Reddy E

At the CII Partnership Summit last week, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced plans for an Investment Protection Act and escrow accounts to pay industrial incentives out of state tax collections.

The announcements address a problem that has haunted Indian investment policy for decades.

A company may spend years negotiating land, arranging finance and building a project, only to find that a change of government has changed the terms of its investment.

A new chief minister takes office, old agreements come under scrutiny and decisions made by the previous administration suddenly become political liabilities.

Andhra Pradesh knows this history well.

After the change of government in 2019, power purchase agreements were reopened, a large special economic zone allotment was withdrawn and the Amaravati start-up area agreement with a Singapore consortium was terminated.

Investors watching these developments could reasonably wonder how much value a government commitment holds when its successor has different political priorities.

That uncertainty goes well beyond one state.

Maharashtra cancelled the Enron-led Dabhol power project in 1995, citing opacity and excessive costs. A renegotiated agreement followed within months, but the venture collapsed in 2001.

West Bengal experienced the opposite political conflict at Singur, where the Left Front government acquired roughly 1,000 acres for Tata Motors' Nano factory. Public agitation drove the company out in 2008, and the Supreme Court quashed the land acquisition in 2016.

These episodes came from different political parties and involved different industries, but they exposed a common weakness in India's investment climate.

Governments make decisions in the name of development, while businesses commit capital on the assumption that those decisions will retain some continuity. Political succession breaks that assumption. Investors can calculate construction costs, demand and commodity prices.

Predicting whether a future administration will honour an agreement signed by its predecessor is considerably harder.

A law could make that calculation easier.

A chief minister's assurance inside an office gives little comfort to a bank assessing a project's long-term viability. A statutory commitment, with defined entitlements and payment schedules, gives lenders something concrete to examine.

Reversing such a commitment would also involve public scrutiny, an amendment in the Assembly and an explanation to investors and credit-rating agencies. The political cost of arbitrary cancellation would rise.

Indian courts already recognise the principle of substantive legitimate expectation, under which government assurances can create enforceable expectations. But that protection has limits.

A government can withdraw an exemption or change a policy in the public interest if its decision meets the test of reasonableness. The Supreme Court has upheld such withdrawals, making clear that estoppel and legitimate expectation do not automatically prevent a policy change.

Investors therefore remain exposed to uncertainty about the legal protection available to them.

A statute could clarify those boundaries. It would also strengthen the competition among states for investment.

Maharashtra's MAITRI, Uttar Pradesh's Nivesh Mitra and Karnataka's Udyog Mitra have made single-window clearances part of the investment pitch. Ten states have integrated their systems with the National Single Window System. Statutory protection could become another measure of a state's credibility. Escrow accounts address a separate concern: an incentive announced at an investment summit loses much of its value when payment is delayed for years.

The difficulty begins when protection becomes unconditional.

A law that shields all previous commitments could retain decisions that were poorly examined or improperly approved. Singur illustrates the danger.

The Supreme Court found that the land acquisition lacked a genuine inquiry and that the cabinet had approved the allocation without following the statutory requirements. Protecting such an agreement through a blanket guarantee would have entrenched the very procedural failure that the court later condemned.

Dabhol raises a related concern.

Questions about transparency and tariff costs surrounded the original agreement. A government must retain the ability to examine an arrangement when evidence of wrongdoing, misrepresentation or serious procedural failure emerges. Otherwise, an investment protection law could become a shield for political patronage and commercially unsound decisions.

The financial implications also need public scrutiny. Escrowing part of a state's tax receipts gives companies greater confidence that promised incentives will be paid. It also commits future revenue before governments know what demands may arise.

States with limited revenue growth, substantial expenditure commitments and borrowing ceilings imposed by the Union could find themselves struggling to fund salaries, pensions and welfare programmes during an economic downturn.

A guarantee without transparent accounting can create a fiscal problem that becomes visible only when the money is needed elsewhere.

The deeper weakness lies in how major investment decisions are made.

In many states, a small circle around the chief minister handles large land allotments, tariffs and incentives. A law protecting the final agreement leaves that concentration of decision-making untouched. Investors may still suspect that a successor will reopen deals negotiated behind closed doors, particularly when the original decision lacks public scrutiny.

The answer lies in making protection conditional on the quality of the decision.

Large commitments, classified by land area, fiscal cost or duration, should need a written independent appraisal, cabinet approval and timely public disclosure. A standing Assembly committee with opposition representation and an opposition chair should examine the largest commitments before agreements are signed.

Political participation at this stage would make later cancellation harder to justify.

Protection should follow compliance with these procedures. Agreements involving fraud, illegality, misrepresentation or material non-disclosure should remain open to review.

An independent expert panel should hear the investor, examine the evidence and complete its work within a fixed period. Dabhol's renegotiation through an expert panel shows how structured scrutiny can lead to a settlement.

Investors also need remedies that work within a reasonable period.

Conciliation, arbitration or a dedicated tribunal should provide clear compensation and interest formulas. State budgets should publish a consolidated register of incentive obligations, escrowed receipts, power purchase commitments and government guarantees.

A ceiling on earmarked revenue, expressed as a share of own-tax receipts, would help prevent promises from consuming an excessive portion of public finances.

The Union government could establish minimum standards through the Inter-State Council or the Finance Commission process. Andhra Pradesh has indicated that it will approach the Centre for national adoption. A common framework would help investors compare states on the same terms and discourage governments from competing through increasingly generous guarantees.

An Assembly review after five years should examine protected commitments, reopened agreements, reasons for cancellation and the fiscal consequences.

India's experience with retrospective taxation shows how difficult it can be to repair investor confidence. The 2012 amendment led to adverse tribunal findings in the Vodafone and Cairn disputes, with damages of about $1.2 billion in Cairn's case. Parliament repealed the provision in 2021.

The episode showed that rebuilding credibility takes years, while a single policy reversal can damage it quickly.

Andhra Pradesh has opened a debate that other state governments would do well to take seriously. A law can protect an investment decision, but only sound institutions can give that decision lasting legitimacy.

The real test will come when a different party occupies the chief minister's office and inherits agreements it had no part in making.

A future government should be free to correct a bad deal, while finding it difficult to discard a properly examined one simply because its predecessor signed it.

That is the certainty investors can believe in, and taxpayers can live with.

The author is a pracademic working on government policy and public institutions. He can be reached at varshith7.reddy@gmail.com.

Dal Lake Weeds Could Become a Climate Solution

Young environmental researcher Syeda Nahal Zahra is turning invasive weeds removed from Dal Lake into biochar for farmers, while developing a model that links lake conservation, agricultural sustainability and local innovation.



Aashiq Hussain Andrabi

The weeds have long been a signature sight on Dal Lake. They spread through its waters, obstruct navigation and add to the ecological pressures facing one of Kashmir's most recognisable natural landmarks. Workers remove them, gather the vegetation and dispose of it, often treating the material as another problem that needs clearing from the lake.

But Syeda Nahal Zahra sees something else in those piles of unwanted vegetation.

She sees a possible source of agricultural nutrients, a way to reduce dependence on chemical fertilisers and an opportunity to turn an environmental problem into an economic resource.

An environmental researcher and innovator from Kashmir, Zahra holds a bachelor's degree in agriculture and a master's degree in environmental sciences from Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), where she graduated as the topper of her master's batch. Her research focuses on sustainable agriculture, biochar technology, waste-to-wealth solutions and the management of invasive aquatic weeds.

She is currently leading a project supported by Green Hub and the Royal Enfield Social Mission, which explores how weeds collected from Dal Lake can be converted into biochar for agricultural use. Her work also extends to pest management, where she holds a published patent for a Biochar Acaricide Dispensing Spray Device.

Her research has earned her the Young Environmentalist Award and the Young Professional Award. In 2026, she was named among the 50 Icons of Kashmir in the Environmental Science category. She also engages with international environmental organisations, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) and the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI).

Her work brings an important question to the debate over Dal Lake's future: can the material removed to protect an ecosystem become part of the solution to problems elsewhere?

In this interview, Zahra discusses how she developed the idea, the science behind biochar, her efforts to bring the technology to farmers, the challenges of taking research beyond university laboratories and why she believes Kashmir's young scientists should lead environmental innovation.

Dal Lake is deeply connected to Kashmir's identity, its landscape and the lives of its people. You grew up watching its ecological decline. Was there a particular moment when you decided to move beyond studying the problem and develop a practical solution?

Dal Lake has always been part of my identity. Growing up, I loved its beauty, but I also watched aquatic weeds gradually spread through its waters and create ecological problems. For years, the usual response involved removing the weeds and dumping them somewhere.

During my master's programme at SKUAST-K, my research guide, Dr. Javaid Iqbal Ah Bhat, introduced me to biochar technology. That was a turning point for me. I began thinking about the weeds differently. Instead of treating them as waste that needed disposal, I wondered whether we could convert them into something useful.

I realised that the material we were removing from Dal Lake could have agricultural value. That idea became the foundation of my research. I wanted to develop a practical solution that could help the lake while also benefiting farmers.

Let's explain the science for readers who may be unfamiliar with biochar. What exactly is it, and how do you turn aquatic weeds into something that can improve agricultural soil?

Biochar is essentially a highly porous, carbon-rich charcoal produced by heating organic material in the absence of oxygen. This process is called pyrolysis.

Its porous structure allows it to retain water and nutrients in the soil. It can also support beneficial microbial activity, which contributes to soil health.

My research involved experimenting with different organic materials. During my master's programme, I personally collected and segregated kitchen waste from the hostels at SKUAST-K's Shalimar campus. This included fruit peels, eggshells and used tea leaves. I processed these materials myself and studied their potential for biochar production.

We also explored combinations of Dal Lake's aquatic weeds with sheep dung and kitchen waste. The weeds contain nutrients such as nitrogen and potassium, while sheep dung contributes organic matter and bulk to the mixture.

Combining these materials allows us to use resources that would otherwise go to waste. The resulting biochar can help soil retain moisture and nutrients while supporting beneficial microorganisms.

The larger idea is quite simple. We have an environmental problem in Dal Lake and organic waste coming from households. Both can become valuable resources through appropriate scientific processing.

Your research has also moved into an unexpected area: livestock and crop protection. You hold a published patent for a Biochar Acaricide Dispensing Spray Device. How did an environmental researcher become interested in developing a pest-management tool?

I wanted to explore the other applications of biochar. During a discussion with a colleague working in insect research, we began talking about the problems local farmers face with ticks and mites affecting livestock and crops.

That discussion led us to explore whether biochar could help deliver naturally derived acaricidal compounds.

Biochar has a highly porous structure and a large surface area. These properties make it a potentially useful carrier for active compounds. Our idea involves processing biochar into a fine powder, dispersing it in a liquid to create a suspension and developing a formulation that can be applied uniformly to the target area.

The published patent covers the device concept. We are still developing the specific active organic component and testing the complete formulation to establish its efficacy.

We are also working on the prototype. The broader objective is to develop a practical application that could eventually help farmers manage pest problems affecting their livestock and crops.

So biochar could potentially serve two different purposes: improving agricultural soil and helping deliver natural pest-control compounds. How far have you taken the Dal Lake project towards actual use on farms?

We are currently at the initial pilot stage. Our target is to work with 10 to 15 farmers and demonstrate the benefits of biochar under actual agricultural conditions.

I am providing the biochar to participating farmers free of cost at this stage. We want farmers to understand how it works and give us an opportunity to document the results before we think about commercialisation.

One of our targets is to achieve a 10 per cent reduction in chemical fertiliser use. We want to assess whether biochar can help farmers reduce their dependence on conventional fertilisers while maintaining agricultural productivity.

After the winter season, we plan to coordinate with the existing Dal Lake weed-removal activities and organise local collection of the vegetation.

The intention is to connect the lake's weed-management work with agricultural needs. We want to demonstrate that material removed from the lake can support farming rather than simply becoming another disposal problem.

The connection between lake conservation and farmers' livelihoods is particularly interesting. Kashmir has a large agricultural community, and farmers often face rising input costs. What would make this model economically sustainable once the pilot phase ends?

The first step is to demonstrate that the technology works. Farmers need to see practical benefits before they adopt a new agricultural practice.

We are keeping commercialisation aside until we have documented the results. The pilot will help us understand how biochar performs in local agricultural conditions and whether it can contribute to reducing chemical fertiliser use.

The next step involves organising weed collection around the existing removal activities at Dal Lake. This could create a local supply of raw material for biochar production.

I see potential for a local waste-to-wealth model in which aquatic weeds and other organic materials become useful agricultural inputs. Such an approach could connect environmental management with farming and create opportunities for local participation.



> **IT CAN BE EXHAUSTING TO HEAR NEGATIVE NEWS ABOUT THE LAKE YEAR AFTER YEAR.** Anyone who cares about Dal Lake feels concerned when they see the problems continuing. What encourages me is the growing interest among young people in Kashmir. I meet young people who care about environmental protection, research and finding practical solutions. Their involvement gives me hope.

Your project has received support from Green Hub and the Royal Enfield Social Mission. Young researchers often have promising ideas but struggle to secure institutional or financial support. How did you get this project off the ground?

I learned about the Green Hub initiative through a friend working in wildlife research. I explored the initiative and decided to submit a proposal explaining how we could convert Dal Lake's aquatic weeds into biochar.

I focused on presenting the problem and explaining how the proposed research could address it through a practical approach. The proposal received approval, which gave us the support to take the project forward.

My advice to young researchers is to develop proposals around real problems in their own communities. A theoretical idea can be interesting, but funders also want to understand how the research could work in practice.

Show them the problem, explain the science and present a practical way to address it. Research becomes much stronger when it connects with people's actual needs.

You also engage with international organisations such as IUCN, SETAC and GHGMI. Kashmir's environmental challenges have their own geographical and ecological characteristics. How do you bring those local realities into international discussions?

The Kashmir Himalayas have specific climate vulnerabilities, and our environmental challenges need to be understood in their local context.

When I engage with international organisations, I try to bring evidence and research into the discussion. I talk about the changes affecting Dal Lake and our wetlands, and I also explain the solutions we are developing.

For a long time, Kashmir has attracted researchers and environmental experts who come here to document ecological decline. That research is valuable, but I believe we also need to become producers of knowledge and solutions.

We should be generating research from Kashmir, developing technologies that respond to local conditions and sharing those findings internationally.

I want Kashmir's scientific community to participate in global environmental discussions as innovators and problem-solvers.

That brings us to the other side of the exchange. You take Kashmir's experiences to international platforms. What have you learned from those engagements that you want to bring back to the valley?

The biggest lesson is that research needs to move beyond academic publications and laboratory experiments.

We often conduct good research, publish papers and contribute to scientific knowledge. However, the real challenge begins when we try to apply those findings in the field.

International discussions have strengthened my belief that science should produce practical results for communities. We need to connect universities, researchers, farmers and institutions.

I also believe we should make better use of locally available resources. We do not always need expensive imported technologies. With good scientific understanding, local materials and appropriate methods, we can develop solutions suited to Kashmir's environmental and agricultural conditions.

Dal Lake has featured in decades of environmental studies, restoration programmes and public debate. The recurring picture is one of ecological decline. Does working on a problem of this scale ever become discouraging? What keeps you invested in it?

It can be exhausting to hear negative news about the lake year after year. Anyone who cares about Dal Lake feels concerned when they see the problems continuing.

What encourages me is the growing interest among young people in Kashmir. I meet young people who care about environmental protection, research and finding practical solutions. Their involvement gives me hope.

I also believe we need to change how we look at environmental problems. We spend a lot of time discussing what we are losing. We should also spend more time asking what we can restore and what solutions we can develop.

Over the next ten years, I would like to see farmers throughout the valley using biochar and organic agricultural methods as standard practices rather than treating them as experimental alternatives.

That is the larger vision behind my work. I want scientific research to contribute to a healthier environment and more sustainable agriculture.

Let's bring the discussion to policymakers and investors. Your pilot involves 10 to 15 farmers, and you have set a target of reducing chemical fertiliser use by 10 per cent. What kind of institutional support would help you move from a small project to a larger programme?

See, local researchers need financial and institutional support. Many promising ideas emerge from university laboratories, but researchers struggle to take them into the field.

I particularly advocate a dedicated government subsidy for small-scale biochar production using agricultural and aquatic waste.

The main challenges include the cost of collecting biomass, transporting it and accessing pyrolysis equipment. These costs can become major obstacles for young innovators and farmers who want to establish small production units.

Government support could make the necessary resources more accessible. It would help researchers test their ideas, encourage farmers to participate and create opportunities for local waste processing.

I believe this could become a grassroots waste-to-wealth movement. Supporting local science would also help Kashmir develop greater self-reliance in managing its environmental and agricultural challenges.

Your work has earned recognition through the Young Environmentalist Award and your inclusion in the 50 Icons of Kashmir 2026 list. What does that recognition mean to you, particularly as a young woman working in environmental science?

I feel very grateful for the recognition. It encourages me to continue my research, but I also see it as a responsibility to help other young people find opportunities in science.

My journey began with very practical work. I personally collected and segregated kitchen waste from university hostels because I wanted to test an idea and establish that it could work. Research can involve a lot of groundwork that people rarely see.

I want young students, especially young women interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, to understand that their geographical location should never limit their ambitions.

Being in Kashmir does not prevent you from doing world-class scientific research. You can begin by observing the problems around you, asking questions and developing solutions through research.

You will face difficulties, and some experiments may fail. That should never become a reason to abandon an idea.

I started with the resources available to me and a problem I could see around me. I want the next generation to participate in science, lead research and develop innovations of their own.

Dream big, but build something meaningful for the place you call home.



— The author is a senior scribe from Pulwama, and can be reached at cj.saha.18@gmail.com.

NMC Proposes Change In Foreign Medical Graduate Licensing Rule

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The National Medical Commission (NMC) has proposed amending rules governing foreign medical graduates, seeking to remove the requirement that their licence to practise medicine in the country where they obtained their medical degree must be on par with the licence granted to citizens of that country.

Under the proposed amendment, a foreign medical graduate would need to be registered with the respective professional regulatory body in the country where the medical degree was awarded.

The change has been proposed in sub-clause (b) of Clause 4 of the National Medical Commission (Foreign Medical Graduate Licentiate) Regulations, 2021.

The existing provision requires the graduate to be registered with the respective professional regulatory body or otherwise be competent to obtain a licence to practise medicine in that country's jurisdiction, with the licence being equivalent to that granted to citizens of the country.

The proposed amendment substitutes this provision with the requirement that the graduate be "registered with the respective professional regulatory body in that country".

The NMC said the draft amendment has been prepared and approved following due procedure and invited objections and suggestions from stakeholders.

The draft regulations will be considered after the expiry of 30 days from the date the Gazette containing the draft is made available to the public, the notification said.

Centre Notifies Revised Disability Assessment Norms For 8 Categories

Press Trust Of India



New Delhi: The Centre has notified revised guidelines for assessing eight categories of specified disabilities under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, replacing the norms issued in March 2024.

The guidelines, issued by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities on November 18, cover locomotor disability, visual impairment, hearing impairment and speech and language disability, specific learning disability, intellectual disability and autism spectrum disorder, mental illness, blood disorder, multiple disorder and chronic neurological disorder.

For locomotor disabilities, assessment of the upper extremities covers the arm and hand, including range of motion, muscle strength, coordinated activities, prehension and sensation.

Conditions covered include amputation, cerebral palsy, leprosy-cured persons, dwarfism, muscular dystrophy and spinal deformities.

Except in cases of amputation, temporary disability certificates will be issued after six months of symptoms. Permanent certificates will be issued after the age of 18, with reassessment every 10 years where requested by the person with a disability or recommended by a subject expert.

Dwarfism is defined as an adult height of less than 147 cm (4 feet 8 inches). Every one-inch reduction in vertical height attracts four per cent permanent physical impairment, while associated skeletal deformities are assessed separately.

Blindness includes total absence of sight; visual acuity (measure of how clearly eyes can see) below 3/60 in the better eye after the best possible correction, or a field of vision of less than 10 degrees. Low vision covers visual acuity below 6/18 up to 3/60 or a field of vision below 40 degrees up to 10 degrees.

Hearing impairment is assessed through Pure Tone Audiometry, with hearing thresholds measured at 500, 1,000, 2,000 and 4,000 Hz. Speech and language disability assessment covers conditions such as laryngectomy, glossectomy, bilateral vocal cord paralysis, dysarthria and apraxia of speech.

The latter two are assessed after one year of regular documented speech therapy by registered speech-language pathologists.

For intellectual disability, assessment considers intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour. The disability percentage is 25 per cent for borderline, 50 per cent for mild, 75 per cent for moderate, 90 per cent for severe and 100 per cent for profound intellectual disability.

The minimum age for certification is one completed year. Children above one year and up to five years will be diagnosed with Global Developmental Delay, while those above five years will be assessed for intellectual disability.

Specific learning disability covers difficulties in reading, written expression and mathematics. These must persist for at least six months despite targeted, evidence-based intervention. Assessment requires an IQ score of 85 or above.

The NIMHANS battery and NIEPID Grade Level Assessment Instrument for Schools are prescribed for children up to 18 years, while the NIEPID Adult Assessment Tool for Specific Learning Disability is prescribed for adults.

Autism spectrum disorder is diagnosed using the AIIMS-modified INCLEN tool. Children below six years will receive a diagnosis of moderate autism and a temporary certificate, with reassessment at six years or above.

For those aged six years and above, the disability percentage is 40 per cent for an Indian Scale for Assessment of Autism (ISAA) score of 70, 50 per cent for scores between 71 and 88, 60 per cent for 89-106, 70 per cent for 107-123, 80 per cent for 124-140, 90 per cent for 141-153 and 100 per cent for scores above 153. A score below 70 indicates no autism.

Mental illness is assessed through a psychiatrist's clinical examination and the Indian Disability Evaluation and Assessment Scale, which covers self-care, interpersonal activities, communication and understanding, and work.

The disability percentage is 25 per cent for mild, 55 per cent for moderate, 85 per cent for severe and 100 per cent for profound disability.

SC Directs Inquiry Into Non-Listing Of ED's Plea In Bail Matter For Nearly 3 Years

Press Trust Of India



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday directed its secretary general to hold an inquiry to ascertain why the ED's plea filed in 2023 challenging the grant of anticipatory bail to an accused was not listed for hearing for nearly three years despite a judicial order.

"For three years, who managed it and ensured that this matter was not listed. We will find out," a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana said.

The bench said notice on the plea filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) challenging a January 2023 order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court was issued in July 2023.

It noted that an order was passed by the apex court in January 2024 to re-list the matter in February 2024.

"We want to know what is that magic band due to which the matter was not listed after that. The great registry has to explain this," it said.

Senior advocate Siddharth Dave, appearing for one of the parties in the case, said such a thing does not happen in the apex court.

"Nothing can be managed as far as this court is concerned," he said.

The CJI, however, said he wants to know why the matter was not listed for hearing for such a long time.

"The secretary general is directed to hold a fact-finding inquiry and report to us as to why the matter was not listed ...," the bench said.

The counsel appearing for the ED told the bench that the petition was against an order granting anticipatory bail.

He said the trial in the case has already commenced and eight witnesses have been examined. The ED's counsel urged the bench that the high court order granting relief to the accused should not be treated as a precedent.

The bench said it was not inclined to entertain the plea at this belated stage, particularly in view of the submissions made by the ED's counsel that the trial in the case was going on.

The top court clarified that the high court's order shall not be treated as a precedent.

In January 2023, the high court had passed the order on a plea filed by the accused seeking anticipatory bail in a case registered under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

OPD Shutdown

Rajouri and Kathua joining the protest programme on November 19. Resident Doctors' Associations, including RDA Anantnag, have also announced their participation, while several district hospitals have extended support.

AIMSA Vice President Dr Mohit Choudhary, who is also a PG resident at GMC Srinagar, urged the government to address the concerns of resident doctors without further delay and take a concrete decision on their demands.

AIMSA Chief Advisors Dr Mayeen Afsan Ahmed and Dr Sushant Dhabade extended support to the protesting doctors and sought the personal intervention of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for an early resolution.

Dr Mayeen also urged the Principal of GMC Srinagar to facilitate the formation of a formally recognised Resident Doctors' Association (RDA), stating that resident doctors should have an institutional platform to represent their concerns and engage with the administration.

AIMSA General Secretary Dr Mohammad Tasadduk Kawser stressed the need for a functional Students' Union or Class Union at GMC Srinagar to ensure effective representation of students.

AIMSA clarified that, according to the information available with it, there was presently no formally recognised RDA at the institution, and maintained that no individual or group could unilaterally nominate or declare anyone as RDA president in the absence of a duly constituted and officially recognised association. It called for an official clarification regarding the constitution of the RDA, its election process and recognition of its office-bearers.

AIMSA President Dr Mohammad Momin Khan reiterated the association's commitment to safeguarding the rights and interests of doctors and expressed hope that the Lieutenant Governor would personally intervene in the matter.

As part of the announced programme, doctors are wearing black bands and holding peaceful demonstrations from November 19 to 22, with routine OPD services likely to be suspended from November 23 if the government fails to address their demands.

The demands include an immediate enhancement of stipends and parity for PG, Senior Resident, DNB and MDS doctors across Jammu and Kashmir, besides implementation of maternity leave benefits in accordance with applicable High Court directions.

The association said PG doctors in Jammu and Kashmir currently receive Rs 64,000 per month during the first year and Rs 67,000 in subsequent years, which it considers inadequate in view of their workload. It also highlighted differences in stipend structures between Jammu and Kashmir and other States, including Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, as well as SKIMS Srinagar.

Earlier, a delegation of PG doctors from GMC Srinagar had visited the Civil Secretariat on November 17 and met the newly appointed Health Secretary, apprising him of their grievances.

AIMSA has also urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Health Minister Sakeena Itoo to intervene and issue a concrete Government Order, while calling for immediate dialogue between the government and resident doctors to prevent further escalation of the agitation and disruption to healthcare services.

River Levels

Doderhama was measured at minus 0.40 metres against a reference level of 3.65 metres.

The readings indicate that water levels across the Jhelum and its major tributaries remain substantially below their respective reference marks at monitoring stations across Kashmir.

J&K To Remain

temperature of minus 2.2 degrees Celsius, up from minus 2.8 degrees Celsius a day earlier, while Gulmarg recorded minus 0.4 degrees Celsius against minus 1.0 degrees Celsius.

Kupwara in north Kashmir registered a minimum of minus 1.1 degrees Celsius compared to minus 1.3 degrees Celsius the previous night.

Qazigund recorded minus 0.8 degrees Celsius, unchanged from the previous night, while Kokernag registered 0.7 degrees Celsius against 1.0 degrees Celsius a day earlier.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature of 11.7 degrees Celsius against 10.8 degrees Celsius the previous night. Katra recorded 11.0 degrees Celsius, Banihal 9.4 degrees Celsius, Batote 7.2 degrees Celsius and Bhaderwah 3.2 degrees Celsius.

Despite the marginal rise in temperatures, signs of the prevailing cold remained visible in parts of south Kashmir, where icicles were seen covering vegetation in the Kokernag area of Anantnag district.

The marginal improvement in night temperatures comes amid the onset of winter across the Valley, with several higher-altitude areas continuing to record sub-zero temperatures.

HC Quashes

reports received from sister agencies" and alleged involvement in activities inimical to the security of Jammu and Kashmir, without furnishing material particulars.

The court observed that the detainee could not have made an effective representation against his detention in the absence of specific details.

Referring to Article 22(5) of the Constitution, the Court said every ground of detention must be individually specified to ensure transparency and accountability, adding that vague, indefinite or general allegations make it impossible for a detenue to understand the reasons for his detention and effectively challenge the same.

The Court also referred to a Division Bench judgment in Imran Rashid Rather vs UT of J&K, which held that vague and non-specific grounds of detention violate the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 21 and 14 of the Constitution besides depriving detenues of an opportunity to offer a specific rebuttal.

Separately, the Court quashed the detention order dated April 28, 2025, issued by the District Magistrate, Shopian, against Wani.

The Court observed that the grounds of detention did not disclose the particulars of the places or the identities of the subversive elements to whom Wani was allegedly providing logistic support.

It further noted that the period during which the alleged logistic support was provided, as well as details of the alleged anti-national activities, had not been specified.

Holding that the allegations were vague and lacked material particulars, the court said the detainee had been prevented from making an effective representation, resulting in a violation of the constitutional guarantees under Article 22(5).

Allowing both petitions, the Court quashed the respective detention orders and directed the authorities to release them from preventive custody forthwith, provided they were not required in connection with any other case.

Dismantle Terror

directed officials to maintain strict vigilance against encroachments along the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB), besides calling for a crackdown on illegal mining, drugs and bovine smuggling.

"Operations against narco-terrorists must continue relentlessly. We must aim to completely dismantle the narco-terror ecosystem," he said.

Sinha also directed officials to establish joint social media cells to counter fake news.

Emphasising public grievance redressal, the Lieutenant Governor asked officials to ensure that complaints of citizens are heard and addressed through dedicated institutional mechanisms, stressing zero tolerance for negligence at any level.

"Ensuring that citizens' grievances receive a fair hearing is a core duty, requiring a dedicated institutional mechanism for grievance redressal with zero tolerance for negligence at any level," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the administration and Jammu and Kashmir Police for the peaceful conduct of the 'Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan' and stressed that the anti-drug campaign must continue with the same intensity.

The meeting also reviewed progress under the Vibrant Villages Programme across Jammu Division.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav, DGP Nalin Prabhat, Additional Chief Secretary Home Department Chandraker Bharti, Special DG Coordination PHQ S.J.M. Gillani, Commissioner Secretary GAD M. Raju, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor Govind Jaiswal, IGP Jammu Terjinder Singh, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Vikas Kundal, Range DIGs, DCs, SSPs and other senior officers.

Every Terror

drug trafficking operations must be tackled through a unified approach, with central and state agencies working towards shared objectives and clearly defined responsibilities.

Shah also credited security forces and investigative agencies for improving the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, claiming that the Valley was now free of locally recruited terrorists.

The conference brought together senior police officials, heads of central and state agencies, investigators and security experts to deliberate on emerging security challenges.

Shah said counter-terror investigations must focus on dismantling entire networks, including handlers, financiers, organised crime links and local facilitators.

He stressed the need for stronger financial investigations in terror cases and targeting the entire chain of terror funding.

Calling for enhanced cyber capabilities, Shah urged states to strengthen their Anti-Terrorism Squads on the prescribed model and establish specialised cyber cells to counter the growing use of technology by terrorist organisations.

He also advocated structural and operational uniformity under PRAHAAR, the national counter-terrorism framework, to improve coordination among agencies.

Reiterating the government's position on fugitives operating from abroad, Shah said those involved in terrorism, organised crime and narcotics offences would be brought back to face trial. He said 303 fugitives had been returned to India from 36 countries since 2019.

The conference deliberated on the organised crime-terror nexus, online radicalisation, cross-border smuggling of arms and narcotics, hawala transactions, trade-based money laundering, drone threats and the use of digital platforms by terrorist networks.

Discussions also focused on the use of artificial intelligence and big data analytics, digital forensics, prosecution of terror cases, witness protection and legal provisions under anti-terror laws.

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, in his concluding remarks, stressed the need to translate the PRAHAAR framework into coordinated action at the state, district and police station levels. He also called for strengthening forensic and financial investigation capabilities.

During the conference, Shah released the NIA publication Fail-Safe Investigation, launched the agency's Pushti portal to help citizens verify fraudulent notices issued in the NIA's name, laid the foundation stone for the NIA office complex in Chandigarh and inaugurated its residential complex at Maidangarhi in Delhi. (KNO)

AQI 354 vs 59:

also showed elevated concentrations of particulate matter, with PM2.5 recorded at 191 micrograms per cubic metre and PM10 at 248 micrograms per cubic metre.

PM2.5 particles are particularly concerning because their small size allows them to penetrate deep into the respiratory system and potentially enter the bloodstream, increasing the risk of respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses.

The reported deterioration in air quality comes as Kashmir enters the winter season, when low temperatures, weaker winds and atmospheric conditions can contribute to the accumulation of pollutants.

Srinagar's geographical setting, surrounded by mountains, can also restrict air circulation under certain weather conditions. Temperature inversion, a phenomenon in which warmer air above prevents cooler air near the ground from rising, can further trap pollutants close to the surface.

The CPCB's revised action plan for Srinagar identifies vehicular emissions as a major contributor to the city's pollution burden. Road dust, construction activities, traffic congestion, biomass and municipal waste burning, diesel generators and fuel combustion are among the other sources of pollution.

Winter heating also contributes to the pollution load as households increasingly depend on fuel-based heating arrangements during the colder months.

According to historical readings displayed by AQI.in, Srinagar's AQI was recorded at 29 on November 13 before rising sharply to 402 on November 19. It stood at 354 on Friday.

The India Meteorological Department has forecast largely dry weather in Kashmir between November 19 and 28. The absence of rainfall or snowfall during this period could mean fewer opportunities for precipitation to wash pollutants out of the atmosphere.

The CPCB monitors air quality at eight locations in the Srinagar region, while PM2.5 monitoring is undertaken at five locations.

The contrasting readings notwithstanding, the reported spike in particulate pollution highlights the importance of sustained monitoring and emission-control measures as winter sets in across the Valley. (inputs from KNO)

SC Asks Centre

infant deaths, and other negative outcomes in children.

During the hearing, the counsel appearing for the petitioner said the plea raises intergenerational equity and people should be informed about adverse consequences through wide publicity.

The counsel said certain safeguards should be provided as the practice of 'consanguineous marriages' was increasing.

The counsel argued that such practice occur mostly in the rural areas where people marry their cousins within the family without being aware of the consequences.

The bench said the issues raised in the plea require public awareness as marriage is a matter of personal choice and one should be able to take an informed decision regarding marriage.

Referring to an earlier case concerning marriage involving an HIV positive person, the bench observed the court had said it was a matter of personal choice.

The plea said the petitioner, who is suffering from 40 per cent visual impairment, is an "offspring of a first-cousin marriage, which was conducted in accordance with an age-old traditional practice in her community".

It urged the apex court to "declare or alternatively interpret Section 5(iv) and Section 5(v) of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, to emphasise that the exceptions for marriage within prohibited or 'sapinda' relationships should always be carried out with prior public health safeguards".

The plea said these include counselling, risk disclosure, medically advised screening, and certification.

"Without these safeguards, such practices are beyond the authority granted by Articles 14 and 21 of the Indian Constitution," it said.

'Sapinda' relationship extends as far as the third generation (inclusive) in the line of ascent through the mother, and the fifth (inclusive) in the line of ascent through the father, the line being traced upwards in each case from the person concerned who is to be counted as the first generation.

Section 5 of the Act deals with conditions for a Hindu marriage.

Section 5 (iv) says that a marriage may be solemnized between any two Hindus if the parties are not within the degrees of prohibited relationship unless the custom or usage governing each of them permits of a marriage between the two.

Section 5(v) says marriage may be solemnized between any two Hindus if the parties are not 'sapindas' of each other, unless the custom or usage governing each of them permits of a marriage between the two.

"The issue is not about criticising specific community practices or devaluing people with disabilities. It reflects the State's constitutional responsibility to prevent foreseeable, serious, and avoidable harm to children," the plea said.

Seeking a direction to the Centre to re-examine existing provisions allowing 'consanguineal marriages', the plea said they be suitably amended so as to either enforce safeguards or a comprehensive statutory prohibition on such marriages, in furtherance of public health, social reform, and the best interests of children under Article 15 of the Constitution.

It said pending such statutory revision, the Centre be directed to take immediate and phased interim measures aimed at gradual and systematic elimination or curtailment of 'consanguineous marriages' from society.

The plea also sought a direction to the authorities to frame and implement interim guidelines mandating premarital genetic counselling and voluntary genetic screening in districts and regions identified as having a high prevalence of 'consanguineous marriages', with a view to safeguard the health and welfare of prospective spouses and offspring, and to prevent avoidable genetic disorders.

The plea urged the apex court to clarify that these directions were meant to be preventive and regulatory, and were not designed to criminalise existing marriages or retrospectively unsettle their legal status.

Patnitop Tourism Development, Carnival Preparations Reviewed At Stakeholders Meet

Observer News Service



JAMMU: The Department of Tourism Jammu & Kashmir on Friday convened a stakeholders meeting in the Conference Hall of the Director Tourism Office Jammu, to deliberate on preparations for the upcoming Patnitop Carnival 2026 and discuss broader tourism development issues concerning Patnitop and its adjoining destinations.

The meeting was chaired by MLA Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia and Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta.

Joint Director Tourism, CEO Patnitop Development Authority (PDA), Deputy Director Tourism, other officers and officials of the Tourism Department, representatives from E&Y, members of the hotel industry, Mr. Sathe, President of the Hotel Association, representatives from Hotel Association Patnitop and other tourism stakeholders attended the meeting.

Detailed deliberations were held on the proposed venue, dates, programme schedule, activities and overall arrangements for Patnitop Carnival 2026. The stakeholders exchanged views on making the carnival an attractive tourism event, with a focus on increasing tourist footfall, promoting local culture, showcasing the region's tourism potential and providing greater participation opportunities to local businesses and tourism operators.

The meeting also discussed several important issues relating to tourism development, including the Master Plan for Patnitop and its effective implementation, destination planning, development of Mantalai as a potential tourism destination, besides various regional and local issues concerning tourism stakeholders.

The participants emphasised the need for coordinated efforts among the Tourism Department, Tourism Development Authorities, industry representatives and local stakeholders to strengthen tourism infrastructure, improve destination management and develop Patnitop and its surrounding areas as attractive, sustainable and globally recognised tourism destinations.

The meeting concluded with an emphasis on collaborative planning, stakeholder engagement and coordinated action to ensure the successful organisation of Patnitop Carnival 2026 and further strengthen the tourism ecosystem in the region.

Muezzin Injured In Knife Attack During Azaan Inside Mosque

SRINAGAR: A 72-year-old muezzin was critically injured after being attacked with a knife while calling the Azaan at a mosque in Srinagar's Lal Bazar area on Friday, officials and eyewitnesses said.

The victim, Mohammad Hashim Khanana, son of late Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din and a resident of Umar Colony, Lal Bazar, was making the call to prayer at Masjid Char Yaar in Bota Shah Mohalla when he was allegedly attacked from behind with a sharp-edged weapon.

An eyewitness said that the muezzin was reciting the Azaan when a local resident approached him and stabbed him from behind.

Despite the attack, Khanana managed to raise an alarm through the mosque's loudspeaker, prompting residents to rush to the scene, the eyewitness said.

He said the muezzin was found lying in a pool of blood inside the mosque premises. The attacker allegedly dragged the injured man towards the mosque's main gate before police reached the spot.

The injured muezzin was shifted to SKIMS for treatment, where his condition was stated to be critical.

Police have arrested the accused, identified as Yasir Lateef Fazili. A case has been registered and an investigation to ascertain the motive and circumstances behind the attack has been launched—(KNO)

Govt Accords Approval For Street Food Hubs At Tangmarg, Lakhanpur

JAMMU: In a significant initiative to strengthen local livelihoods, promote tourism and improve public amenities, the Jammu and Kashmir Government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has accorded administrative approval for the construction of two Street Food Hubs at Tangmarg and Lakhanpur at a combined cost of ₹9.85 crore.

The projects assume special significance in view of the strategic and tourism importance of the two locations. Lakhanpur, the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir and J&K's first town for visitors entering from Punjab, serves as the first point of entry for a large number of tourists, pilgrims and travellers. Similarly, Tangmarg is the first major tourist destination on the route to the world-famous ski resort of Gulmarg, welcoming visitors heading towards the popular tourist resort.

The projects include construction of a Street Food Hub at Tangmarg at an approved cost of ₹3.81 crore and a Clean Street Food Hub at Lakhanpur, near the State Tax Office Building and the bus stand, at a cost of ₹6.04 crore. The funding will be provided under PM SVANidhi and the Capex Budget (MRDA Sector).

The initiative aims to provide organised, hygienic and well-equipped spaces for street vendors, improve public amenities and ensure access to safe and quality food for residents, tourists and other visitors.

The development of these facilities is expected to enhance the overall visitor experience at two important entry and tourism points of Jammu and Kashmir, while providing better livelihood opportunities to street vendors and giving a boost to local economic activity.

The projects reflect Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led Government's focus on creating cleaner, better-organised and more visitor-friendly public spaces, reinforcing the importance of Lakhanpur and Tangmarg in the J&K's tourism and economic landscape. (Observer News Service)

Falling Chinar Branch Injures Fireman In Shalimar

SRINAGAR: A fireman was injured after a burning Chinar tree branch fell on him during a firefighting operation in Shalimar area of Srinagar on Friday, officials said.

An official said that a fire broke out in a Chinar tree in Shalimar, prompting the Fire and Emergency Services personnel to launch a dousing operation.

He said that during the operation, a branch of the burning Chinar tree fell on a fireman, leaving him injured.

The injured fireman was identified as Bashir Ahmed, a Leading Fireman. He was shifted to SKIMS Soura for treatment. His condition was not immediately known, while further details are awaited.

Cognizance of the incident has been taken—(KNO)

'Stories Without Borders'

IFFI 57 To Celebrate Cinema Beyond Geographical Boundaries

Observer News Service



GOA: A media briefing was held at the PIB Media Centre, Panaji, Goa on the sidelines of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). The session brought together Shri Ashutosh Gowariker, Festival Director, IFFI 57, and Shri Dhiraj Singh, Managing Director, National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). It was moderated by Smt. Smita Vats Sharma, Director General (West), Press Information Bureau (PIB).

Addressing the media, Shri Ashutosh Gowariker outlined his vision for the 57th edition of IFFI, centred on the theme 'Stories Without Borders'. He explained that the theme extends beyond geographical and territorial boundaries to explore divisions within families and societies, including those arising from caste, social differences and other socio-cultural realities. The festival seeks to bring together stories that transcend such boundaries and reflect shared human experiences across cultures.

Highlighting the festival's diverse cinematic offerings, Shri Gowariker announced the introduction of three new sections this year i.e. Animation, Documentary and Films about Films. He underscored the growing significance of documentaries and the need to provide greater visibility and opportunities to documentary filmmakers. As part of this initiative, IFFI will host a special gala presentation featuring films by winners of the recently concluded Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF).

Emphasising the significance of the festival's varied programming, he noted that every section, including retrospectives, curated showcases and special screenings, contributes to presenting the richness and diversity of cinema. He encouraged media professionals to explore the festival beyond their individual film preferences and attend gala screenings, red-carpet events, international press conferences and Panorama interactions. Such engagements, he observed, offer filmmakers and visiting delegates an opportunity to present their work while enabling audiences to discover diverse cinematic perspectives.

Underscoring the role of media in amplifying the festival's reach, Shri Gowariker urged media representatives to watch and cover films across different sections, including retrospectives, while retaining their independent judgement and critical perspectives. He emphasised that media engagement plays an important role in taking the stories and cinematic offerings of IFFI to audiences across the country.

He also expressed his willingness to facilitate meaningful and informal interactions between the festival team and media representatives throughout the event. Noting the professional commitments of media personnel, he said that the scheduling of interactions had been adjusted to provide greater flexibility and adequate time for coverage of festival activities.

Technology-Driven Initiatives Playing Important Role In Making Judicial System Transparent: Chief Justice

Agencies



BUDGAM: Stating that technology-driven initiatives are playing an important role in making the judicial system more transparent and accessible, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Dr Pushpendra Singh Bhati, on Friday emphasised on the need to strengthen access to justice for every citizen.

Talking to reporters during his visit to District Court Budgam, accompanied by Justice Sindhu Sharma, the Chief Justice as per KNO, said that the judiciary is making continuous efforts to ensure that people, irrespective of their geographical location, could access justice and judicial services.

Highlighting the role of technology in judicial reforms, Justice Bhati said that court orders and proceedings are now uploaded online, often within an hour after the court rises, enabling litigants and members of the public to access information from anywhere.

He said that through video conferencing, people sitting in even remote corners of the country could follow judicial proceedings, adding that such initiatives were helping strengthen transparency and public trust in the judicial system.

Recalling the transformation over the past 35 years, he said that earlier litigants would receive information about their cases through postal communication, sometimes only once a year, whereas technology had significantly improved access to judicial information.

The Chief Justice also stressed the importance of adopting technology and modern tools in the functioning of courts, urging members of the Bar and Bench to make continuous efforts towards embracing technological advancements.

Regarding judicial infrastructure in Budgam, Justice Bhati said that land has already been identified for a new court complex and expressed hope that the project would take shape soon. He also said that a proposal for an additional court facility in the Khansahib area was pending with the government.

The Chief Justice interacted with members of the District Bar Association Budgam, who raised various issues and demands concerning judicial infrastructure and the functioning of courts.

Deputy Commissioner Budgam Jatin Kishore, SSP Budgam Hariprasad K.K, senior police and administrative officers were also present on the occasion—(KNO)

Food Safety Demands Accountability From Authorities: Mirwaiz

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Addressing the Friday congregation at the historic Jama Masjid Srinagar, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq today expressed grave concern over repeated incidents of food adulteration and the seizure of large quantities of rotten meat, describing them as deeply disturbing and reflective of serious shortcomings in public accountability and societal ethics.

Mirwaiz said that the Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulama (MMU) had devoted today's common Friday Khutbah, delivered in mosques across Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, to "Food Adulteration, Moral Decline and Collective Responsibility." Referring to the Quranic injunction of Halal and Tayyib, he said Islam requires food to be not merely lawful but also pure, wholesome and safe for consumption.

Referring to the recent seizure of approximately 2,000 kg of rotten meat at Budgam Railway Station, reportedly transported from Delhi Mirwaiz appreciated the intervention of the Railway Police but questioned how such a huge quantity of a perishable commodity could travel hundreds of kilometres without any safe guards and so easily ?

"Who sent this meat, who was supposed to receive it in Kashmir, and where was it intended to be distributed? Were the consignments transported under their correct description, and why were the mandatory checks not carried out?" he asked.

Demanding a transparent investigation into the entire supply chain, Mirwaiz stressed that merely seizing and destroying rotten meat was not enough. Those found responsible must be held accountable, exposed and punished .

Mirwaiz demanded to know what happened to the previous inquiry after thousands kilograms of rotten meat was seized last year and send to forensic lab for testing . Promises were made that after investigation the findings will be made public and the culprits brought to book . Why happened to that inquiry and where is its report ?

Citing figures presented in the Legislative Assembly, he said over 12,183 kg of rotten meat had been destroyed during 2025–26 up to December 2025, while 7,665 kg of substandard paneer had also been seized in Jammu and Samba. Such recurring incidents, he said, were creating widespread anxiety , eroding public confidence in food safety.

Expressing concern over serious deficiencies in food safety enforcement, Mirwaiz referred to reports indicating that only 68 Food Safety Officers serve across J&K's 20 districts. In the two food-testing laboratories, 11 of the 19 sanctioned technical positions in each are reportedly vacant, while 12 mobile food-testing vehicles are reportedly not functioning effectively due to staff shortages, despite earlier official claims of their operational status.

J&K Bank Opens Branch At Pallanwala In Jammu



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Bringing banking services closer to residents and businesses in Pallanwala and adjoining areas near the Indo-Pak border, J&K Bank on Friday opened a branch at Thanger Chowk.

MLA Chhamb Satish Sharma inaugurated the branch in the presence of General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta, Deputy General Manager Chandrika Parihar, Cluster Head Nidhi Jamwal, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Satish Sharma amid a gathering of valuable customers, senior citizens and local traders.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Satish Sharma complimented the Bank's leadership for expanding its reach and lauded the Bank's contribution to the economic development of Jammu and Kashmir.

He expressed hope that the new branch would make everyday banking more convenient for residents and improve access to credit for local traders, farmers and aspiring entrepreneurs.

He also urged the Bank to expand its branch network in rural areas so that more households, farmers and small businesses can access banking and credit facilities closer to home.

General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta said the commissioning of the branch reflected the Bank's focus on extending its network to locations where physical presence can make a tangible difference in the lives of people of the area.

He said the branch would cater to the sensitive area's banking and financial needs, with an emphasis on responsive service and guidance to help customers choose facilities suited to their needs.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR ESTATES KASHMIR

EVICTION NOTICE

Notice under sub-section 1 of section 5 of Jammu and Kashmir Public Premises (Eviction of Un-authorised Occupants) Act, 1988, read with amended Act, 2016.

Whereas, the undersigned is satisfied for the reasons recorded below that Sh. Junaid Azeem Mattu, Ex- Mayor Srinagar Municipal Corporation is in unauthorized occupation of the public premises specified in the schedule below and he should be evicted from the said premises: -

REASONS

a. That the premises, scheduled below, was provided to you in the capacity of Mayor Srinagar Municipal Corporation, vide Govt. Order No. 107-Est of 2018 dated 15-11-2018, for a period upto ending April, 2019 and no extension has been given to you by the Government since then.

b. That on completing the term of Mayor, Srinagar Municipal Corporation in November, 2023, you retained the premises illegally and without any formal allotment orders/extension order.

c. That earlier by way of different notices/communications/verbal requests you were asked to surrender the scheduled premises, however, you have failed to do so.

d. That earlier notice/eviction proceedings initiated/issued was quashed by Hon'ble High Court vide Judgment/order dated 09-05-2025 in WP(C) No. 2114/2024 titled Junaid Azeem Mattu Vs UT of J&K and Ors being defective (for not following procedure established by Law).

e. That your case for continuation or otherwise of residential accommodation was placed before designated committee constituted vide G.O No. 35-Est of 2016 dated 31-03-2016 for consideration, who also recommended your eviction from Government accommodation.

f. That a notice bearing No. DDES/SONWAR/2026/3378 dated 13-11-2026 was served to you whereby, you and every person occupying scheduled premises were asked to show cause within a period of seven days from the date of issuance of said notice why an order of eviction should not be made and passed against you and in reply to said show cause notice you replied vide communication dated 18-11-2026. The reply furnished by you was examined and the same was found devoid of any merits, as grounds raised by you do not justify retaining the scheduled accommodation.

g. That the Hon 'hie High Court of J&K, in CMP No. 7467/2022 in PIL No. 17/2020 (Order dated 26.12.2022), has categorically held that security concerns cannot be conflated with entitlement to government accommodation and cannot be used to defeat the process of Law.

h. That as already mentioned above your case for continuation or otherwise of allotment was placed before Designated Committee (Headed by ADGP/IGP Security, J&K), which also recommended your eviction from Government accommodation

i. That in addition to above, since you are a resident of Srinagar City, and under Regulation 5 of the J&K Estates Department (Allotment of Government Accommodation) Regulations, 2004, you are otherwise not entitled to retain government accommodation in Srinagar.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Sub-Section (1) of section 5 of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1988, I hereby order that Sh. Junaid Azeem Mattu, Ex- Mayor Srinagar Municipal Corporation and all persons who may be in occupation of scheduled premises or any part thereof to vacate the scheduled premises by or before 27-11-2026. In the event of non-compliance, the provisions of Section 5(2) of the Act shall be invoked, authorizing the use of necessary force to evict the unauthorized occupants and take possession of the premises.

SCHEDULED (Public Premises)
Government House H.O.D No. 3 Church Lane, Sonawar, Srinagar

Dy. Director Estates, Srinagar
(Estates Officer)

No. DDEK/Sonwar/2026/3475
Dated: 20/11/2026

DIPK-7858-26
DT: 20/11/2026

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To Know More Contact your J & K Bank Relationship Manager

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