

Good Morning Kashmir

16th
Year Of Publication



Office of LG J&K
@OfficeOfLGJandK



LGSSK will begin operations immediately from its offices at Civil Secretariat in both Jammu & Srinagar. It reaffirms my commitment to uphold welfare & dignity of our soldiers by ensuring timely & structured redressal of their civilian concerns through an institutional platform.



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■ Sainik Sahayta Kendra

LG Establishes Cell for Soldiers' Grievances



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir has accorded sanction for the establishment of the Lieutenant Governor's Sainik Sahayta Kendra (LGSSK), a dedicated institutional mechanism to assist and address civilian grievances of serving soldiers from the Indian Armed Forces and Central Armed Force Forces.

The Kendra, constituted under Government Order No. 933-JK(GAD) of 2025 dated 17.07.2025, aims to provide systematic grievance redressal support to soldiers who are either posted in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir or originally belong

to the UT and are presently serving in other parts of the country.

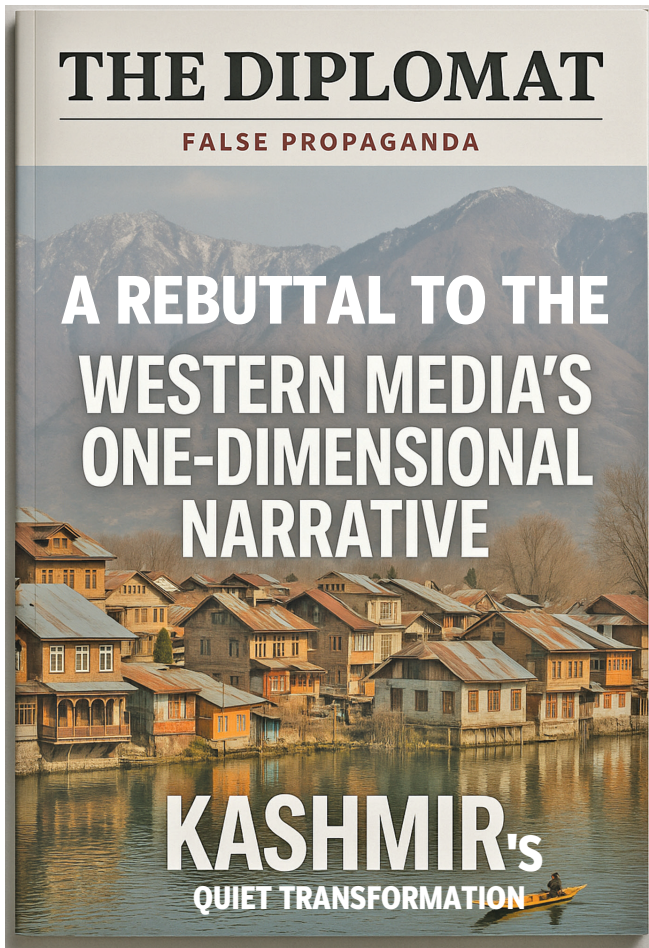
Functioning as a Soldiers' Assistance and Liaison Cell, the Kendra shall serve as a single-window platform for receiving, assessing, and facilitating resolution of grievances submitted by soldiers. It will also arrange appointments with concerned civil or police officials at the district level, follow up on pending matters, maintain a performance dashboard for monitoring, and submit quarterly performance reports to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor. The Kendra will begin operations immediately from its offices at the Civil Secretariat in both Jammu and

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RISHI SURI

SRINAGAR: A recent article published in 'The Diplomat', titled "A Kashmir Diary: War-Ravaged Families Await Relief as Statehood Remains Elusive," paints a bleak, sorrowful portrait of Kashmir, one in which families are broken, governance is absent, and relief remains a distant dream. While the anguish of those affected by cross-border shelling is undeniable and deserves empathy, the article falls into a familiar pattern that has long characterized sections of Western media: telling Kashmir's story solely through the lens of suffering and dysfunction, with little attention to the complex, incremental progress unfolding across the region.

There is no denying that conflict has left deep scars on the region and that the challenges of rebuilding lives in the wake of violence are immense. But it is equally important to acknowledge that Kashmir today is not the frozen-in-time warzone often depicted in selective reportage. Far from it, Kashmir is slowly, steadily charting a course towards stability and renewal, socially, economically, and administratively. The return of democratic processes is one of the clearest indicators of this shift. The provincial elections held in September 2024 witnessed a robust voter turnout of over



60%, a strong signal that ordinary Kashmiris believe in institutions and want a say in shaping their future. These were not hollow rituals of

democracy, they were a sign of political participation reawakening at the grassroots level.

Much of the article's emotional core rests on accounts

of villagers who have received inadequate or delayed compensation for homes damaged by shelling. These stories are tragic, but they are not being ignored. State authorities, including the newly elected local government, have initiated administrative reviews to address gaps in relief. Emergency shelters were mobilized in high-risk zones, and multiple rounds of dialogue between the Union Territory administration and central authorities are currently underway to expedite aid. Are these measures perfect? Certainly not. But to suggest that Kashmiris are "forgotten" or "without recourse" is a gross misrepresentation of ongoing efforts and the functioning of local governance.

Security dynamics too are more nuanced than the article suggests. It describes a landscape of unchecked violence and despair following a breakdown in ceasefire understandings. Yet the reality is that after a brief escalation in May 2025, both India and Pakistan reaffirmed their commitment to the ceasefire. Border incidents, while tragic, have not spiraled into broader instability. Civilian security has, in fact, improved over the last two years, aided by increased surveillance, better coordination among agencies, and community preparedness initiatives. Again, these details

●P-06

■ **A KASHMIR DIARY: WAR-RAVAGED FAMILIES AWAIT RELIEF AS STATEHOOD** Remains Elusive," paints a bleak, sorrowful portrait of Kashmir, one in which families are broken, governance is absent, and relief remains a distant dream. While the anguish of those affected by cross-border shelling is undeniable and deserves empathy,

LG Sinha Calls On PM Modi In Delhi



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the national capital.

In a post on X, PMO India, said, "Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Shri @manojjsinha, met Prime Minister @narendramodi."

The meeting came amidst heightened administrative and security focus in the Union Territory.

Though details about what transpired during the meeting remained undisclosed, the interaction hinted at ongoing coordination between the Centre and the UT's top leadership.

Pertinently, LG Sinha met PM Modi a day after he stated that J&K's statehood would be restored at an appropriate time as promised by the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

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...Stresses On Enhancing Its Heritage Appeal

CM Omar Inspects Mubarak Mandi Restoration



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday reviewed the ongoing restoration and development of the historic Mubarak Mandi Complex in Jammu.

Accompanied by Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani and MLA Yudhvir Sethi, the Chief Minister visited the site and received a detailed briefing on the multi-phase project aimed at reviving the architectural grandeur of the former Dogra royal palace. Principal Secretary Cul-

ture, Brij Mohan Sharma, provided an overview of the project's implementation, while Executive Director of the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Society, Deepika Sharma, gave a presentation outlining its various components.

The briefing gave details of how each zone will depict a distinct cultural theme. Under the Jammu Smart City Mission, some innovative initiatives such as a library-cum-café in the complex would be available for the public within a historic setting.

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PM Modi Secured The Country: Amit Shah Says In Cong Rule People Faced Terror Attacks Every Day

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Stating that during Congress rule, the country had to face terror attacks almost every day, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his tenure has done the biggest job of securing the country.

Addressing a function in Jaipur Shah, while referring to the actions taken against terrorism by PM Modi led regime, said, "When the Uri attack occurred, PM Modi took a decisive action and a surgical strike was carried out. Following the Pulwama attack, an airstrike was done, and when an attack took place in Pahalgam, Operation Sindoor was launched, targeting terrorists within Pakistan and eliminating them."



The Union Home Minister, said, "A strong message has gone out to the world that no one should mess with India's citizens, its borders or its defence forces, and those who do so will have to face consequences."

Referring to 'Operation Sindoor' launched after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, Shah said, "PM Modi has conveyed a powerful message to the world that India's citizens, armed forces, and borders

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...Reaches Leh

Kavinder Gupta To Take Oath As Ladakh's New LG Today

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Kavinder Gupta, former deputy chief minister of Jammu & Kashmir and veteran BJP leader, is set to be sworn in as the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh on Friday morning at Leh.

Official sources said that Gupta would be administered the oath of office by chief Justice of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Arun Palli, tomorrow morning at Leh.

His warrant of appointment is likely to be read out by chief secretary Pawan Kotwal. The oath ceremony, scheduled to take place at Raj Niwas at 9:30 am, would be attended by Chief Executive Councilors and Executive

Councilors of Leh and Kargil Hill Councils, representatives of Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance, as well as senior officers from civil administration and police.

The LG-designate arrived in Ladakh today and received a warm welcome at Leh's Kushok Bakula Rinpoche airport. Justice Pillai also reached Leh today to administer the oath to Gupta.

Gupta, was deputy CM in Mehoba Mufti-led PDP-BJP government, which collapsed in June 2018 following withdrawal of support to it by BJP, citing deteriorating security situation in the erstwhile state.

Gupta has become the first politician to

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■ 9,000 Pilgrims Still Visit Holy Cave

Amarnath Yatra Halted For A Day After Heavy Rains



UMAISAR GULL GANIE

SRINAGAR: The Amarnath Yatra was suspended on Thursday from Jammu and the twin routes of Baltal and Pahalgam due to heavy rainfall and adverse weather conditions. Despite this, over 9,000 pilgrims performed darshan at the holy cave today.

An official, said no fresh batch of pilgrims was allowed to proceed from Jammu towards the two base camps. The Border Roads Organisa-

tion (BRO) has deployed additional personnel and machinery to carry out urgent repair and maintenance on the damaged tracks.

"Due to continuous rainfall over the last couple of days, critical repairs are needed on both routes. Therefore, no movement has been allowed towards the Holy Cave today. However, pilgrims who stayed at the Panjarni camp overnight are being allowed to descend towards Baltal under the supervision of BRO and

Mountain Rescue Teams. The Yatra is likely to resume tomorrow, subject to weather conditions," said Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri.

This marks the first suspension of the Yatra this year from both Jammu and the twin base camps simultaneously.

As the weather improved, 9,020 pilgrims managed to perform darshan at the holy cave today. These included 6,345 male pilgrims, 2,232 females, 132 children, 112 sadhus, 12 sadhvis, and two transgender devotees. Additionally, 185 security personnel also paid obeisance.

Since the Yatra began on July 3, a total of 2,56,233 pilgrims have visited the holy cave, officials said.

Meanwhile, the Indian Army today rescued about 500 Amarnath pilgrims who were stranded because of landslides triggered by heavy rains, and shifted

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DGP Calls For Real-Time Intelligence Sharing To Secure Sensitive Zones

AGENCIES

JAMMU, JUL 17 : Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Thursday called for inter-agency synergy, real-time intelligence sharing, and technology-enabled surveillance to secure sensitive zones near the borders.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) DGP Prabhat visited forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and asked the officers to secure areas like Akhnoor, which have historically been prone to cross-border attempts by terrorist groups and smuggling networks.

An official said the DGP visited the Buchohemandi area, a strategically important area along the LoC.

DGP Prabhat was accompanied by IGP Jammu Zone Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP CRPF Jammu Sector, Gopala K. Rao, DIG JSK Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma, SSP Jammu, Joginder Singh, and senior officers of the Indian Army deployed in the sector.

The DGP, according to the offi-



cials, was briefed comprehensively by the Army authorities on the border security grid, with specific focus on vulnerabilities, surveillance infrastructure, JKP-Army coordination, and preparedness of ground units to respond to any cross-border threat.

The visit also aimed at assessing the terrain, visibility advancement, and layout of defensive positions in the forward area.

The presence of senior leadership from the J&K Police, CRPF, and Indian Army underlined the strategic focus on joint operational readiness in the border zones, the official added—(KNO)

Jhelum, Other Stream Witness Significant Rise As Rains Bring Relief



REHAN QAYOUM MIR

SRINAGAR: The recent spells of rainfall in Kashmir have significantly raised the water levels in the river Jhelum and its tributaries, providing much-needed relief to the agriculture and horticulture sectors, the official data here revealed.

According to the latest readings by the Irrigation and Flood Control Department as accessed, July 17, the Jhelum was flowing as Sangam: 9.50 ft (flood mark: 21 ft); Pampore: 1.55 m (flood mark: 4.5 m); Munshi Bagh: 9.57 ft (flood mark: 18 ft); Asham: 5.33 ft (flood mark: 14 ft); and Wullar Lake: 1575.08 m (full level: 1578.00 m).

The data also revealed that tributary levels were also higher but still below danger marks as Vishow Nallah at Khudwani: 5.36 m (flood mark: 7.75 m); Rambiyara Nallah at Wachi: 0.40 m (flood mark: 5.4 m); Lidder Nallah at Batkoot: 0.67 m (flood mark: 1.5 m); and Sindh Nallah at Doderhama: 1.84 m (flood mark: 3.65 m).

Notably, KNO had already reported on July 16, that water levels were expected to increase as rainfall accumulation from upper catchments would reflect with a delay.

In the earlier report, it was noted that the water level at Sangam was 3.85 ft, Munshi Bagh at 5.94 ft, and

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Good Morning Kashmir

New Dawn In Jammu And Kashmir

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's recent assertion that the past five years have witnessed "unprecedented development" in Jammu and Kashmir is not just a political statement, it is a reflection of a visible transformation on the ground. For a region long plagued by turmoil and underdevelopment, the trajectory of peace, progress, and governance seen in recent years marks a significant and heartening departure from its troubled past.

Perhaps the most compelling indicator of this change is the reported absence of innocent civilian killings, a grim reality that once routinely dominated headlines. This alone signals a paradigm shift in security, law enforcement, and public trust. A calmer, more stable environment has given space for schools to function normally, businesses to thrive, and tourism, a lifeline of the region, to rebound robustly.

Development, too, is no longer confined to paper promises. Infrastructure projects, including highways, tunnels, and connectivity initiatives, are reaching completion at a pace previously unseen. Healthcare and education indicators are improving steadily. Grassroots democracy has taken root, with Panchayati Raj institutions playing a visible role in governance. For a region that often felt distant from the national mainstream, the closing of this gap is both symbolic and substantive.

Of course, challenges remain. Development must be inclusive and sustained, ensuring that remote areas and marginalized communities are not left behind. Moreover, the fragile peace must be nurtured with vigilance, sensitivity, and respect for civil liberties. Still, it would be unfair to overlook the progress. The region today stands at a crossroad of opportunity, where hope is beginning to outshine despair. The administration's focus on infrastructure, governance, and a zero-tolerance approach to terrorism has laid a foundation for long-term peace.

Lieutenant Governor Sinha's words are backed not just by statistics, but by a perceptible change felt by the people themselves. It is not just about what has been built — but what has been rebuilt: trust, normalcy, and the promise of a better tomorrow.

Good Morning Kashmir

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From Possession To Power

Understanding Land Mutations, Dast Bardari In India's Revenue System

MOHD AMIN MIR

In the dusty registers of Patwar Khanas and the digitized columns of modern revenue portals, the word "Mutation" holds more than administrative significance—it is the silent transformer of land power, possession, and property. In the socio-legal landscape of India, and particularly in Jammu & Kashmir, the mutation process is where lives change, disputes are born or buried, and rights are formally recorded, or overlooked.

This article dives deep into the concept of land mutation, explores its various kinds as per land revenue laws, clarifies whether "Dastebardari" is a form of mutation, and explains which mutations follow a court decree, especially from Munsiff Courts. It also illuminates the meaning of a decree and its historical evolution in India's land governance.

Part I: What is Mutation?

Mutation, in legal and administrative terms, refers to the recording of a change in the ownership or possession of land in the revenue records maintained by the government. This could occur due to sale, inheritance, court decree, gift, exchange, or possession. It does not confer ownership but is a critical step for paying land revenue and for asserting possession and management of property.

In Jammu & Kashmir, like other parts of India, the mutation is governed by the Land Revenue Act, and is executed by the Revenue Officers—Patwari, Girdawar, Naib Tehsildar, Tehsildar, and sometimes Assistant Commissioners. The attestation of mutation is one of the most contested and crucial stages of rural and urban land administration.

Part II: Kinds of Land Mutations

Though the term "mutation" is singular, there are many kinds, each with a distinct trigger, legal ground, and procedural requirement. The following are the primary types of mutations under revenue law:

Mutation by Inheritance (Varasat/Mirasiyat): This is the most common form. Upon the death of a landowner, their legal heirs (as per personal laws) are recorded as new owners. No sale deed is required, but the death certificate and proof of heirship are mandatory.

Mutation by Sale (Intiqal Qabza or Mutation No. Sale): When land is sold via a registered sale deed, the buyer applies for mutation. The deed is verified and entered in the revenue records after attestation.

Mutation by Gift (Hibbanama): When land is gifted, usually among blood relatives, a registered gift deed is produced. The muta-



tion is entered in the name of the donee.

Mutation by Exchange (Tabadla): If land is exchanged between parties, with a formal exchange deed, the changes are recorded via a tabadla mutation.

Mutation by Court Decree (Hukum Adalat): When a civil court passes a decree regarding land rights—such as ownership, partition, or possession—the mutation is entered as per the decree. This is often referred to as mutation on the basis of decree.

Mutation by Relinquishment (Tanazul): This mutation is based on the relinquishment of rights by one co-sharer in favor of another. This is common in family partitions.

Mutation by Will (Wasiyat): When land is bequeathed through a registered will, especially when probated by a court (in some states), the mutation is recorded accordingly.

Mutation by Possession (Kabza ya Dastebardari): This is where Dastebardari comes into focus. It refers to the physical handing over of land possession, often based on informal or oral transfer. Some jurisdictions recognize it through spot girdawari or possession-based mutation, while others treat it as non-conclusive without documentary evidence.

Mutation due to Government Acquisition (Kabza Hukumat): When land is acquired under the Land Acquisition Act or transferred to the government for projects, the mutation reflects state ownership.

Mutation by Partition (Taqseem): When a joint holding is partitioned either privately or through a court order, the new holdings are mutated in respective names.

Part III: Is Dastebardari a Mutation?

Dast Bardari, literally meaning "handing over," is a term used widely in revenue records and rural parlance. It refers to the physical transfer of possession of land, often based on oral agreement, family settlement, or informal understanding.

In revenue terms, Dast Bardari may be recorded through Girdawari (crop inspection register), where the new possessor's name appears. But without legal documentation (like a sale deed or decree), it does not confer ownership—only possession status.

So is it a mutation?

Yes, in practice, a mutation can be based on Dast Bardari, especially when:

- The previous owner agrees
- The possession is uncontested
- Village Lambardar or Chowkidar confirms
- The Girdawari supports the possession
- The Patwari inspects and enters a Dast Bardari report.

However, this type of mutation is often vulnerable to legal challenge and does not override registered ownership rights.

Part IV: Mutation on the Basis of Decree—Which One?

When a Munsiff Court (Junior Civil Court) passes a decree related to land ownership, possession, or partition, the mutation must be attested in conformity with that decree.

Which mutation applies?

That depends on the nature of the decree:

- If the decree is for ownership through sale or specific performance, then sale mutation is attested.
- If the decree is for partition, then partition mutation is initiated.
- If the decree is for possession, then a possession-based mutation may follow.
- If it's a declaratory decree of title, the mutation is attested in the name of the declared owner.
- In all cases, certified copy of the decree, along with site inspection by revenue staff, is essential before attestation.

Part V: What is a Decree? Its History and Role in Land Law

A decree, as per Section 2(2) of the Civil Procedure Code (CPC), 1908, is the formal expression of an adjudication which conclusively determines the rights of parties

with regard to all or any of the matters in controversy in the suit. It may be preliminary, final, or partly both.

Historical Background

The concept of decree comes from colonial legal structures, which codified judicial processes through the CPC of 1908. Earlier, land disputes were handled by village councils, feudal courts, or British collectors. Over time, civil courts became the primary dispute resolution mechanism for title and possession suits.

Decrees became the backbone of property litigation, guiding mutation and registration. In Jammu & Kashmir, after the abrogation of Article 370, the CPC fully applies, giving decrees stronger legal force in land-related changes.

Part VI: Why Mutation Still Matters in the Digital Age

Even in the era of Digital India and Bhoomi Portals, mutation continues to be the most crucial step in establishing one's legal and financial connection with land:

- It determines who pays land revenue.
- It determines eligibility for government schemes like PM-KISAN or compensation.
- It helps avoid fraudulent claims and dual ownership.
- It enables future transfers (sale, gift) and inheritance to flow smoothly.

Without mutation, even a registered sale deed may become vulnerable to disputes or delays.

Codifying Confidence in the System

In India's land governance, the mutation is more than a clerical update—it is a conferral of administrative legitimacy. Its various forms—from inheritance to Dast Bardari, from court decree to will—reflect the diversity of social and legal systems shaping property rights.

While Dast Bardari remains a grey zone, court decrees—especially from Munsiff Courts—have binding impact on mutation processes. The evolution of the decree system and mutation law points to the need for clearer codification, training of revenue staff, and digitally secure processes that balance tradition with legal sanctity.

As Jammu & Kashmir and other states move towards land record modernization, understanding the types and validity of mutations will be central to building public trust, reducing litigation, and ensuring equitable land governance.

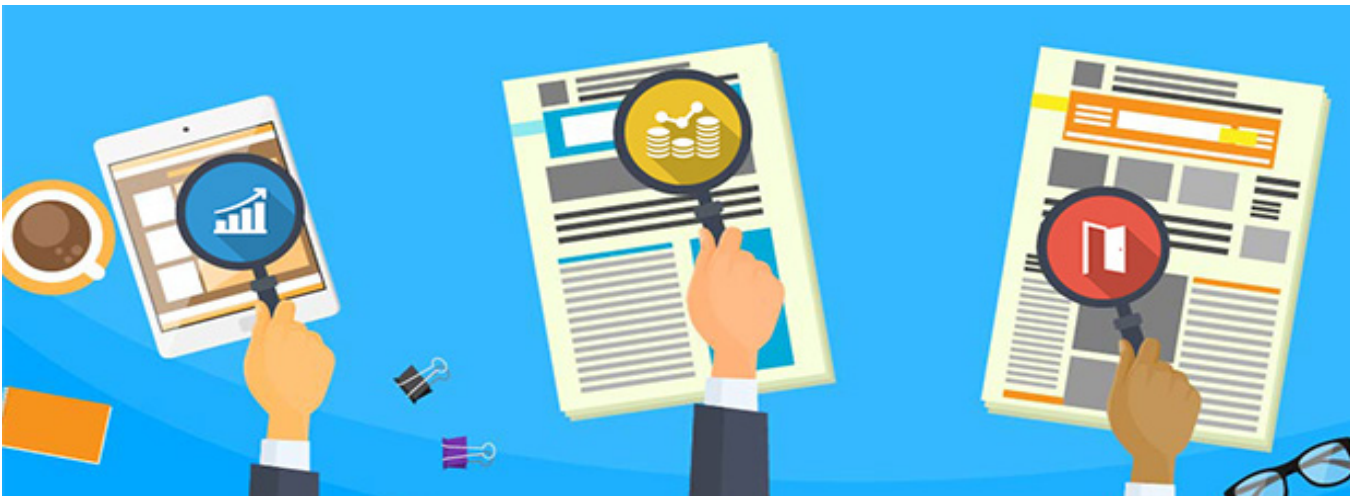
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Generation Adrift - The Unkept Promises

AAMIR ALTAF

I am 25 years old, a graduate from a reputable university, and like countless others in Jammu and Kashmir, I embarked on a Master's degree from IGNOU – not just for higher education, but as a strategic pause, a dedicated period to prepare for the elusive government exams. We, the youth of J&K, held onto a hope, especially after 2019, we were told of a new dawn, of development, of opportunities, and most importantly, of transparent and timely recruitment. We envisioned a future where merit would prevail, where our hard work would be rewarded, and where the chronic unemployment that plagued our parents' generation would finally be a thing of the past.

The promised dawn in other sectors is much appreciable, but the employment sector has yet to see any break. The youth find themselves trapped in a relentless cycle of disappointment, our aspirations crumbling under the weight of promises. Whenever a recruitment notification appears, a rare event in itself, often after years of anticipation, it's either marred by allegations of scams, forcing us to witness the brazen theft of our futures, or indefinitely delayed, caught in a legal quagmire. The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) has managed to notify the Combined Competitive Exams only four times since 2019 – a positive step, yes, but the glacial pace and unpredictable timing cost us invaluable opportunities, years of our prime youth that can never be reclaimed. Each postponement, each cancelled exam, feels like a punch to the gut, draining not just our savings spent on coaching and



forms, but our very will to persevere.

Adding insult to injury, the very system designed to offer a fair chance has turned its back on a significant section of us. With a staggering 67% of seats now reserved for various categories, candidates from the Unreserved category, like myself, find ourselves in an agonizing limbo – "na ghar ke na ghat ke," neither here nor there. We are not against affirmative action, but when such a vast majority of opportunities are reserved, it leaves us, who have also toiled and sacrificed, feeling utterly marginalized. We bear the disproportionate burden, watching as our age limits tick down, our chances dwindle, and our future becomes increasingly uncertain. It's a cruel irony: we are told to compete, to excel, only to find the goalposts constantly shifting, leaving us with a sense of profound injustice.

We had a flicker of renewed hope when, after a decade, we finally elected a new government in this new era of Jammu and Kashmir as a UT. We believed they would

listen, that they would understand our plight, and that they would usher in an era of timely recruitments. We thought our voices, finally, would matter. Yet, the malice persists. The recent notification for Naib Tehsildar posts in the Revenue Department, a beacon of hope for many, was met with protests over a qualifying Urdu language requirement. The case went to the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), and once again, the entire recruitment process has been put on hold. Nothing, it seems, is going right. Every single step forward is met with two steps back, and it's the youth who pay the price.

The emotional toll is immense. Students are sinking into depression, their eyes hollowed by sleepless nights and endless anxiety. Unemployment figures continue their relentless climb, and a pervasive sense of helplessness grips our generation. When we question the elected government, they claim a lack of powers, citing the UT status as a shield. Who, then, is concerned about our future? Who is accountable

for the years we are losing?

I don't want this trauma anymore. I am exhausted by the constant uncertainty, the dashed hopes, and the feeling of being utterly abandoned. The government's efforts to empower youth with skills, offering little more than tokenistic programs that fail to address the core issue of job creation and fair access. I find myself confined to my home, unable to study, unable to focus, consumed by a gnawing anxiety. The vibrant dreams I once held have faded into a dull ache. Being an unreserved category candidate, the ticking clock of age limits on competitive exams is a constant, suffocating reminder of my diminishing prospects. My health is deteriorating, plagued by stress and despair, and I feel like a leech, unwillingly sucking the blood of my parents, unable to contribute, unable to thrive. The guilt is immense, the feeling of being a burden, a failure, despite our best efforts.

This is not just my story; it is the collective agony of a generation. We are not asking for handouts, but for a fair chance,

for a transparent system, and for a future that doesn't feel like a mirage. We are losing our youth, our mental peace, and our faith in the system. The silence from those in power is deafening, and the cost of their inaction is the slow, heartbreaking erosion of our dreams, replaced by a chilling sense of hopelessness.

It is time for the authorities to stop passing the buck. It is time for concrete action, for a clear roadmap to address the unemployment crisis, for a review of policies that disproportionately burden sections of the youth, and for accountability in every recruitment process. Our future, and the stability of this region, depends on it. We implore those in power to look beyond the statistics and see the faces of a generation on the brink – a generation that simply wants the opportunity to build a life, to contribute, and to live with dignity in their own.

Author, a graduate from Aligarh Muslim University, can be reached at amiraltaf16@gmail.com

The Lost Simplicity Of Kashmiri Weddings



MASROOF MANZOOR

The wedding season in Kashmir has been in full swing since April. If we examine Nikah (marriage) from an Islamic perspective, Islam considers it one of the most virtuous and approved acts, pleasing to Allah Almighty. However, if we look at the present system of marriages in Kashmir, the austerity and modesty of weddings have substantially decreased over the past decade. A common belief among people is that marriage requires a huge budget, lavish celebrations, and endless preparations.

People here are competing in how much money they can spend. Many reprehensible practices, such as exorbitant dowries, grand celebrations, extravagant spending, elaborate wazwan dishes, photography, the mixing of men and women, and male and female singers performing with microphones and musical instruments, have become commonplace. Furthermore, unnecessary pre- and post-wedding rituals (each requiring separate jewelry, sweets, dry fruits in huge boxes, food, and services), the use of plastic or other non-biodegradable items, opulent decorations, and the exchange of unnecessary gifts all contribute to excessive lavishness.

A huge amount of money is being wasted on these forbidden acts. There is no need for such expenses; they only serve as obstacles to marriage. In fact, they have placed immense stress on middle-class and poor families, leaving them helpless and burdened with financial hardship. There have even



been cases where families have had to take hefty loans from financial institutions or money lenders just to afford the same extravagant weddings for their children.

It is natural to express happiness and joy and to share it with family and one's spouse during marriage. However, this does not justify falling into extravagance or spending unnecessarily. The argument that "marriage is a once-in-a-lifetime event" cannot be an excuse for reckless spending. Extravagance is impermissible in Islam and is blameworthy in all matters, whether related to marriage or otherwise. In 22 verses of the Quran, Allah condemns

extravagance and rebukes those who are wasteful. For example, He says:

"And those who, when they spend, are neither extravagant nor stingy, but hold a just balance between them." * (Al-Furqan 25:67)*

Our Deen encourages us to approach marriage with austerity and sincerity. When we look at the teachings of the beloved Prophet (PBUH), we see that Nikah is meant to be simple, easy, and full of blessings. He (PBUH) said: "The best marriage is the one with the least expense."

In another hadith, the Prophet (PBUH) said: "The best marriage is the one that is the easiest."

Islam teaches that a person should not make things difficult for themselves or burden themselves beyond their means. By following the guidance of the Quran and Hadith, we open the door to a marriage filled with peace, love, and blessings.

A successful marriage is not about how much money is spent; it is about the bond, love, support, and trust between the spouses. The need of the hour is to understand the Islamic principles of marriage and promote its true perspective. Only then can we end the immense pressure on middle-class and poor families, delays in marriages, class divides, immodesty, and other

issues caused by ongoing extravagance in weddings.

To conclude, simplicity in Nikah does not mean spending as one would on an ordinary day. It is Sunnah for a man to offer Walima (a wedding feast) and invite relatives, friends, and neighbors to publicly announce the marriage. However, as mentioned above, what matters is avoiding lavishness and unnecessary spending in all aspects. Everyone should consider their financial situation and spend only what they can afford.

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When Pets Become Priority: The Decline Of Human Compassion



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

We live in a time where people leave their mothers in old age homes but buy velvet beds for dogs.

Paying a child's fees is difficult but throwing an anniversary party for a pet is considered 'cute'. This is the age where the direction of compassion has changed, not expanded. It is not bad to love animals and birds, but when this love turns into distance and neglect from humans, it is not a sign of mental balance but of mental confusion.

Nowadays people say that dogs are the most loyal. True, but should we make loyalty so great that parents, siblings, old neighbours and needy society all become secondary? To what extent is it justified to disregard humanity in the name of loyalty? This question is disturbing today's modernity.

There are expectations from humans, questions, and demands for responsibility. On the other hand, dogs, cats, parrots and rabbits only take affection without asking for anything. This is why people are now more attracted to creatures who have no social responsibilities attached to them. This is not compassion, but convenience-based love.

On the one hand people order birthday cakes for dogs, make them sit in the front seat of the car, and dress them in expensive clothes, while on the other hand they frown if a poor child's clothes get dirty. If they find an injured bird, they take a picture and express compassion, but they consider a labourer crying out of hunger on the roadside as a 'problem of the system'. What kind of compassion is this that is for the innocent but not for the needy human being?

The market has sensed this trend. Now there are bathrooms for dogs, cakes for cats, and toys for rabbits. This has become a multi-core industry. The media also promotes this 'compassion-love'.



One who is emotional for animals is civilized. One who is emotional for humans is called a fool. This is the new global form of empathy, in which not emotions but 'coolness' sells.

A new disease is growing in today's society - mental rabies. Just as a dog becomes mad and starts biting when it has rabies, similarly this social rabies is forcing people to bite, despise and ignore fellow humans like themselves. This disease is spreading wearing the mask of love. This disease says that loving humans is a dangerous task, but loving animals is safe and prestigious.

It has also been observed that many people impose their unfulfilled feelings on animals and birds. Those who did not get affection in childhood start calling dogs their sons. Those whose relationships broke, start considering cats as their life partners. This is not love,

but emotional escape. This is an attempt to escape from the truth that the mirror shows. Animals do not show the mirror, so they are now becoming the ideal.

The biggest problem with this trend is that priorities have been distorted. Now we adopt animals, but not orphans. We feed birds, but do not spare a single roti for the neighbour's widow. We pay a thousand rupees for a dog's haircut, but hesitate to spend ten rupees for a poor person's medicine.

This mentality is making the society insensitive. Empathy is that which is for everyone without any discrimination - for both humans and animals. But when it is limited only to animals, then it is not empathy, it becomes a pretense.

Humans build society with mutual cooperation, affection and co-existence. If we start hating each other, then this is not civilization, but suicide. Animal love

is necessary, but not at the cost of crushing humanity. If someone loves a dog, it is commendable, but only till the time he does not forget his mother's medicine, father's care and neighbor's help.

The most ironic aspect of this topic is that this trend is increasing with education, understanding and prosperity. Even today a poor man cuts his roti in half and feeds it to his guest, but the rich class now feels proud in adopting animals, not humans.

There is only one solution to this - balance. We should love animals and birds, but not by keeping a distance from humans. Compassion is an instinct, it cannot be limited to a particular class. The day we understand that every living being, every creature and every human being deserves our love and help at their own level, that day this mental rabies will end.

A society is healthy when there is

food for the birds, biscuits for the dogs and support for the old people. When birds chirp in the house and the elderly smile in the yard. When cats are in the lap and children are in school.

The true form of love is that which values every life. If your compassion is only for those wagging their tails, and not for a hungry child with tears in his eyes, then it is not love, it is pretense.

Dogs are loyal, but not as loyal as parents. It is good to keep birds, but it is necessary to teach children. There should be a place for every creature - but not at the expense of humans.

If we cannot maintain this balance, it will become a social epidemic. And then we should really be afraid - not of a virus, but of the 'brain rabies' that will force us to bite humans.

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Workshop on ‘Transforming the Skilling Landscape in J&K’ concludes successfully

CS calls it a forum to generate long term ‘Skill Vision Plan’ for J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR:: The Department of Skill Development, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, successfully concluded a two-day National Conference on “Transforming the Skilling Ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir” held on July 16-17, 2025 in Srinagar.

The conference brought together over 100 key stakeholders from across India—including senior government officials, industry leaders, academic experts, civil society representatives, and skilling professionals—to chart a unified and outcome-driven roadmap for skilling in J&K.

Delivering the keynote address, the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, reaffirmed the government’s commitment to creating sustainable skilling pathways aligned with the national vision of Viksit Bharat.

He calls it a moment to align skilling with the aspirations of our youth and the demands of a dynamic economy. He termed this workshop a deliberating form where all national level stakeholders put their heads together to give their inputs about framing a robust ‘Skill Vision Plan’ for J&K to implement over



the next several years.

Key messages from the Chief Secretary’s address included the active involvement of industries in co-developing curricula. He also called for the introduction of vocational education at the school and college level.

Emphasizing adaptability through the quote: “The illiterate of the future will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.”

Secretary, Department of Skill Development, Shri Rajeev Ranjan, echoed these sentiments, stating that “The real challenge today is not unemployment, but unemployability.”

He underscored the

need for aligning workforce skills with evolving market requirements and stressed that curriculum design must be integrated with delivery mechanisms for tangible outcomes.

Shahzad Alam, Director, Skill Development Department, played a key leadership role in steering the conference, ensuring cross-sectoral participation and driving forward the vision of a holistic skilling ecosystem.

The Conference Highlights constituted the strategic panels on Systemic Gaps and Market Alignment, Market Needs vs. Skill Gaps, Systemic Skilling Reform through Coordination, Apprenticeship to Placement, Innovation, Infra-

structure, Curriculum for Future-Readiness, Human Resource Management in Skilling, Strengthening the role of Education Institutions, Tech Tools & Data Systems in Skilling, Skilling for Entrepreneurship

Key Themes Across the Conference includes current state of skilling infrastructure in J&K, Sector-wise skill-gap analysis, Alignment of curriculum with industry needs, Best practices in public-private partnership (PPP) model besides others.

One of the central outcomes of the conference was a structured consultation on a visionary skilling roadmap for Jammu & Kashmir. This roadmap envisions “Skills for All”—including students, women, and youth in rural areas. Building a supportive and collaborative ecosystem for the same in the times to come.

The roadmap aspires to position J&K as a national model for outcome-oriented, inclusive, and innovation-driven skilling. Key components include the proposed Skills University, digital integration of platforms, focus on green and emerging jobs, and synergy with MSMEs and entrepreneurship networks across the country.

Sakeena Itoo reviews performance, functioning of J&K Medical Supplies Corporation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, Thursday directed the J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (JKMSCL) to ensure zero stock-outs of life-saving drugs and injections, particularly in emergency and trauma care units of all district hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister passed on these directions while conducting a comprehensive review of functioning and performance of the J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (JKMSCL) in a meeting held at Civil Secretariat here today.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; CEO State Health Agency, Ananth Dwivedi; MD JKMSCL, Kapil Mishra; Director Health Services Kashmir/Jammu, Director Family Welfare and Immunization, Director Finance, Health and Medical Education department, Principals of various GMCs and other senior officers, either in person or through video conferencing.

Addressing the officers, the Minister underlined the pivotal role of JKMSCL in ensuring seamless procurement and distribution of essential medicines, surgical equipments and other necessary medical supplies to the government health institutions across Jammu and Kashmir.

While having detailed



appraisal of the corporation’s procurement processes, inventory management systems, logistics networks and district-wise supply status, the Minister stressed on the urgent need to plug any gaps in real-time supply of critical and life saving medicines.

She directed the JKMSCL to ensure zero stock-outs of life-saving drugs and injections, particularly for cancer patients as well as cardiac patients in all district hospitals of J&K. “Health and well-being of the people is non-negotiable. We must ensure that no hospital, regardless of its location, faces a shortage of essential or emergency medicines”, asserted the Minister.

Highlighting that a robust, transparent and responsive supply chain is the backbone of any public healthcare system, she instructed the JKMSCL management to adopt technology-enabled inventory tracking systems, ensure real-time coordination with GMC Principals, Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) and conduct monthly audits to monitor availability of essential healthcare supplies and utilization of stock.

She directed both the

Directors of health department to give advance requisition for healthcare equipment and accessories to the JKMSCL in order to avoid any delay in healthcare service delivery to people. “The effectiveness of our health system is closely tied to the efficiency of medical supply chains, any delay or lapse directly affects patient care”, the Minister stated.

Calling for maintaining quality standards, especially in procurement of antibiotics, cardiovascular and other critical drugs, Sakeena Itoo emphasized upon the management of JKMSCL to maintain stringent quality control benchmarks for procurement process for enhanced transparency and competitiveness. She also asked them to avoid any kind of delay in procurement process as these equipments and medical supplies are very critical for improving the healthcare facilities across Jammu and Kashmir.

She also directed the officers to monitor the shelf-life, storage conditions and distribution equity of medicines at all health institutions at their own level. She further stressed on the need to build greater synergy

between the Corporation and various healthcare institutions, especially in remote and underserved areas.

While reviewing the procurement of high-end equipments like Tesla MRI machine, Cardia Cath Lab, 128 Slice CT Scan machine, 3D 4K visualization tower for Kidney transplant, microsurgery and open surgery, CT Simulator, Microarray system and other related equipment, the Minister directed both the management of JKMSCL and health department to check sites in advance at required health facilities where they are being set up so as to avoid any last minute delay.

During the meeting, a detailed presentation was given by the MD JKMSCL, highlighting key achievements, procurement timelines, vendor performance metrics and other issues of the corporation.

Meanwhile, the Minister also reviewed the saturation of Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY/SEHAT scheme across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Minister emphasized on the critical role of universal health coverage, underlining the need to ensure equitable and timely access to healthcare services for every household in the region, especially in remote and underserved areas. “The objective of Ayushman Bharat and SEHAT is inclusivity and access. We must ensure that no family is denied their right to quality healthcare because of procedural bottlenecks or geographic barriers”, she said.

Patient care suffer in Jammu as Doctors’ strike enters day 2 at GMC

AGENCIES

JAMMU: The ongoing strike by the resident doctors at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu entered its second day on Thursday to protest against an assault of a female resident doctor.

The strike, initiated by the Resident Doctors’ Association (RDA) of GMC Jammu, has led to the shutdown of all emergency and outpatient department (OPD) services, significantly impacting the patient care.

While faculty members have been deployed to maintain emergency services, the absence of resident doctors has led to delays and disruptions.

The protest stems from demands for justice and enhanced security measures for healthcare professionals after the assault, which occurred following the death of a patient on July 16.

The strike was triggered by an altercation at GMC Jammu on July 16, after the death of 60-year-old patient Rajinder Kumar, who succumbed to respiratory arrest due to a severe brain haemorrhage.

The patient’s family accused the hospital staff of negligence, leading to a violent confrontation where a female resident doctor was allegedly kicked and assaulted by a relative of the deceased.

In response, junior doctors launched a flash strike, demanding immediate arrest of perpetrators and improved security protocols to protect medical professionals.

As of July 17, the RDA announced the complete closure of emergency and OPD services, citing the lack of action in connection with the assault.

The move has garnered support from doctors across India, with posts on X reflecting nationwide solidarity with the GMC Jammu doctors’ call for justice.

Dr. Ashutosh Gupta,

Principal and Dean of GMC Jammu, addressed the media, condemning the violence and outlining measures to manage the crisis.

“In a gruesome incident on July 16, attendants of a terminally ill patient resorted to physical and verbal violence against our doctors on emergency duty. The patient had been referred back from PGI Chandigarh with a poor prognosis, clearly mentioned in the discharge summary. Despite being advised to seek basic care at a local hospital, the family brought the patient to GMC, where he received the best possible treatment. CCTV footage shows the family members kicking and beating the lady doctor. Such attacks are unacceptable.”

Dr. Gupta emphasized that emergency services would continue to be supported by faculty members and consultants to mitigate disruptions. He directed all Clinical and Para clinical Heads to ensure adequate staffing in the emergency department until normalcy is restored.

The Jammu and Kashmir Medical Students’ Association also issued a statement on X: “We strongly condemn this incident at GMC Jammu where a doctor was assaulted. Doctors are humans too, any grievance must be addressed through proper channels, not violence. We urge the Government to ensure strict action and provide immediate protection to healthcare workers across J&K.”

Meanwhile, the family of the deceased patient, Rajinder Kumar accused the hospital staff of negligence, which they claim led to the patient’s death.

The family’s allegations of negligence sparked the altercation, escalating into physical violence against the female doctor. No arrests have been reported as of the latest updates, fueling the doctors’ decision to intensify the strike.—(KNO)

J&K Achieves Transformative Swachh Survekshan 2024 rankings

Jammu Tops UT, Earns 3-Star GFC; Beerwah attains 1-Star GFC Rating

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a remarkable achievement for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Jammu Municipal Corporation has been declared the Cleanest City of Jammu and Kashmir under the prestigious Swachh Survekshan 2024. Swachh Survekshan the largest annual cleanliness survey of urban India conducted by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India aiming to make all urban areas cleaner, greener and healthier. This nationwide initiative under the Swachh Bharat Mission-U evaluates the sanitation and hygiene standards of urban areas, encouraging citizens, municipal bodies and organizations to actively participate in improving waste management, maintaining public spaces and adopting sustainable practices.

Adding another feather to its cap, Jammu Municipal Corporation has also earned the prestigious 3-Star Garbage-Free City (GFC) certification under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0, marking a significant milestone in sustainable waste management. The Jammu Municipal Corporation has further been recognized with the ‘Promising Swachh



Shehar’ award by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, GoI, acknowledging its consistent efforts toward cleanliness and citizen engagement.

In another noteworthy achievement, Municipal Committee Beerwah has secured 1-Star Garbage-Free certification, contributing to the collective progress of the Union Territory.

Housing & Urban Development Department, J&K is the implementing agency of SBM – Urban 2.0 in J&K which is led by Commissioner/Secretary to Govt., Ms Mandeep Kaur (IAS) since last year and the overall performance of J&K’s Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) has shown remarkable improvement this year. Seventy ULBs have now attained Open Def-

ecation Free Plus (ODF+) status, reflecting significant strides in sanitation infrastructure and behavioural change.

This success is a testament to the relentless efforts of Housing & Urban Development Department J&K headed by the Commissioner Secretary, Ms Mandeep Kaur (IAS) & Urban Local Bodies and the unwavering support of citizens, demonstrating how teamwork, dedication and active public participation can transform towns and cities into better places to live.

With a remarkable improvement in Swachh Survekshan rankings and the addition of multiple prestigious accolades, Jammu & Kashmir is charting a transformative path towards cleaner

sustainable urban development. This progress reflects a strong commitment to creating cities that are not only clean but also environmentally resilient and citizen-friendly. By embracing scientific waste management solutions, driving behavioural change and fostering active citizen participation, Jammu & Kashmir is steadily progressing toward its vision of garbage-free urban areas—an effort that perfectly aligns with the core objectives of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0. For Jammu Municipal Corporation MD SBM & Commissioner JMC Dr Devansh Yadav (IAS) received the state award by Union Minister, Housing & Urban Affairs, Gol in New Delhi on 17th July, 2025.

Few cases of jaundice reported in Mandoora, Tral

JAHANGEER GANAIE

TRAL: A few cases of jaundice have been reported from Mandoora village in South Kashmir’s Tral area in Pulwama district, prompting the health authorities along with Jal Shakti Department to initiate swift preventive and awareness measures.

Locals from Mandoora Tral said that a few cases of jaundice have been reported and it may be due to water, which needs to be investigated.

They said that there are many water sources in the area and water of every source needs to be checked for proper analysis.

Officials confirmed that the water samples have been collected for detailed analysis, and the situation is under control.

An on-the-spot water quality check was conducted by a joint team of health and Jal Shakti department officials, along with community health workers. Samples were taken from various water sources

in the area to assess the possibility of contamination.

An official told KNO that in addition to testing, the team held extensive awareness sessions with the local population, school children and others. “We educated the residents about water conservation, hygiene maintenance, and preventive steps to avoid water-borne diseases like jaundice,” the official said.

Locals expressed concern over the health scare but appreciated the timely intervention by the administra-

tion. “We are worried, especially for our children, but thankful that the authorities have taken immediate steps,” said Ghulam Nabi, a resident of Mandoora.

Health officials urged the public not to organize any panic and advised them to drink only boiled water and maintain personal and environmental hygiene. “The number of cases is limited. We are monitoring the situation closely and ensuring every precaution is in place,” the official added.

One day sensitization programme held at J&K Judicial Academy Srinagar

GMK News Network

SRINAGAR: A one day special training programme on ‘Civil Services Regulations (CSR); Execution of Warrants, Carrying Out Attachment, Sale & Other Official Duties for Executing Orders of the Execution Court’ was organized Thursday at J&K Judicial Academy, Mominabad, Srinagar, for Accounts Officers and Nazirs of various courts of Kashmir Province and the Union Territory of Ladakh and of the High Court.

The training was organised under the patronage of Justice Arun Kumar Pali, Hon’ble the Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), and under the guidance of the Chairperson and members of the Governing Committee of the J&K Judicial Academy.

The programme was designed to enhance the understanding of procedural and regulatory responsibilities among court and administrative staff involved in executing court orders and handling service-related matters under CSR.

Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Sonia Gupta introduced the objectives of the training.

The technical session was conducted by Rajiv Gupta, Registrar Vigilance, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Khem Raj Sharma, Registrar Rules, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

They explained the processes involved in the execution of warrants, attachment and sale procedures, and other duties associated with the execution of court orders. They also outlined practical scenarios and responded to participant queries to ensure operational clarity.

The session encompassed a detailed overview of the relevant legal provisions under the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC) that govern execution proceedings. Sharma highlighted the importance of adhering strictly to procedural requirements to avoid legal challenges and ensure the enforceability of execution actions.

The second session was conducted by G. M. Wani, Accounts Officer, who focused on key CSR provisions including Leave Rules, Pension Rules, and regulations around Joining Time. He also delved into TA Rules, Pay Fixation procedures, and the correct maintenance of Service Books.

Participants were briefed on common lapses and best practices in handling service records and entitlements.

The day concluded with an interactive session, during which attendees shared feedback, raised queries, and engaged in a discussion on challenges they face in implementation of the covered topics. The resource persons responded to all questions and guided staff on compliance and updates in rules.

Congrats for
performing Hajj

Our friend and brother Mr Zahoor Ahmad Dar recently came back from Safr e Mehmood. May Almighty Allah accept his Hajj and shower blessings on him.

Editor
Good Morning Kashmir