

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication



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Masarat Hashim

Named Administrator,
Associated Hospitals

136 JKAS Officers Transferred In Major Gad Reshuffle

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Masarat Hashim has been appointed as the Administrator of Associated Hospitals, Srinagar, with immediate effect. The appointment is part of a broader administrative exercise aimed at strengthening the management and functioning of the Associated Hospitals in the summer capital.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday carried out a major bureaucratic reshuffle involving 136 officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS), with several senior officials being given new assignments in the civil secretariat, districts and key government institutions.

The General Administration Department issued the transfer and posting order with immediate effect through Government Order No. 1463-JK(GAD) of 2026.

As part of the reshuffle, Masarat Hashim has been appointed as the Administrator of Associated Hospitals, Srinagar, with immediate effect.



The appointment is part of a broader administrative exercise aimed at strengthening the management and functioning of the Associated Hospitals in the summer capital.

Before this assignment, Masrat served on various key posts and performed with bureaucratic acumen. However, his honest and upright approach did not well with some quarters.

As Administrator, Hashim will be responsible for overseeing the overall administrative functioning of the hospitals, coordinating with various departments and ensuring efficient

• P-06

CM Revamps Cancer Treatment Fund, Expands Aid For Poor Patients

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major leap forward for public healthcare and social welfare, the Chief Minister led government has announced a comprehensive overhaul of the landmark Cancer Treatment & Management Fund for

Poor (CTMFP) to ease the out-of-pocket financial burden on poor and vulnerable patients battling cancer.

This major policy shift directly targets the critical gaps that previously left low-income families financially exhausted. While major

• P-06

Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja Takes Over As 47Th DGAFMS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja assumed the appointment of the 47th Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS) on September 01, 2026. As the DGAFMS, Air Marshal Thareja will oversee the provision of comprehensive medical support to the Defence Forces.

His appointment comes at a time of significant transformation within the AFMS, with continuing emphasis on operational medical preparedness, jointness, modernisation of military healthcare, digital health, medical research and innovation, human-resource development and delivery of



high-quality healthcare to serving personnel, veterans and their dependents.

An alumnus of the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune, Air Marshal Thareja was commissioned into the Army Medical Corps in December 1986. A distinguished physician and gastroenterologist, he completed his MD in

• P-06

Reviews Security Scenario In J&K

Maintain Pressure On Terror Networks: LG Sinha To Officials

Calls For Robust Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Intensified Area Domination Operations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday instructed senior officials to maintain pressure on terror networks, enhance ground-level operational synergy to eliminate emerging threats.

Emphasising that public trust is vital to the security apparatus, Sinha directed police officials to foster engagement with the public, designate specific hours for citizen interaction and grievance redressal.

“Police must continuously engage with the public. Every genuine grievance must be addressed with sensitivity and every investigation must be conducted with fairness, transparency and impartiality,” Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said while chairing a high-level review meeting with senior officials and assessed the security apparatus and strategic preparedness across the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir.

The Lieutenant Governor



instructed the senior officials to maintain sustained pressure on terror networks and enhance ground-level operational synergy, calling for an aggressive area domination strategy to decisively eliminate emerging threats.

Emphasizing that public trust is vital to the security apparatus, the Lieutenant Governor direct-

ed police officials to foster direct engagement with the public, designating specific hours for citizen interaction and grievance redressal.

Reviewing the functioning at the police station level, the Lieutenant Governor underscored the necessity of transparent, impartial and sensitive com-

POLICE MUST CONTINUOUSLY ENGAGE WITH THE PUBLIC. EVERY GENUINE GRIEVANCE

must be addressed with sensitivity and every investigation must be conducted with fairness, transparency and impartiality,”

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said while chairing a high-level review meeting with senior officials and assessed the security apparatus and strategic preparedness across the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir.

J&K Tops Self-Enumeration Among Snow-Bound States, UTs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director, Directorate of Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, Tuesday launched Population Enumeration (Phase-II) of Census 2027 for the snow-bound areas of the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The field operations were formally launched from the remote, snow-bound areas of Dudu and Basantgarh in Udhampur district.

The September enumeration marks a significant operational milestone for Census 2027, as the Census machinery moves to the actual enumeration of the population, with special arrangements in place to ensure comprehensive coverage of remote, high-altitude and difficult-to-access areas.



Amit Sharma said the commencement of Population Enumeration from Dudu and Basantgarh carries particular significance as it reflects the Directorate’s commitment to take the Census to every part of the Union Territories, including areas where terrain, distance and weather pose formidable challenges. He said extensive preparations involving Enu-

meration Block demarcation, mapping, logistics, training and deployment of field functionaries have been undertaken to ensure that every household and resident is covered.

He highlighted that during the Self-Enumeration phase for Population Enumeration in snow-bound areas, conducted from August 17 to 31, 2026, the UT of Jammu &

• P-06

J&K Approves Rs 2,692 Crore Urban Development Projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major step towards accelerating sustainable and investment-driven urban transformation in J&K, the Union Territory Level High Powered Steering Committee (UTHPSC), chaired by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, has approved three major urban development projects with a cumulative base cost of ₹2,692.58 crore under the Government of India’s Urban Challenge Fund (UCF).

The meeting was attended by the senior officers in the administration including the ACS, Tourism; ACS, Finance; Principal Secretary, Culture; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Commissioner, JMC/SMC and other concerned officers.

The projects identified by the Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) includes TARANG

(Tawi Area Regeneration and Green Growth) in Jammu, Walled City & Nigeen Lakefront Revitalization in Srinagar, and KRIPA (Katra Revitalisation Through Integrated Pilgrimage Amenities) in Reasi are designed to combine public investment with market-linked financing

THE KATRA
Revitalisation
Through Integrated
Pilgrimage Amenities
(KRIPA) project in Reasi,
estimated at ₹113.90 crore,

and private participation to create modern, sustainable and economically vibrant urban spaces.

The approvals mark a significant advancement in J&K’s efforts to leverage the UCF framework for transformative urban infrastructure, while unlocking

• P-06

SCO Must Work Unitedly To Dismantle Terror Ecosystem: PM Modi

AGENCIES

BISHKEK: The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) must work unitedly to dismantle the entire ecosystem of terrorism as well as its financing, and there can’t be any room for double standards in combating the menace, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday.

In his address at the annual SCO summit in this Kyrgyz capital city, the prime minister also said that all wars and conflicts in the world must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy as no solution can be found on battlefields.

Modi also stressed that connectivity projects must respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, remarks seen as an



oblique reference to China’s Belt and Road Initiative.

The prime minister’s comments on the need for dealing with terrorism assumed significance as they came amid New Delhi’s relentless efforts

to corner Pakistan on cross-border terrorist activities.

We must dismantle the entire ecosystem of terrorism as well as its financing, he said.

We must speak in one voice

that there can be no place for double standards in dealing with terrorism, Modi added.

The prime minister also said that there can be no solution to wars and conflicts on battle field and they must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy. He also said that India supports all efforts that connect markets, facilitate trade, and open new pathways for development.

At the same time, Modi added that efforts towards connectivity must respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries.

For India, SCO is a confluence of great civilisation, culture and ideas, he said. Three main pillars of India’s vision for SCO are security, connectivity and opportunity, Modi noted.

NC, BJP Set For Political Face-Off In Srinagar Today

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: The ruling National Conference and the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party are set for a political face-off in Srinagar city on Wednesday, with the saffron party announcing a march towards the Civil Secretariat and the NC calling for a counter-protest at the BJP headquarters.

The BJP has announced a protest march against the NC-led government, with party leaders and workers scheduled to assemble at Clock Tower, Lal Chowk, in the morning before marching towards the Civil Secretariat via M.A. Road.

As per details obtained, the protest will be led by BJP J&K president and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma, along with senior party leaders.

The BJP had announced the September 2 protest after a recent organisational

• P-06

J&K Assembly To Go Paperless From Upcoming Autumn Session



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: In a significant move, the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly will adopt a paperless system from the upcoming autumn session commencing on September 21.

According to a circular issued by the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, all legislative business relating to the session will be processed and managed through the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA), a digital platform designed to streamline the functioning of legislative assemblies.

The circular states that

questions submitted by MLAs have already been forwarded to the concerned departments, and login credentials for departmental access to the NeVA portal have been created. “All Administrative Departments are, therefore, requested to access their respective NeVA login accounts on a daily basis and ensure that Legislative Business concerning their departments, including Government Bills, legislative proposals and amendments, replies to Assembly Questions, assurances, notices, references and other related documents, is submitted, received and processed through the

• P-06

EOW Chargesheets Man in Alleged Land-Grabbing, Forgery Case

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of Crime Branch J&K has filed a chargesheet against a Srinagar resident in a case concerning an alleged attempt to grab land and obtain building permission using forged documents.

The chargesheet has been filed before the Court of Sub-Judge, Srinagar, in FIR No. 08/2016 registered under Sections 420/511, 167, 471 and 120-B RPC.

The accused has been identified as Mushtaq Ahmad Malik, a resident of Barapather, Haft Chinar, Srinagar. The case also names the then Patwari, who has since died.

The case originated from a complaint alleging that the accused, allegedly in connivance with



the Patwari, attempted to take possession of land and secure building permission from the Srinagar Municipal Corporation by relying on forged documents.

During the investigation, the agency said it found evidence supporting allegations of fraudulent documentation, misrepresentation of material facts and alleged misuse of official

position.

The investigation has been concluded as "Proved", following which the chargesheet was presented before the competent court for judicial determination.

The filing of the chargesheet brings the matter before the court, which will now determine the allegations and evidence in accordance with law. [KNT]

MBBS Interns Continue Stipend Protest Across J&K for Second Day

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: MBBS interns across Jammu and Kashmir continued their protest for the second consecutive day on Tuesday, pressing the government to revise their monthly internship stipend to ₹30,000.

The interns held peaceful demonstrations at medical institutions across the Union Territory, reiterating their demand for a substantial revision in the stipend and implementation of the pending demand.

The agitation continued despite Health Minister Sakina Itoo stating that the interns' demand was genuine and that the proposal for an increase had already been processed and forwarded to the Finance Department for examination of its financial implications.

The protesting interns, however, have maintained



that repeated assurances have failed to bring any concrete decision and have decided to continue their agitation until the stipend is actually revised.

The interns have argued that the existing stipend does not adequately reflect the workload, responsibilities and clinical services performed by them during their internship.

The second day of protests saw interns carrying placards and raising slo-

gans in support of their demand, while calling upon the government to take a time-bound decision on the pending stipend revision.

The interns have also maintained that their agitation is not directed against patients or healthcare services, but is aimed at seeking what they describe as a fair and dignified stipend for the work performed during their internship. [KNT]

ACB arrests two police officers for accepting Rs 15,000 bribe

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday trapped and arrested two police officers for demanding and accepting bribe in Srinagar.

In a statement, the ACB said that it received a written complaint alleging that PSI Karanjeet Singh, Investigating officer (IO) of Case FIR No. 65/2026 registered at Police Station Ram Munshi Bagh Srinagar through his accomplice namely Ravi Jee Bhat, Sub-Inspector P/S Ram Munshi Bagh Srinagar, had demanded illegal gratification from the complainant for closing the case as "Not Admitted" between the parties.

It said that on receipt of the complaint, the ACB conducted verification of the allegations, which prima facie established the demand for illegal gratification.

Accordingly, Case FIR

No. 12/2026 under Section 7, Section 7A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 & Section 61(2) BNS was registered at Police Station ACB Srinagar and investigation was taken up.

During the course of investigation a trap team was constituted. The team caught the accused public servant namely Ravi Jee Bhat, Sub Inspector Police Station Ram Munshi Bagh Srinagar red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe of Rs.15000 on behalf of IO of the case PSI Karanjeet Singh from the complainant.

The bribe amount was recovered from the possession of the accused in the presence of independent witnesses and he was taken into custody in accordance with law, and his Co-conspirator PSI Karanjeet Singh was subsequently arrested by the Bureau.

Further investigation is in progress, statement added.

SKUAST-K hosts 37 IFS Officers from 18 States for National Ecotourism CBP

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-Kashmir) has brought together 37 Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers from 18 States for a three-day national capacity-building programme on "Ecotourism in Forest and Wildlife Realms: Prospects & Challenges", being held from September 01 to 03 at the Shalimar Campus.

Organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, the programme brings together senior forestry professionals, university leaders, researchers and subject experts to deliberate on emerging opportunities and challenges in sustainable ecotourism, forest and wildlife management.

Addressing the participants, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, stressed that tourism in ecologically fragile regions must be guided by sustainability, conservation and community participation. He said the objective should not be to maximize tourist



numbers but to maximise the positive value of tourism while minimising its ecological footprint.

Emphasising the vulnerability of Himalayan ecosystems, Prof. Ganai called for a calibrated approach in which tourism becomes an instrument for conservation rather than ecological degradation. The Vice Chancellor also underlined the growing role of GIS, remote sensing, Artificial Intelligence and digital monitoring in protected-area management, biodiversity assessment, visitor management, ecosystem monitoring and evidence-based decision-making. He said SKUAST-K has an important role in generating scientific evidence, building professional capacities and providing technology-driven solutions to emerging environmental challenges.

Former Chief Secretary, Ramesh Negi, Guest of Honour, emphasised the need to shift ecotourism from a tourism-centric to a conservation-centric model, keeping ecological carrying capacity, biodiversity protection, local livelihoods and responsible visitor behaviour at the centre of planning and management.

Dr. Javeed Iqbal, Course Director, said the programme has been designed to go beyond conventional classroom-based training by providing participants with a field-oriented, interdisciplinary and technology-enabled learning experience. He noted that participation from 18 States would facilitate cross-state learning and exchange of experiences from diverse forest and ecological landscapes.

The programme covers

key themes including Himalayan biodiversity, protected-area management, ecosystem carrying capacity, legal and institutional frameworks, Eco-Development Committees, participatory planning, gender integration, overtourism mitigation, sustainable livelihoods, GIS, remote sensing and AI-based conservation monitoring.

As part of the experiential component, the participating officers will visit important ecological and tourism landscapes including Wular Lake, Gulmarg, Zabarwan landscape, Chandaji Eco-Restoration Site and Hokersar Wetland. They will also be exposed to technological innovations at SKIIE and the Centre for Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, SKUAST-Kashmir.

The programme builds upon SKUAST-Kashmir's continuing engagement with MoEFCC through capacity-building initiatives focused on smart conservation, forest landscape restoration, climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation. The University has also been advancing multidisciplinary, technology-driven solutions involving AI, IoT, CRISPR and precision systems.

DC Kulgam visits faculty of Agriculture, South Campus SKUAST-K

Pledges full support for development works, amenities at the campus

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam Tuesday visited Mountain Research Centre for Field Crops (MRCFC), Khudwani, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K).

The DC was accompanied by senior district officers and university officials and was briefed on the centre's work across seed production, crop improvement, agronomy, plant protection, and soil health.

The DC also took note of the centre's pivotal role in developing rice, rapeseed,



and wheat varieties suited to Kashmir's diverse agro-climatic conditions — from temperate valley plains to cold, high-altitude areas exceeding 2,000 metres — and its germplasm conservation programme, a living repository of indigenous rice landraces and exotic introductions safeguarding Kashmir's agricultural bio-

diversity for future breeding and climate adaptation.

He lauded the institution's sustained contributions and its standing as a model research facility over more than eight decades of dedicated service.

He was further apprised that MRCFC Khudwani has been upgraded to the Faculty of Agriculture, South

Campus (FoASC), marking the first dedicated agricultural faculty in South Kashmir, a development long in the making. The upgraded campus will offer MSc and PhD courses in agronomy, plant breeding, plant pathology, entomology, and soil sciences.

The DC assured the university authorities of district administration's full developmental backing, assuring that macadamisation of roads, installation of street-lighting, and all other civic amenities needed to create a conducive environment for students and faculty would be taken up on priority.

Director Agriculture reviews expenditure status of Shopian, Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Tuesday undertook a comprehensive review of the expenditure status and implementation of various departmental schemes in the districts of Shopian and Anantnag.

During his visit, the Director inspected the Soil Testing Laboratory at Bijbehara, where he took detailed stock of its functioning, infrastructure and facilities available for soil analysis. He emphasized the significance of soil testing in promoting scientific and balanced use of fertilizers, improving soil health and enhancing agricultural productivity. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that farmers are provided timely soil testing services and appropriate technical advisories based on soil health parameters.

The Director also inspected the site identified for establishment of the Centre of Excellence at Kulgam and reviewed the suitability of the site and the proposed facilities.

He underscored that the Centre of Excellence should serve as a state-of-the-art platform for demonstration and promotion of modern agricultural technologies, climate-resilient farming practices, quality planting material and advanced production techniques.

While reviewing the expenditure status of Shopian and Anantnag districts, Sartaj Ahmad Shah stressed upon the officers to ensure timely and judicious utilization of allocated funds and expedite the implementation of approved interventions. He called for close monitoring of both physical and financial progress and directed the field functionaries to ensure that the benefits of various schemes and programmes reach the farming community in a timely and transparent manner.

The Director further emphasized the need for coordinated efforts among field functionaries to strengthen agricultural infrastructure, improve service delivery and facilitate the adoption of modern technologies by farmers.

Farmer Field School Programme inaugurated in Ganderbal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The Central Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMC), Srinagar, in collaboration with the State Agriculture Department, Ganderbal, inaugurated a "Farmer Field School Programme" at Village Khanpora, Ganderbal, Tuesday.

The programme was chaired by Dr. Vageesh Pandey, Deputy Director (E), CIPMC Srinagar and Ghulam Ahmad Rather, SMS (DL), Ganderbal, who was accompanied by Mushtaq Bhat, AEO, Wakoora.

At the outset, Ghulam Ahmad Rather, provided a brief introduction to the programme, along with an overview of the activities and schedule planned for the day.

Dr. Haroon Rashid Hakla, Assistant Plant Protection Officer (PP), delivered an informative introductory lecture and highlighted the importance of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and its various benefits to farmers. He provided valuable insights into seed treatment, need-based application of chemicals, National Pest Surveillance System, and safe and judicious use of pesticides. He emphasized

that the adoption of IPM practices can help farmers reduce unnecessary pesticide use while promoting sustainable and economically viable crop production.

Kawal Nain Singh, Scientific Assistant, shared his field experience with the participating farmers and explained the significance of adopting integrated pest management strategies for effective and sustainable pest control.

Abir Shankhari, Assistant Plant Protection Officer (WS), briefed the farmers on the objectives and scope of Integrated Pest Management, emphasizing its role in promoting environmentally safe and farmer-friendly crop protection practices.

Mushtaq Bhat, AEO, Wakoora, conducted a pre-evaluation test among the participating farmers to assess their existing knowledge and understanding of pest management practices. The participating farmers expressed their appreciation to the departments for organizing the programme and welcomed the initiative aimed at enhancing their knowledge and capacity regarding scientific, safe, and sustainable pest management practices.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION, GANDERBAL

PIN: 191201. PHONE: 0194-2416246. EMAIL: exenifcfdganderbal@ifckashmir.com

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-NIT No: 20 OF 2026-27 (E-TENDERING)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Aggregate Percentage Basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of J & K Government for the following work to be opened by the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal: -

S N o.	Name of Work	AAA	Advertise ment Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Head of A/C M-H
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
01	Wangath Nallah - Flood Protection Works on L/S of at Bamlina Wangath Nallah near Naranag Bridge	SE Hyd Circle Sgr/GBL Order No: 19 of 2026-27 Dt: 22.08.2026	29.120	2500	87,500/-	90 Days	AAV/ BEE	4711 UT CAPEX
02	Ari Canal - Restoration of by way of construction of RCC Channel at Beehama area.	SE Hyd Circle Sgr/GBL Order No: 20 of 2026-27 Dt: 22.08.2026	16.54	1500	49,700/-	60 Days	BEE/ CEE	4701 UT CAPEX
03	Jinder Canal -Construction of PCC Lining wall near RD 3500m	SE Hyd Circle Sgr/GBL Order No: 15 of 2026-27 Dt: 22.08.2026	7.29	700	22,000/-	30 Days	CEE/ DEE	4701 UT CAPEX

Total Number of Work is 03 (Three Works)
Position of Funds: 100% Budgetary Provision.
Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Accorded

1) The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded on e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

01	Publishing Date	31-08-2026 06:00 P.M
02	Download Date Start	31-08-2026 06:00 P.M
03	Bid submission Date Start	31-08-2026 06:00 P.M
04	Bid submission Date End	07-09-2026 04:00 P.M
05	Bid opening Date	08-09-2026 11:00 A.M

2) The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in
3) The bids uploaded on the Web site up to due date and time will be opened on 08.09.2026 at (11:00 AM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case of Holidays or office happening to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The complete bidding process will be online.
4) Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (Non- Refundable/ Non- transferrable) to be deposited under MH: 0702-Rev. Misc. in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt or e-Challan (mentioning therein e-NIT No and Serial No of Work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal and earnest money/ bid security in shape of CDR/ FDR pledged to the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal, besides the dates on the instruments must not be prior to date of issuance of this Notice. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of Price bids. All the prospective bidders shall necessarily ensure that the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR/ FDR/ TDR/ BG or any other approved format has been prepared and issued from the same bank account which shall be provided for payments. The details of such bank account shall be uploaded by the prospective bidder necessarily.
5) The documents to be uploaded by all the bidders shall be verified from the issuing authority before accepting the technical bid. If any document uploaded by the prospective bidder is found to be fabricated/ forged/ fraud, the bidder shall be outrightly rejected and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against such bidder which shall include but not limited to:
A) Debarment of the bidder for at least two years. B) encashment of the Earnest money deposit. C) criminal proceedings.
6) Cancellation of Pre Contract Negotiations of all other works where such bidder is lowest or under consideration bids.
7) The earnest money shall be forfeited if -
a) Any bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 10 days after fixation of contract.
c) The successful bidder fails to submit the requisite performance security and additional performance security within the prescribed time frame.
d) The bidder is found to have violated the code of integrity.
All other terms and conditions as laid down in the GFR-2017, Manual for procurement of works 2022 with upto date amendments, PWD Form 25 Double shall also remain in force.

NO: IFCD/GBL/ 5414-63
Dated: 31.08.2026
DIPK-5205-26
DT: 01/09/2026

(Er. Nasir Ahmad Wani)
Executive Engineer
Irrigation and Flood Control Division
Ganderbal

CM meets group of concerned citizens J&K, discusses development issues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday chaired a meeting with members of the Group of Concerned Citizens (GCC) J&K at the Civil Secretariat here and discussed a range of issues concerning governance, development, environment and public welfare in Jammu and Kashmir.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani was also present at the meeting. The civil society group was led by Khurshid Ahmed Ganai (IAS Retd.) and comprised other members of the GCC.

The delegation raised several issues of public importance, including governance, environmental protection, municipal administration and waste management. Particular attention was drawn to the conservation of water bodies and wetlands and the need for effective measures to safeguard these important ecological assets.

The GCC also raised issues relating to the conversion of agricul-



CM meets newly inducted IAS officers, other deputations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday met several officers, deputations and other individuals at the Civil Secretariat here.

A group of newly inducted IAS officers, including Babila Rakhwal, Shabnam Shah Kamili, Rachna Sharma, Leena Padha, Rajinder Singh Tara, Munir ul Islam, Sajjad Hussain Gani, Anoo Malhotra, Nitu Gupta, Prediman Krishan Bhat, Bhawani Rakhwal and Anuradha Gupta made a courtesy call and met the Chief Minister. The officers were recently inducted into the

Indian Administrative Service.

The Chief Minister congratulated the officers on their induction into the country's premier civil service and wished them a successful tenure. He expressed hope that they would continue to serve the people with the same dedication and enthusiasm.

Commissioner Secretary, Information and Planning Department, R. Alice Vaz, separately met the Chief Minister and apprised him of the preparations for the First International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK), scheduled to be held from September 7 to 10, 2026.

tural land, traffic management, flood mitigation and management, and power development, including greater focus on renewable energy. Issues pertaining to skill development and employment generation, as well as digitisation of revenue records, were also discussed.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the concerns and suggestions put forth by the members of the GCC. He noted the issues raised during the meeting and assured that these would be taken into consideration by the government while examining the relevant matters.

Union Secy chairs workshop on “Administrative Data Harmonisation” at SKICC

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Directorate of Economics & Statistics (DES), J&K, under the Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, organised a one-day UT-level workshop on “Administrative Data Harmonisation” at SKICC, Srinagar, to strengthen the quality, consistency, interoperability and effective use of administrative data across government departments.

Dr. Saurabh Garg, Secretary, Union Ministry for Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) chaired the event.

R. Alice Vaz, Commissioner Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department along with other Administrative Secretaries of major line departments were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Saurabh Garg highlighted the pivotal role of administrative data in strengthening the national statistical system. He stressed harmonisation of concepts, definitions, classifications, metadata and standards to ensure comparability, interoperability and sustainable institutional mechanisms for ensuring regular and quality administrative data flows aligned with planning, monitoring and evidence-based decision-making.

In her welcome address, Ashu Gupta, Director General, Economics & Statistics, J&K, described the workshop as an important step towards establishing a common statistical language across government departments. She clarified that harmonisation is aimed at establishing common standards, defini-



the broad objectives of the workshop. She emphasised the importance of reliable, standardised and timely data for evidence-based policy formulation, efficient resource allocation and outcome-oriented governance. She stressed stronger coordination among the departments besides improvement of data systems at the source.

The Commissioner Secretary underscored the importance of departmental ownership, inter-departmental coordination and sustainable institutional mechanisms for ensuring regular and quality administrative data flows aligned with planning, monitoring and evidence-based decision-making.

In her welcome address, Ashu Gupta, Director General, Economics & Statistics, J&K, described the workshop as an important step towards establishing a common statistical language across government departments. She clarified that harmonisation is aimed at establishing common standards, defini-

tions, classifications and metadata while retaining departmental ownership and accountability. She called for a shift from fragmented and periodic data collection towards a regular, structured and quality-assured administrative data ecosystem.

The technical sessions featured experts from MoSPI, Government of Delhi, Government of Karnataka, Delhi Technological University, Population Council and other professional institutions. The discussions covered the national initiative on Data Harmonisation and Support for Statistical Strengthening, Data and AI initiatives, administrative data for population and development evidence, Karnataka's Kutumba Digital Family Registry besides the Economic, Analytical and Governance Framework of Administrative Data Harmonisation.

A dedicated discussion was also held to identify the administrative datasets that could be made AI-ready, facilitating improved analytics, inno-

vation and evidence-based governance. The Kutumba initiative provided practical insights into the use of integrated digital family registries for targeted delivery of government benefits and services.

The workshop was attended by the Administrative Secretaries, senior officers from MoSPI, Chief Data Officers, members of Data Strategic Units and other senior officials, providing a platform to share experiences, identify challenges and develop practical pathways for administrative data harmonisation in J&K. Besides, the Chief Planning Officers and District Statistics and Evaluation Officers from various districts of UT also participated in the workshop.

The workshop concluded with a shared commitment to build a trusted, interoperable and future-ready administrative data ecosystem for better evidence-based planning, effective programme monitoring and improved governance outcomes for the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Heavy Rain Triggers Waterlogging in Pahalgam, Lidder Swells

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PAHALGAM: Heavy rainfall lashed Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Tuesday, causing waterlogging at several locations and resulting in a rise in the water level of the Lidder River.

Several roads and low-lying areas in the hill station were affected by the intense spell of rain, with water accumulating at various locations and disrupting normal movement. The Lidder River remained swollen amid increased water flow following the rainfall, while authorities continued to keep a watch on the situation.

The rainfall was part of a wider spell of unsettled weather across Jammu and Kashmir. The Meteorological Centre Srinagar had forecast light to moderate rain and thundershowers at several places and warned that intense showers could trigger flash floods, mudslides and landslides in vulnerable areas.

Residents and visitors in Pahalgam were advised to remain cautious, particularly near water channels and other vulnerable locations, as further rainfall activity remained possible. [KNT]

JKSSB invites applications for 2,863 posts across J&K departments

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) has invited online applications for 2,863 posts in various departments of the Union Territory administration, according to an official notification issued on Tuesday.

The recruitment process has been notified under Advertisement Notification No. 09 of 2026, dated September 1, covering posts across UT, divisional and district cadres.

Eligible candidates can submit their applications online from October 5, while the last date for submission is November 3, the notification said.

Applicants must be domiciles of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and are required to possess a valid J&K Domicile Certificate by the last date for submitting applications. The prescribed upper age limit is 40 years for candidates belonging to the Open Merit category and generally 43 years for candidates falling under reserved categories, subject to applicable age relaxations under government rules.

The educational qualifications vary according to the posts. For Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) and Class-IV positions, candidates are required to have qualifications ranging from matriculation to 10+2.

For posts of Sanitation Workers, the minimum educational qualification ranges from Class 8 pass to 10+2, depending on the specific post.

The board has advised prospective applicants to carefully go through the detailed advertisement, including the post-wise eligibility criteria, vacancies, reservation provisions and other conditions, before submitting their applications.

The recruitment drive is expected to provide opportunities for candidates seeking government employment across different departments and administrative cadres in Jammu and Kashmir. (KNS).

IGP Kumar calls on CM Omar at Civil Secretariat

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir Zone Sujit Kumar Tuesday paid a courtesy call on the Chief Minister at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar, following his recent assumption of charge as the Inspector General of Police, Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister welcomed the senior police officer and extended his best wishes to Sujit Kumar for a successful and productive tenure.

The courtesy meeting comes shortly after the IGP Kashmir took charge of the important assignment, which oversees policing and security-related matters across the Kashmir Valley.

‘If Omar Has Courage, Resign and Seek Fresh Mandate on Statehood’: LoP Sharma

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Reacting to the National Conference's announcement of a peaceful gherao of BJP headquarters in Srinagar and Jammu, BJP leader and Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma on Tuesday said the statehood issue was being used by the ruling party to divert public attention from what he described as more pressing issues.

Sharma said statehood was not the issue on which the Omar Abdullah-led government had sought the people's mandate in the Assembly elections.

He claimed that the government had come to power on promises concerning free electricity, jobs and ration rather than on the promise of restoration of statehood.

“If Omar Abdullah has the courage, he should resign and seek a fresh mandate from the people on the issue of statehood,” Sharma said.

The BJP leader also accused the National Conference of attempting to shift public attention



away from allegations concerning the distribution of government jobs. He alleged that around 25,000 posts were being “given and distributed” among NC workers.

Sharma said the BJP's proposed protest would go ahead as scheduled on Wednesday, September 2, and would focus on what he described as the failure to provide jobs to Jammu and Kashmir's youth.

He termed the decision of the National Conference to hold its protest against the BJP on the same day as the BJP's planned agitation “unfortunate”, alleging that it was intended to divert attention from issues concerning employ-

ment and alleged irregularities in recruitment.

“Our protest will go on as per schedule. We will protest tomorrow against the jobs that are not being given to the youth, and the NC's protest on the same day is unfortunate and an attempt to divert the attention of the people from the real issues,” Sharma said.

The National Conference has announced its September 2 programme seeking accountability from the Union Government over commitments made in Parliament and before the Supreme Court, with restoration of statehood and constitutional guarantees among its stated demands. [KNT]

Javid Dar inaugurates BDC building at Kralgund

Stresses accountable, transparent grassroots governance

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Tuesday inaugurated the Block Development Council (BDC) Building at Kralgund, Kupwara, marking another step towards strengthening the Panchayati Raj institutions. MLA Langate, Sheikh Khurshaed Ahmad, accompanied the Minister during the visit.

Addressing a large gathering on the occasion, the Minister said that the newly established BDC building is not merely an administrative infrastructure but an important institutional mechanism for empowering the grassroots democratic institutions and ensuring responsive, accessible and people-oriented governance.

Constructed at a cost of Rs 97 lakh, the building will provide a dedicated platform for functioning of the Block Development Council. The utility will facilitate the people of the area in putting forth their developmental concerns and grievances before the concerned authori-



ties without having to travel long distances.

Javid Dar said that strengthening Panchayati Raj institutions is central to the government's vision of decentralized development, wherein local communities and their elected representatives have a meaningful role in identifying priorities, planning development works and monitoring their implementation. He emphasized that the government is committed to ensure that the benefits of welfare and development schemes being implemented by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and the Government of India reach the deserving beneficiaries in a timely, transparent and hassle-free manner.

He reiterated that accountability and transparency will remain the cornerstone of the government's development agenda, particularly in execution of works at the grassroots

level. He directed the concerned functionaries to ensure proper utilisation of public resources, adherence to approved norms and specifications, timely completion of works and transparency at every stage of project implementation.

“Every rupee of public money must translate into tangible development and public benefit,” the Minister said while stressing that government institutions must remain accessible and accountable to the people.

Javid Dar maintained that equitable development of all regions and areas is a fundamental priority of the government, with particular attention being given to rural, remote and far-flung areas. He called upon the officers to work in close coordination with elected representatives and local communities so that developmental planning remains aligned with the actual needs of the people.

Cancer patients in south Kashmir seek radiotherapy facility at GMC Anantnag

JAHANGEER GANAIE

ANANTNAG: Cancer patients and their attendants in south Kashmir are seeking the early establishment of radiotherapy services at Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag, saying the absence of the facility forces patients to repeatedly travel to Srinagar for an essential part of their treatment.

For families already struggling with the physical, emotional and financial burden of cancer, repeated journeys to Srinagar for radiotherapy add another layer of hardship, particularly for elderly patients and those requiring prolonged treatment.

Patients and attendants said that GMC Anantnag has gradually developed into an important cancer-care centre for the region, with chemotherapy, palliative care and oncology consultations available, but the lack of radiotherapy means treatment remains incomplete at the institution.



They urged the administration to ensure that the required equipment is installed at the college at the earliest so that patients from Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian and Pulwama can access comprehensive cancer treatment closer to home.

A doctor from the

department of Oncology at GMC Anantnag said the availability of radiotherapy at the institution is important for completing the chain of cancer treatment and reducing the need for patients to travel elsewhere.

He said more than 60 per cent of cancer patients

require radiotherapy as part of their treatment, while many others may require radiation later for palliative purposes.

“Cancer treatment is often multimodal. A patient may require surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy and palliative care at different stages. Therefore, having

these facilities available under one roof is extremely important,” he said.

The doctor said the radiation oncology block at GMC Anantnag is nearing completion and what is primarily required now is the installation of appropriate radiotherapy equipment. “The immediate requirement is a Linear Accelerator and a CT Simulator. Once these are established, GMC Anantnag will be in a much better position to provide comprehensive cancer care,” he said.

The oncology services at GMC Anantnag were initiated in 2019 and became fully operational in 2022. Since then, the department has registered more than 3,500 cancer patients, while over 5,000 chemotherapy sessions have been administered and more than 2,000 palliative procedures performed.

The oncology unit records more than 5,500 OPD consultations annually. An official said the patient registrations at GMC Anantnag are cur-

rently second only to GMC Srinagar and are higher than the combined registrations of other peripheral medical colleges.

At GMC Anantnag, upper gastrointestinal and lung cancers account for more than 60 per cent of cases among males, while breast and upper gastrointestinal cancers constitute more than 60 per cent of cases among females.

An official from GMC Anantnag said they had sent the project to the union health ministry but due to some reasons it did not mature, and now they have written to the local government and are hopeful that these facilities will be available at GMC very soon.

Patients said establishing a fully equipped radiotherapy unit at GMC Anantnag would also help reduce pressure on major tertiary-care hospitals in Srinagar and create a stronger regional cancer-care centre in south Kashmir—(KNO)

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Dal Lake

If It Is Up For Grabs, Why Not Give It Away?

If encroaching upon Dal Lake, filling its waters and carving out pieces of its bed can happen under the very nose of the authorities, then perhaps the message is clear: Dal Lake is up for grabs. For decades, governments have spoken of protecting the world-famous lake. Committees have been formed, plans announced, millions spent and warnings issued. Yet, on the ground, the lake continues to lose its space to encroachments, constructions and deliberate filling. So why continue this charade?

Why not let the government officially fill up the entire Dal Lake once and for all, divide the reclaimed land into plots and distribute them among the so-called "Dal developers"? At least then, there would be no need for enforcement drives, demolition squads, restoration plans or endless official meetings. The long-pending headache would simply disappear. And Srinagar would gain a new landmark: the Dal Grabbers Colony.

Of course, this is sarcasm. But sometimes sarcasm is the only language left when reality becomes more absurd than fiction. Dal Lake is not an ordinary piece of government land waiting for someone to occupy it. It is one of Kashmir's defining natural and cultural symbols. Its waters, wetlands and surrounding ecosystem are part of the heritage of Srinagar and the identity of Kashmir itself. Every fresh encroachment is therefore not merely an illegal occupation. It is another small assault on the city's history.

What makes the situation more disturbing is not just the audacity of those grabbing the lake, but the apparent helplessness, or silence, of those entrusted with protecting it. A violation that survives for years sends a dangerous signal: encroach first, regularisation may follow. This is how public assets disappear, not overnight, but inch by inch, construction by construction and compromise by compromise. The government cannot simultaneously claim that Dal Lake is priceless and behave as though its protection is negotiable. If the lake is worth saving, save it decisively. If its boundaries are known, enforce them. If encroachments are illegal, remove them.

And if officials responsible for protecting the lake repeatedly fail to act, accountability must begin with them. Otherwise, let us at least stop pretending. Perhaps the next government notification should simply read: "Dal Lake is no longer a lake. Applications are invited for plots in Dal Grabbers Colony." That would be an honest admission of what years of indifference could eventually make of Kashmir's most iconic water body.

Marks Do Not Measure Intelligence



ANUM AIJAZ LONE

In a world where a three-digit number on a report card can sometimes decide how a student is judged, we need to ask an important question: Can marks really measure intelligence? Marks are commonly used to evaluate academic performance, but they cannot tell the complete story of a student's abilities, creativity, personality, or future potential. A student who scores 98, 99, or 100 percent may perform exceptionally well in examinations, but that does not automatically make them more intelligent than someone who scores less.

Unfortunately, students are often judged by their marks. A high scorer may quickly be labelled "intelligent", while a student who performs poorly may be called "average" or even told, "You will never become successful in life." Such words can have a lasting effect on a young person's confidence. But is it fair to judge someone's entire potential on the basis of a few examination scores?

All students are unique. One might be excellent in mathematics, whereas another one may be a genius in painting, poetry, music, sports, public speaking, or leadership. There are those who grasp things fast and those who take their own time. This does not necessarily make them incapable in any way. Marks are numerical scores that reflect how a student performed in a particular test or examination. They can provide an indication of academic performance, but they cannot measure everything that makes a person capable. Creativity, practical intelligence, communication, character, determination and the ability to deal with real-life situations cannot be fully represented by a number.

Intelligence is much broader than memorising information. It includes the ability to understand, reason, learn from experience, solve problems, think critically and apply knowledge in different situations. A student may memorise an answer and reproduce it perfectly in an examination, but real learning comes from understanding the concept and knowing



how to use that knowledge. Examinations also have their limitations. Many tests are conducted under strict time limits and often place considerable importance on memory, writing ability and speed. A student may understand a subject but struggle to express that understanding under pressure. Stress, anxiety, illness, lack of confidence or personal and family difficulties can also affect examination performance. Therefore, one examination should never become the final judgement of a student's ability.

A student who does not score well should not immediately believe that they are incapable of achieving something in life. They may simply need a different learning method, additional guidance, more practice or more time. Sometimes, students also perform poorly because they have not yet discovered the field in which their real strengths lie. Students should be encouraged to explore their interests beyond textbooks. If someone has a genuine interest in sports, art, music, writing, technology or another field, they should be encouraged to develop that ability. Being weak in one academic subject does not mean being weak in every area.

There are many people who did not always excel academically but later achieved success through their skills, determination, creativity and hard work. Their journeys remind us that success does not follow one fixed path. Academic achievement can open doors, but it is not the only quality that determines where

a person can go.

Parents also have an important role in shaping a child's confidence. Comparing children with classmates, neighbours, siblings or relatives may appear to be a way of motivating them, but constant comparison can instead create insecurity and feelings of inferiority. Every child has a different pace of learning. Rather than asking, "Why did you not score as much as someone else?" parents can ask, "What can we do to help you improve?" Encouragement gives children confidence to try again, while constant criticism can make them afraid of failure.

Teachers, too, can help create a healthier approach to education. Schools should not focus only on examination results. Students should also receive opportunities to participate in debates, sports, cultural activities, creative projects, competitions and other activities where different talents can be recognised.

A student who is not particularly strong in mathematics may be an excellent speaker. Another may struggle with written examinations but show remarkable creativity or leadership. These abilities also have value, and society needs people with different kinds of skills.

This does not mean that marks are unimportant. Academic results can be important for admissions, scholarships and future educational opportunities. Students should therefore take their studies seriously and make sincere efforts to improve. However, marks should remain Some may

have difficulty in examinations but display great creative or leadership qualities. Such abilities are valuable too, and society requires people with various skills. This does not imply that marks are not important. Educational performance can be very significant in the case of admissions, scholarships, and further education. Hence, students must treat their studies seriously and try to do well genuinely. Nonetheless, marks should stay an indicator of academic performance and not the measure of a person's overall worth.

Failure should also not always be viewed as something negative. Sometimes a low score can show where improvement is needed. Mistakes can teach us lessons that success sometimes cannot. Learning to face failure, identify weaknesses and try again can develop resilience, patience and determination. In today's world, skills such as communication, teamwork, adaptability, creativity, leadership, critical thinking and problem-solving are also extremely important. These qualities are useful in higher education, professional life and everyday situations, but they cannot always be measured through a written examination. Students should therefore learn to ask themselves more than just, "How many marks did I get?" They should also ask, "What did I learn? What can I improve? What am I good at? What do I want to achieve?"

True intelligence is not demonstrated by examination marks alone. It can also be seen in curiosity, creativity, judgement, perseverance, understanding and the ability to use knowledge meaningfully. In summary, marks will show the performance of an individual in a specific exam, but they will not give the whole potential of an individual. Each learner has various abilities, interests, and ways of learning. It is better for parents and teachers to guide learners into discovering their talents than defining them through their grades and comparisons with other individuals. A report card contains numbers, but a student contains possibilities. Marks may show what a student achieved in one examination, but they cannot decide what that student can achieve in life. This is the version I would recommend for publication. The final line also gives the article a clearer and more memorable ending without changing its central message.

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Why Russia's Neighbours Keep Looking West And Elsewhere



NAVEED QAZI

Russia's map is large enough to suggest gravitational power. Yet along its borders, an opposite force has been gathering: countries that once belonged to Moscow's political orbit increasingly want Europe's institutions, markets and security guarantees. This is not simply a story about anti-Russian sentiment. It is also story about sovereignty. For many neighbours, Europe represents the possibility of choosing their own political systems, commercial partners and alliances without asking Moscow for permission.

The deepest reason is historical, but history alone does not explain the shift. The Soviet inheritance left independent states with Russian-speaking elites, intertwined industries, military infrastructure and memories of a common political space. It also left a fundamental difference in political imagination. Moscow has often treated the post-Soviet neighbourhood as a zone where Russian security interests deserve special consideration. Smaller states tend to see the same geography differently: a border is a boundary that gives sovereign choices. That difference has become increasingly consequential.

Security is therefore the first explanation. Russia's wars in Georgia and Ukraine, its military presence in contested territories and its pressure on neighbouring governments have persuaded many societies that dependence on Moscow can become a vulnerability. The European Council on Foreign Relations has documented how Moscow has used political, economic and military instruments to contest democratic and market-oriented transitions in its eastern neighbourhood.

Finland and Sweden provide the clearest example of this psychological reversal. For decades, military non-alignment was compatible with their sense of security. Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine altered that calculation. Sweden joined NATO in 2024 after a profound change in its security outlook. Geography, once an argument for accommodation with Russia, became an argument for collective defence.

For eastern neighbours, however, Europe offers something larger than

a military umbrella. It offers a political model. Membership of the European Union requires stronger institutions, judicial independence, competitive markets and rules that constrain governments. These conditions can be frustratingly bureaucratic, but they also appeal to citizens who associate European integration with accountable government. European integration can therefore become a mechanism of domestic political reform as well as foreign-policy alignment.

Georgia illustrates the tension. Its government has repeatedly affirmed a European destination, while parts of its political establishment have simultaneously stressed the need to avoid provoking Russia. Voters have consequently had to balance European aspirations against memories of war. The contradiction is revealing: Georgia may want Europe not because it seeks confrontation with Russia, but because it believes European alignment offers the best long-term protection for its independence and prosperity.

Armenia offers an even more striking example of strategic diversification. For decades, Russia was Yerevan's principal security partner and arms supplier. But the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war and Azerbaijan's subsequent takeover of the territory badly damaged Armenian confidence in Moscow's security guarantees. Armenia has since frozen its participation in the Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organisation and diversified its defence procurement. India has emerged as a major supplier, while France and other Western partners have also become increasingly important.

The scale of the shift is substantial. An analysis by the Swedish Institute of International Affairs found that Russian supplies, which once accounted for around 90 per cent of Armenia's defence procurement, had fallen to only 5-10 per cent, with India and France becoming the principal suppliers. This is not merely an Armenian rejection of Russia. It reflects a broader question: what happens when a country no longer regards its traditional protector as sufficiently capable or willing to protect it?

Russia's war in Ukraine has constrained its military resources, while Moscow's limited support for Armenia during its confrontation with Azerbaijan deepened doubts about the value of formal alliance structures. India's emergence as Armenia's principal defence supplier is therefore significant not only commercially but geopolitically too.

The problem extends beyond Russia's former Soviet neighbours.



Moscow's difficulties in sustaining its allies have also affected perceptions in the Middle East. Syria was perhaps the clearest demonstration. Russia intervened decisively to preserve Bashar al-Assad's government during the Syrian civil war, but when Assad's regime collapsed in December 2024, Moscow did not prevent his fall. Iran, another close Russian partner, also questioned the extent of Moscow's practical support when Israel and the United States struck Iranian targets in 2025. The Kremlin rejected accusations that it had failed Iran, but the episode exposed the limits of a partnership that could not easily be converted into direct military protection.

This matters because alliances are ultimately judged not only by treaties but by expectations. A country may tolerate dependence on a powerful neighbour when that neighbour appears capable of delivering security. When its ability to do so becomes uncertain, diversification becomes rational.

Central Asia demonstrates this logic particularly well. Kyrgyzstan remains economically and institutionally connected to Russia, yet it has acquired Turkish Bayraktar, Aksungur, Akinci drones and other Turkish defence systems. Tajikistan, similarly dependent on Russian security structures, has sought additional military cooperation with Turkey and other partners. These moves do not amount to an anti-Russian bloc. They represent hedging: keeping Moscow close while ensuring that Moscow is not the only option.

Kazakhstan has pursued the same logic with even greater strategic sophistication. Astana remains careful not to rupture its relationship with Moscow, but it has simultaneously deepened ties with China and Turkey. In 2022, Kazakhstan and Turkish Aerospace signed an agreement for the joint production and maintenance of Turkish ANKA strike drones,

including technology transfer and training. Such partnerships are significant precisely because Kazakhstan is not abandoning Russia; it is reducing the consequences of being dependent on Russia.

Moldova's trajectory is more explicitly European. Chisinau has steadily moved away from the Russian orbit and towards EU integration. In October 2024, Moldovans narrowly endorsed a constitutional commitment to EU membership amid accusations of Russian interference, which Moscow denied. The episode showed how external pressure can have the opposite effect from that intended: attempts to influence a country's political direction can strengthen its determination to escape dependency.

Economics provides the less dramatic but perhaps more durable explanation. Russia remains a major economy and an important destination for migrant labour, but its economic model offers neighbours fewer of the advantages associated with integration into Europe's single market. The European Union offers access to a vast market, regulatory convergence, investment, educational exchange and freer movement.

Ukraine demonstrates the scale of this attraction. EU-Ukraine trade more than doubled after the Association Agreement and exceeded €67 billion in 2024. The significance lies not simply in the volume of trade but in the architecture behind it: regulatory convergence and market access can gradually embed a country in European economic institutions.

The contrast is therefore not simply between wealth and poverty. It is between different economic architectures. Russia's model relies heavily on commodities, state power and strategic relationships. European integration demands standards that can be costly in the short term but potentially transformative in the long term. For small states seeking to

diversify exports and reduce exposure to a single power, economic pluralism becomes a form of political insurance.

Energy has a similar significance. Countries dependent on one supplier possess less room for manoeuvre during political disputes. Diversifying energy supplies therefore does more than improve resilience: it reduces the capacity of an external power to convert commercial relationships into political pressure.

Yet the western turn should not be romanticised. Europe is not a frictionless sanctuary. Accession demands painful reforms, competition can destroy inefficient industries, and European governments themselves disagree over migration, security and enlargement. Nor do all Russian neighbours want the same future. Belarus remains deeply tied to Moscow, while several Central Asian governments continue to practise multi-vector diplomacy, maintaining relations with Russia, China, Europe, Turkey and others.

What is changing, then, is not that Russia has suddenly become irrelevant. It is that its neighbours want options.

That distinction is crucial. Russia can still offer markets, energy, military equipment, transport links and security cooperation. But influence becomes less durable when it depends on preventing alternatives rather than making partnership attractive. India's rise as an arms supplier to Armenia, Turkey's expanding defence role in Central Asia, China's growing economic weight and Europe's institutional pull all demonstrate the same underlying phenomenon: Moscow is no longer the only pole around which its neighbours can organise their futures.

The paradox is that Russia's attempt to preserve influence can produce the opposite result. Pressure may secure obedience from governments, but it rarely creates affection among societies. And when a powerful ally cannot reliably provide security, smaller states begin to hedge.

Europe's attraction, meanwhile, rests less on power than on possibility and ambitions: the possibility and ambitions that a small country can become prosperous without becoming subordinate, secure without becoming a satellite, and European without ceasing to be itself.

That is why Russia's neighbours keep looking west and elsewhere.

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■ Beyond The Highway Lie

Why Kashmir's Apple Growers Must Switch Tracks

M S MALIK

Since the last few years, during the months of September-October, Kashmir has been grumbling with stories of how apple growers and traders are suffering at the hands of authorities as apple-laden trucks are being made to wait long. This year again the story is back, recently. Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader Iltija Mufti questioned the reported stoppage of trucks carrying Kashmiri apples at Qazigund. Apart from politicians, apple traders have also spoken publicly about the matter. A narrative that is being subtly pushed by some of these traders and politicians is that "there is a conspiracy by the Centre to arrest the popularity of Kashmiri apple, and thereby dent Kashmir economically." The narrative is surviving and doing good in Kashmir, primarily because of the large appetite in Kashmir for conspiracy theories painting Delhi as villain.

On studying the issue by analysing opinions of various stakeholders, a completely different picture evolves. Firstly, let's focus on a new variety of apple called 'High Density'. Since the last few years this variety is being experimented in Kashmir. This hybrid apple offers full potential produce from the third year onwards. Further, high-density apple have produced way beyond the expectations of the growers. One apple grower said, "Produce from high-density apple orchards is at least three times that of similar-sized orchards of other variety." This new variety came early, by the first week of September, and has provided handsome profit to the growers. However, for apple traders (middlemen) this has created a situation of surplus supply.

Another factor is high temperature and lack of rain in the Valley floor. Due to this factor, traditional varieties of apples started ripening sooner. Apples collected from the ground after falling from trees are categorised as 'C Grade' and fetch very less money. Therefore, growers started plucking their apples as soon they gained the desired reddish shade, days before their

anticipated time of harvest. This batch of apples, over and above the huge produce of 'high density apples', made the supply much more than the demand. This made growers sell apples at much lower prices to middlemen.

Coming to the road blockade, due to rains, land sliding and shooting stones, portions of NH 44 between Banihal and Udhampur sometimes become in a state of disuse for a couple of days. This blockade, due to nature's fury, and authorities had no control over it. Despite best efforts, the restoration of the highway through such fragile mountains sometimes take few days. On opening of the highway, a number of vehicles get trapped, with passengers waiting to cross over. This further increases the waiting time for apple-laden trucks sometimes. But accusing authorities of doing it deliberately is very unfair and seems vested interest driven.

Now, the aspect of Kashmiri middlemen. Many of these big traders are also owners of cold storage, a scarce infrastructure in Kashmir. These middlemen try to buy apples at the lowest price and sell at the highest price to gain maximum profit. So, they very carefully choose the buying and selling time. Some growers even find these traders capable of creating artificial panic by spreading rumours of road blockade to bring the growers to sell their produce at much cheaper prices.

The scarcely available infrastructure, cold storage, is the next aspect. During Mufti Syed's term as CM, many reforms were brought in for the horticulture sector. Subsidy for cold-storages was one of them. Many influential personalities had subsequently availed the subsidy to construct cold-storage. Few are even suspected to have availed the subsidy without construction of any cold-storage. The total volume of cold-storage available is much below the demand. To top it up, there is huge mismanagement at such cold-storage facilities. To one's surprise, there are few storages with limited or no air-conditioning facilities. Many of the owners and the managers of these storages behave like feudals. At the time of crisis, instead



of helping apple growers or small traders, they mostly increase their storage charges. The loading and unloading speed at these storages is generally way slow, keeping in view the need. All of these cause extra long queues of apple-laden trucks outside each such cold-storage. Some suggest this further creates opportunities for the cold-storage owners to buy the apples from the waiting trucks at relatively cheaper prices and store the same in their own storage for a suitable time of sale. Apart from financial losses to the smaller traders, such mismanagement at cold-storages also leads to serious road traffic violations. Kashmiri businessmen and rich apple growers must realise that there is a serious need to establish more cold-storages and make their services more affordable.

Let's talk about fruit processing units in Kashmir. Unlike Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra, the business community in Kashmir has not invested much in fruit processing units in Kashmir. As a result, there are very few of them functional in Kashmir valley. Therefore, transportation blockade still remains a singular point of failure to the massive horticulture economy. With a modern insurance system, it is quite feasible to insure each truckload of apple moving towards Delhi, suitably including the clauses of perishing due

to road blockade. The leaders of various apple growers or traders associations need to come up with suitable win-win insurance policies in this regard.

Finally, let's discuss the Himachal angle. Himachal was badly affected by rain, cloud-burst and landslides previously. All forms of transportation and communication were badly affected. The losses were much worse than those in Kashmir. And, no such conspiracy theory came out of Himachal.

In a significant move aimed at facilitating the economical and hassle-free transportation of horticulture produce, particularly apples, to various mandis and destinations, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg recently urged fruit growers, traders and other stakeholders to make greater use of railway goods and freight services. Garg stressed that railway transportation should be increasingly utilised for long-distance destinations, as it can provide a cost-effective and efficient alternative for transporting large quantities of horticulture produce.

This is a crucial moment for apple growers and farmers to break free from the grip of the cold storage and truck owner nexus that has held Kashmir's horticulture economy hostage for decades. It is time to see through the convenient narratives being

peddled by this powerful lobby. The very same traders who spread rumours of road blockades, who create artificial scarcity, who charge exorbitant storage fees, and who exploit the desperation of growers are now hiding behind a manufactured "Delhi conspiracy" to deflect attention from their own predatory practices.

The railway freight service offers a genuine, long-term solution that bypasses this nexus entirely. By utilising rail transport, growers can avoid the unpredictable delays on the National Highway, bypass the cold storage cartel that dictates terms to small traders, access wider markets without being at the mercy of middlemen, and save significantly on transportation costs for bulk consignments.

The administration has shown its willingness to facilitate this transition. Now it is up to the farming community to seize this opportunity. The cold storage and truck owner lobby, backed by some political leaders, will soon start painting a very different picture, one that protects their interests at the cost of the common grower. They will call this transition "impractical," "unviable," or "another Delhi plot." Do not be swayed. The real conspiracy is not in Delhi, it is in the feudal, exploitative practices of a few powerful middlemen within Kashmir who profit from the misery of growers. The railway is your way out. Use it.

The theory of the so-called "apple conspiracy" is another eye-opener for common Kashmiris to get over the Delhi-bashing syndrome and look within for shortcomings with an intent to bring in progressive change to the region. It's time to introspect such conspiracy theories based on ground realities and look at them without any historical, regional or political biases.

May the blind appetite in Kashmir for conspiracy theories shrink for good, and may the growers find their true freedom from exploitation through informed choices and collective action.

Author is a civil service aspirant building a bridge between intent and impact.

When The Last-Resort Antibiotic Fails

A 20-Hospital, 3-Year ICMR Study Of Over 150,000 Patients Finds That Carbapenem Drug-Resistant Infections Are Driving Up Both Deaths And Treatment Costs

SHOBHA SHUKLA
BOBBY RAMAKANT

A large multi-centre study of over 150,000 patients in India's 20 tertiary-care hospitals has put a stark number on one of the top ten global health threats today: Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). AMR happens when infections easier to treat earlier become difficult (or impossible) to treat due to disease-causing microbe (such as bacteria, virus, fungi, parasite) becoming drug resistant. The findings offer one of the clearest multi-centre pictures yet of the clinical and economic burden when common Gram-negative bacteria become resistant to carbapenem antibiotics. And the message is blunt: AMR is not simply making infections harder to treat. It is translating into more deaths and substantially higher treatment costs.

Researchers compared outcomes among patients infected with four major Gram-negative pathogens - Escherichia coli (E. coli), Klebsiella pneumoniae (K. pneumoniae), Acinetobacter baumannii (A. baumannii) and Pseudomonas aeruginosa (P. aeruginosa) - looking specifically at infections that were drug-resistant or susceptible to carbapenem antibiotics. Carbapenem antibiotics are a powerful group of broad-spectrum antibiotics, upon which clinicians have traditionally relied on when infections caused by Gram-negative bacteria become resistant to other drugs. Resistance to these medicines therefore leaves doctors with fewer therapeutic options.

E. coli is a common cause of urinary and bloodstream infections; K. pneumoniae can cause pneumonia, urinary infections and sepsis; A. baumannii is particularly associated with critically ill hospital patients; and P. aeruginosa can cause severe infections in people with prolonged hospital exposure or underlying illness.

The study authored by Dr Kamini Walla, Dr Sonam Vijay, Dr Nitin Bansal, et al, published in The Lancet Regional Health - Southeast Asia (Volume 53, October 2026), analysed data from 20 tertiary-care hospitals across India between April 2022 and April 2025. Dr Kamini Walla serves as a senior scientist at Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), heads its Descriptive Research Division and leads ICMR on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

Each of the 20 participating hospitals was required to designate a minimum of 150 inpatient beds for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) surveillance activities, including at least 50 intensive care unit (ICU) beds and 100 ward beds. "All patients were followed up until their final clinical outcome (discharge from the hospital or death)," notes the study.

"Carbapenem drug-resistant infections caused substantially higher mortality and treatment costs than susceptible infections. Mortality was particularly high in bloodstream



infections, reaching 46-51% for carbapenem drug-resistant Acinetobacter, Pseudomonas and Klebsiella," posted Dr Kamini Walla on LinkedIn. "For India, the study highlights the need to move beyond drug resistance surveillance to integrated surveillance linking AMR with patient outcomes, while strengthening infection prevention, right and timely diagnostics, antimicrobial stewardship and access to effective newer antibiotics."

Researchers examined records from 159,336 hospitalised patients in the 20 tertiary-care hospitals, representing more than 1.75 million patient-days of hospital care. "Patient-days" measures the total number of days all admitted patients spend in a hospital or healthcare facility over a specific period. Of these patients, 27,283 had infections confirmed microbiologically, while 26,213 (16.4% of the entire hospitalised population studied) had Gram-negative bacterial infections. Among those with Gram-negative infections, more than six in ten were resistant to carbapenem antibiotics, according to the study's analysis.

For every major pathogen examined, patients with carbapenem drug-resistant infections faced a higher risk of death than those infected with carbapenem susceptible strains. The difference was particularly striking for E. coli and P. aeruginosa. Patients with carbapenem-resistant E. coli had a 41% higher relative risk of death than those with susceptible infections. For P. aeruginosa, the corresponding increase was 43%. For K. pneumoniae, the relative risk was 33% higher, while carbapenem-resistant A. baumannii was associated with a 16% higher relative risk.

According to the study's reported results, mortality was 24.4% for carbapenem-resistant E. coli compared with 17.3% for susceptible infections. For K. pneumoniae, mortality was 31.2% versus 23.5%. A. baumannii had particularly high mortality overall: 37.9% among resistant infections compared with 32.8% among

susceptible infections. For P. aeruginosa, the corresponding figures were 28.9% and 20.2%.

It is important to note that bloodstream infections can rapidly progress to sepsis and multi-organ failure, leaving little room for delays or ineffective treatment. The most alarming data appeared in bloodstream infections caused by carbapenem drug-resistant non-fermenting bacteria, principally A. baumannii and P. aeruginosa. Mortality in these cases reached 46% to 51%.

Researchers also examined length of hospitalisation and antibiotic treatment costs. Drug-resistant infections required more expensive therapy, with antibiotic costs 1.1 to 2 times higher than those associated with susceptible infections. Once first-line or commonly used antibiotics no longer work, clinicians may need newer, more expensive drugs or combinations of antibiotics. Patients may also require longer hospital stays, intensive monitoring and more complex (and may be more expensive) care. For hospitals already operating under pressure, those costs accumulate quickly.

The study found, for example, that patients with carbapenem-resistant E. coli had an average hospital stay of about 23 days, compared with about 18 days among patients with susceptible E. coli infections. However, length of hospital stay was carbapenem-resistant A. baumannii and P. aeruginosa was shorter, which could be because of high mortality. "This paradox likely reflects the early mortality in carbapenem-resistant A. baumannii and P. aeruginosa infections, leading to reduced length of hospital stay owing to poor survival," notes the study.

In other words, drug resistance can create a vicious cycle: the infection becomes harder to treat, treatment becomes more complicated, hospitalisation can become longer, and costs rise while the patient's risk of dying increases.

The researchers also looked at how clinicians were treating drug-resistant infections.

For carbapenem-resistant E. coli and K. pneumoniae, ceftazidime-avibactam was used more commonly than polymyxin B, reflecting the changing therapeutic landscape for difficult-to-treat Gram-negative infections. But the availability of newer antibiotics does not eliminate the underlying problem. Every new antibiotic introduced into clinical practice exists within an evolutionary contest. Bacteria that survive exposure can acquire or select for resistance mechanisms, potentially eroding the usefulness of drugs that were once considered reliable.

That makes antimicrobial stewardship - the effort to ensure antimicrobials (like antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals and antiparasitics) are used only when appropriate, and that, after right and timely diagnosis, the right drug is given at the right dose and for the right duration. This is not merely a prescribing principle but becomes a central part of preserving the effectiveness of the remaining treatment options.

Much of the available evidence on AMR comes from laboratory surveillance, which can show whether bacteria isolated from patients are resistant to particular antibiotics. But knowing that drug resistance exists is different from knowing what it does to patients in real-life hospital settings across a diverse country like India. The new study links microbiological drug resistance to outcomes such as mortality, hospitalisation and treatment costs across a large multi-centre population.

That distinction is crucial in India, where researchers have pointed to fragmented surveillance, incomplete laboratory and clinical data and a lack of standardised estimates of mortality associated with resistant infections. The study found that 85% of E. coli infections were healthcare-associated infections (or hospital acquired), 91.6% of K. pneumoniae infections were healthcare-associated, 95.1% of A. baumannii infections were healthcare-associated, and 91.9% of P. aeruginosa infections were healthcare-associated. "Among blood stream associated infections across all pathogens, again majority (more than 85%) were classified as healthcare-associated infections," notes the study.

"Microbiologically confirmed infections were classified as community-acquired if the culture was positive within 48 hours of hospitalisation and there was no history of hospitalisation within the preceding 90 days. Infections not meeting these criteria were classified as healthcare-associated infections," study authors explain. If drug-resistant infections are concentrated in healthcare settings, then preventing them in the first place becomes as important as finding better drugs to treat them. The researchers ultimately call for stronger surveillance, better infection prevention and control, improved access to effective therapies and stronger antimicrobial stewardship.

Hand hygiene, environmental cleaning,

appropriate use of invasive devices used in medical procedures, rapid identification of drug-resistant organisms (right and timely diagnosis and drug-susceptibility testing where possible), isolation or cohorting where appropriate, and careful antibiotic prescribing, all form part of the efforts to save us from drug-resistant infections.

A hospital cannot effectively control a drug-resistant organism it cannot detect or track. Government of India's prestigious Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)'s AMR Surveillance Programme led by Dr Kamini Walla has made pathbreaking contributions over the years to identify patterns and measure whether AMR interventions are working. The findings are powerful, but they should not be read as proof that drug resistance alone caused every death.

Persons with drug-resistant infections may differ from those with susceptible infections in important ways, including underlying disease, severity of illness, prior antibiotic exposure and healthcare-associated risk factors. Those differences can influence outcomes independently of drug resistance itself. The researchers' comparison nevertheless provides strong evidence of an association between carbapenem drug resistance and worse outcomes across multiple major pathogens.

The study authors observe: "Most of the hospitals, included in the study have very high standards of infection control and are accredited by national and international quality control boards, but they are tertiary care hospitals, which predominantly manage referred and critically ill patients; therefore, the rates observed should not be interpreted as indicators of hospital performance. We suspect that hospitals with poor laboratory support to facilitate timely identification and treatment may have far worse patient outcomes compared to what is documented in this study." For the health system, this study is another reminder that preventing drug-resistance - and preventing infections from spreading in the first place - may ultimately be far less costly than trying to outrun bacteria after drug-resistance has emerged.

"Finally, improving access to newer effective antimicrobials, is crucial to reduce mortality associated with drug resistant infections in India," recommend study authors. ICMR researcher Dr Sonam Vijay rightly shared on LinkedIn that "Our findings among 1.5 lakh (150,000) hospitalised patients, including 16.4% with Gram-negative bacterial infections, highlight the need for timely diagnostics and access to effective, affordable novel antimicrobials to improve outcomes and reduce the economic burden of carbapenem-resistant infections."

Shobha Shukla and Bobby Ramakant are part board of Global AMR Media Alliance - GAMA. Follow them on X: @Shobha1Shukla, @BobbyRamakant

Masarat Hashim

delivery of healthcare services to patients. The appointment comes at a time when government hospitals in Srinagar are witnessing a significant patient load, placing greater emphasis on effective administration, accountability and timely delivery of services. Similarly, Shahbaz Ahmad Mirza, presently Member of the J&K Special Tribunal, has been appointed Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission against an available vacancy.

Among the other significant changes, Rifat Kohli has been named Chief Operating Officer of Himayat, replacing Rajneesh Gupta, who will now serve as Special Secretary in the Hospitality and Protocol Department.

Gulzar Ahmad Dar has been posted as Special Secretary in the Cooperatives Department, while Bhumesh Sharma has been moved from the J&K Advisory Board for Development of Kisans to head the Advisory Board for Development of Pahari Speaking People as its secretary.

The government has appointed Kanta Devi as Special Secretary in the Health and Medical Education Department and Rajinder Singh as Special Secretary in the Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Department.

Sanjay Gupta, who was serving as Additional Secretary in the Mining Department, has been shifted to the Forest, Ecology and Environment Department in the same rank.

Several changes have also been made in district administration.

Amarjeet Singh has been posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Poonch, while Ghulam Rasool will take charge as Additional District Development Commissioner, Kupwara.

Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, Administrator of Associated Hospitals, Srinagar, has been transferred as Additional District Development Commissioner, Pulwama. Masarat Hashim will succeed him as Administrator of Associated Hospitals, Srinagar.

Rifat Aftab Qureshi has been appointed Director, Command Area Development, Kashmir. The post of Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, held by Qureshi, will be filled as per the government order.

Dr Fayaz Ahmad Bandy, meanwhile, has been transferred as Director, Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir.

In another key appointment, Anju Gupta has been posted as Additional Inspector General of Registration, Jammu, while Pankaj Gupta has been appointed Regional Director, Survey and Land Records, Doda.

Namrita Dogra has been transferred as Regional Director, Survey and Land Records, Jammu.

Jogindera Singh Rai has been appointed Managing Director of the J&K Agro Industries Development Corporation, while Basharat Hussain has been posted as Chief Executive Officer of the Tourism Development Authority, Rajouri.

Vinod Kumar Behnal will take charge as Executive Director of the J&K Rehabilitation Council in the Social Welfare Department.

The reshuffle also affects the sports, taxation and disaster management sectors. Tazayun Mukhtar, currently Chief Executive Officer of the Urban Development Agency, Kashmir, has been appointed Secretary of the J&K Sports Council.

Dhananter Singh has been posted as Additional Commissioner, State Taxes (Administration and Enforcement), Jammu, while Shazia Koser has been appointed Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes (IT, Data Analytics and Economic Intelligence), Jammu.

Dr Zahoor Ahmad Magray has been posted as Additional Commissioner in the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir.

Ghulam Nabi Bhat has been appointed Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes (Recovery), Kashmir.

Veedushi Kapoor has been shifted from the Civil Aviation Department to the Revenue Department as Additional Secretary, while Shahid Mehmod has been posted as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Pulwama.

Anil Salgotra, who was serving as Joint Chief Electoral Officer, has been appointed Joint Director, School Education, Jammu.

Raj Mohammad has been given charge as Director, Land Management, Srinagar Development Authority.

Afshan Masood has been posted as Joint Director, J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (IMPARD).

Mohammad Aslam, Registrar-cum-Controller of Examinations at SKIMS, Soura, has been transferred as General Manager, District Industries Centre, Ganderbal.

Sumera Shamim, who was Director, Land Management, Srinagar Development Authority, has been posted as Joint Registrar, Cooperative Societies (Special), Kashmir.

Avleen Kour Bali has been appointed Joint Registrar, Cooperatives (Special), Jammu, while Ashima Sher has been transferred as Joint Director (Administration) in the Directorate of Rural Development, Jammu.

The order also includes a number of other postings and transfers across departments and field formations, covering areas including revenue, education, health, taxation, cooperatives, social welfare, rural development and urban administration.

The government said the transfers and postings would take effect immediately—(KNO)

Maintain Pressure

Secretary Home apprised the Lieutenant Governor of the overall security scenario in Jammu Kashmir. IGP, DIGs and Divisional Commissioners briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the security situation in their respective areas, anti-terror operations, law and order, drug smuggling and other emerging challenges.

The meeting also held comprehensive and detailed deliberations on a wide range of

other critical issues.

The Lieutenant Governor instructed all officers to maintain heightened operational vigilance, seamless inter-agency coordination and a proactive approach to safeguarding peace and maintaining law and order in the UT.

The meeting was attended by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary Home Department; S.J.M.Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; M.K. Sinha, ADGP, CID; Sujit Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Tejinder Singh, IGP Jammu; Sarah Rizvi, IGP, Crime Branch; Divisional Commissioners; DIGs and other senior officials.

Rain Lashes

Srinagar recorded 0.3 mm rainfall, while Qazigund received 6.4 mm, Gulmarg 1 mm and Konibal 3 mm. No rainfall was recorded at Pahalgam, Kupwara and Kukernag during the 24-hour period covered by the weather bulletin.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 33 degrees Celsius, which was 4.1 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 20.9 degrees Celsius, nearly five degrees above normal.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 31.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 18.6 degrees, while Pahalgam recorded 27.6 degrees and 17.5 degrees, respectively.

Kupwara recorded a maximum temperature of 33.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 18.4 degrees, while Kukernag recorded 31.4 degrees and 18.2 degrees.

Gulmarg, one of the cooler stations in Kashmir, recorded a maximum of 22.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 12.2 degrees, while Konibal recorded 33.2 degrees and 19.4 degrees.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 33.9 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 25.2 degrees, while Banihal recorded 29.6 degrees and 20.5 degrees.

Batote recorded a maximum of 28.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 19.1 degrees, Katra 29.1 degrees and 22.6 degrees, Bhaderwah 30 degrees and 18.2 degrees, and Kathua 34.8 degrees and 23.4 degrees.

Among the AWS stations, Jammu recorded a maximum of 34.1 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 26.9 degrees, while Udhampur recorded 33.6 degrees and 24 degrees. Samba recorded 32 degrees and 24.9 degrees, Ramban 28.5 degrees and 21 degrees, and Poonch 33.4 degrees and 20.6 degrees.

In Kashmir, AWS data showed Srinagar at 32.4 degrees Celsius maximum and 20.2 degrees minimum, Awantipora at 32.4 and 19.6 degrees, Budgam at 31 degrees and 20.1 degrees, Baramulla at 30 degrees and 18.7 degrees, Bandipora at 32.4 degrees and 20.1 degrees, Pulwama at 32.7 degrees and 19.1 degrees, Shopian at 31.8 degrees and 17.5 degrees, Kulgam at 29.6 degrees and 18.3 degrees, Ganderbal at 30.5 degrees and 18.8 degrees, and Sonamarg at 25.1 degrees and 14.9 degrees.

The weather department forecast that on September 2, generally cloudy weather would prevail, with one or two spells of light to moderate rain or thundershowers at many places. Brief intense to heavy showers are likely in the Jammu division towards the early morning and late afternoon/evening hours.

On September 3, the weather is expected to remain generally dry, with brief showers at a few places.

On September 4, light to moderate rain and thundershowers are likely at many places, accompanied by brief intense showers.

From September 5 to 12, generally dry weather is expected, although brief spells of rain or thundershowers may occur at isolated to scattered places, particularly during the early morning and afternoon hours.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has cautioned that brief intense showers at localised places during September 1 and 2 could trigger flash floods, mudslides and landslides.

It advised people to remain cautious in vulnerable areas, while farmers have been advised that they may continue harvesting and other agricultural operations.

The weather bulletin said the maximum rainfall during the past 24 hours was recorded at Katra at 62 mm among the regular meteorological stations, while the AWS network recorded 73 mm at Kathua—(KNO)

CM Revamps Cancer

inpatient operations and therapies are broadly covered under the Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY SEHAT ecosystem, patients historically suffered massive out-of-pocket expenses for outpatient care, routine diagnostics, and daily medication.

Addressing this gap head-on, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's modified guidelines raise the annual family income eligibility limit from 2.40 lakh per annum (20,000 per month) to 4.00 lakh per annum, extending a strong safety net to other low-income families.

Furthermore, recognising that cancer recovery demands sustained assistance, the administration has replaced the old one-time grant with up to three distinct financial sanctions.

The revised scheme showcases a modern transformation when evaluated against the original 2010 guidelines. The Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's updated initiative institutes clear assistance slabs of 75,000 for families earning up to 3 lakh annually and 50,000 for those earning between 3 lakh and 4 lakh.

Further, beneficiaries are no longer confined to a short list; they can now access care at any hospital empanelled under the Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY-SEHAT network.

The modified scheme modifies traditional approach of assistance sent to hospital accounts. Instead, direct bank transfers via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to the patient

shall be made. Further, once sanction is received from the Chief Minister's office, Deputy Commissioners are required to deposit sanctioned funds directly into beneficiary bank accounts within 72 hours of release from the Chief Minister's Secretariat.

This modified scheme is the government's decisive move to address financial vulnerability of patients suffering from life threatening disease and to provide governmental support to the families in need.

Air Marshal Sandeep

Medicine from Delhi and DM in Gastroenterology from AIIMS, New Delhi.

During an illustrious career spanning nearly four decades, the Air Marshal has held a wide spectrum of clinical, academic, operational and administrative appointments. His important command and administrative assignments include Commandant, 167 Military Hospital, Brigadier In-Charge Administration and Commander Troops, Base Hospital Delhi Cantt and Commandant Command Hospital (Central Command). His tenure at Base Hospital Delhi Cantt during the COVID-19 pandemic was marked by the management of complex and rapidly evolving healthcare and administrative challenges. During his command of Command Hospital, Lucknow the Detailed Project Report for a new Command Hospital was prepared in record time.

As Director and Commandant at AFMC Pune, he spearheaded several initiatives aimed at strengthening medical education and research. As DGMS (Air) he gave thrust to Gaganyaan Mission and was the leading force behind Analog experiments to Astronaut Selection & Training. BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita & Maitri) cubes were gifted to the Maldives by the Prime Minister and as part of HADR to Jamaica, Cuba, Sri Lanka & Myanmar under his stewardship.

Prior to taking over as DG AFMS, Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja laid a wreath at the National War Memorial, New Delhi paid homage to the fallen heroes.

J&K Tops Self

Kashmir emerged as the top-performing State/UT among all States and Union Territories covered under the September 2026 schedule, recording the highest number of Self-Enumeration submissions.

The exercise provided residents an opportunity to participate directly in the digital Census process. During this phase, Jammu & Kashmir recorded 9,672 Self-Enumeration submissions. The response was particularly encouraging in several districts, with Pulwama recording 3,204, Kishtwar 2,231, Doda 1,169, Ramban 629, Poonch 569 and Kulgam 554 submissions. In Ladakh, 527 households completed Self-Enumeration, including 301 in Kargil and 226 in Leh. Thus, a combined 10,199 households across the two Union Territories participated through Self-Enumeration ahead of the field phase.

Amit Sharma appreciated the strong public response, stating that it demonstrates growing acceptance of the digital Census process and provides a strong foundation for the successful conduct of Population Enumeration. He urged all the residents to extend similar cooperation to Enumerators and Supervisors and ensure that their households and eligible family members are accurately covered.

Prem Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner and Darshan Kumar, District Statistics and Evaluation Officer from the Deputy Commissioner Office, Udhampur, besides Manmeet Singh Loomba, Deputy Chief Principal Census Officer, Balbir Singh and Nimrat Kour, Assistant Chief Principal Census Officers, and Ajit Raj, District Coordinator for Udhampur District from the Directorate of Census Operations, accompanied the CPCO.

Population Enumeration in the snow-bound areas of Jammu & Kashmir covers 16 districts and 95 Charges, with an estimated 4,146 Enumeration Blocks being formed. These included Poonch, Kathua, Doda, Ramban, Kishtwar, Udhampur, Reasi, Kupwara, Budgam, Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Pulwama, Shopian, Anantnag and Kulgam. In Ladakh, the entire Union Territory is being enumerated during September through an estimated 637 Enumeration Blocks, making it the first Union Territory to be completely enumerated during Phase-II of Census 2027.

A significant component of the September exercise will be the enumeration of the houseless population, which will also be covered during this phase. The Directorate has made necessary arrangements to ensure that such population groups are appropriately identified and included. The exercise will also include enumeration of Special Charges, including Defence and Central Armed Police Forces establishments and other restricted-access locations, in coordination with the concerned authorities.

Following completion of field enumeration, a Revision Round will be conducted from October 1 to 5, 2026 to review coverage and incorporate eligible changes arising within the prescribed period. This will provide an additional layer of field verification and help ensure that Population Enumeration is as complete and accurate as possible.

The second phase was preceded by a structured training cascade covering Master Trainers, Field Trainers and subsequently Enumerators and Supervisors, with emphasis on Census concepts, definitions, field procedures and digital tools. The Nodal Officers and District Coordinators have also been deployed to coordinate field preparations, Enumeration Block demarcation, distribution of Census kits and availability of manuals and other operational material.

J&K Approves

additional institutional, municipal and private capital for large-scale development.

With an estimated cost of 1,567.91 crore, TARANG envisages comprehensive regeneration of the Tawi riverfront and surrounding urban areas through a combination of public infrastructure and PPP-led commercial development. The project has a funding structure comprising 307.05 crore each from the Government of India and UT Government, while 953.81 crore is proposed to be mobilised through market and PPP financing.

The PPP component will facilitate development of a high-end residential group housing project, an upscale hotel, a modern retail mall and associated Left Bank road infrastructure. The Central Island will also be activated through development of a luxury resort asset.

The project further provides for extensive structural and river-protection works, including a diaphragm wall, embankment filling, retaining wall with anchor slabs and interceptor drainage infrastructure.

The Walled City & Nigeen Lakefront Revitalization project, with an estimated cost of 1,010.77 crore, seeks to rejuvenate Srinagar's historic urban core and unlock the economic potential of its lakefront areas in the interiors of the historical city.

Around 300.77 crore will be deployed towards core public infrastructure and revitalisation of the historic city, while the PPP component will support development of a Hospitality Centre, Pokribal Lakefront and a premium five-star boutique hotel.

The Katra Revitalisation Through Integrated Pilgrimage Amenities (KRIPA) project in Reasi, estimated at 113.90 crore, will focus on improving pilgrim amenities, mobility management and institutional infrastructure in Katra.

A major component is the Katra Gateway Centre, envisaged as a 5+2 floor mixed-use facility over a 10.17-kanal site, with approximately 1.39 lakh sq ft of built-up area. It will include pilgrim dormitories with 480 beds across 36 dormitories, 35 guest rooms, retail outlets, a community dining hall and dedicated prayer spaces.

To address parking and traffic congestion, the project also provides for a Multi-Level Car Parking facility with capacity for 365 Equivalent Car Spaces, EV charging infrastructure and dedicated bus bays near the Yatra Parchi Counter.

The project additionally provides 15.25 crore for institutional remodelling, including modern commercial office spaces, retail kiosks and upgraded administrative facilities for the Municipal Committee, Katra.

The three projects reflect the UCF's emphasis on developing bankable, investment-ready urban projects by combining government support with market-based financing. The approach is aimed not only at creating modern urban infrastructure but also at ensuring that such assets generate sustainable economic activity and long-term revenue streams.

The Committee has also laid emphasis on ensuring timely, quality and financially sustainable execution of the approved projects. The initiatives are expected to significantly enhance urban infrastructure, mobility, tourism and economic activity while creating new public spaces and investment opportunities across Jammu, Srinagar and Katra.

NC, BJP Set For

meeting in Srinagar, where its leadership accused the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led government of failing to fulfil poll promises and raised issues including the increase in electricity tariffs, alleged corruption, unemployment, outsourcing of government jobs and delay in Panchayat and urban local body elections.

The party has said these issues will form the focus of its protest, with LoP Sunil Sharma accusing the government of "misgovernance and corruption" and alleging that outsourcing of recruitment was affecting employment opportunities for youth. The BJP has also questioned the delay in grassroots elections.

Responding to the BJP programme, the NC earlier in the day announced a peaceful counter-protest at BJP headquarters in Srinagar and Jammu.

The NC said that in Srinagar, its workers have been asked to assemble at Gindun Park, near Police Station Rajbagh, in the morning before proceeding as part of the party's protest programme. The party said its protest would seek accountability from the Union Government over commitments made in Parliament and before the Supreme Court of India.

The ruling party has also listed restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, constitutional guarantees, clearance of the restoration file and justice for the people of J&K among its key demands.

The NC also said the electoral mandate given by the people of Jammu and Kashmir "is not a blank cheque" and must be respected.

Meanwhile, the BJP's protest comes ahead of the upcoming Assembly session and is expected to bring several governance and public-interest issues into sharper political focus. The party has already said its legislators will raise issues concerning development, employment, local democracy, electricity tariffs and governance in the House—(KNO)

J&K Assembly To

NeVA Portal in accordance with the prescribed procedure and timelines," it reads.

The government departments have been directed to upload complete and authenticated documents corresponding to approved versions of proposals, designate Nodal Officers/NeVA Coordinators where not already appointed, and make necessary arrangements before commencement of the session to ensure a smooth transition to the electronic system.

The circular further advises that any technical issues with the portal be taken up with the Assembly Secretariat or the designated technical support team to avoid delays in legislative business—(KNO)

Infra expansion, tourism, climate change threaten Ladakh’s fragile ecosystems: Report

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: Ladakh's fragile ecosystems and rich avian diversity are facing increasing pressure from infrastructure expansion, rising tourist activity, habitat alteration, climate change, exotic plantations, feral dogs and other forms of human interference, a scientific assessment submitted before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has highlighted.

The assessment, was prepared by the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) and Wildlife Institute of India, and submitted before the Principal Bench of the NGT in Original Application No. 1339/2024, following the Tribunal's directions seeking scientific information on the conservation of bird species and their habitats in Ladakh amid growing concerns over tourism and other activities.

According to the assessment, 464 bird species have been documented in Ladakh, of which 197 are recorded as breeding species. Of these, 87 are resident species that breed in Ladakh and remain in the region throughout the year.

The report underscores Ladakh's importance for avian conservation, noting that the region falls within the Trans-Himalayan Biogeographic Zone, characterised by extreme climatic conditions, high altitudes and fragile ecosystems with limited natural resources.

Ladakh's avifauna comprises both resident and migratory species. Besides the 87 resident breeding species, the records include 110 winter visitors and passage migrants, 20 winter visitors/summer migrants, 64 passage migrants and 16 vagrant species. Around 50 species originating from Central Asia and the northern Tibetan Plateau have been recorded as visi-



tors to Ladakh, underlining the region's importance along migratory routes.

Several high-altitude species characteristic of Ladakh's unique ecological landscape have also been identified, including the Tibetan Snowcock, Tibetan Partridge, Black-necked Crane, Tibetan Sandgrouse, Himalayan Snowcock, White-browed Tit-Warbler, Brown Accentor and Tibetan Grey-backed Shrike, besides a variety of water-birds and waders.

A total of 65 bird species recorded in Ladakh have been identified as being of "High Conservation Concern", including the Yellow-breasted Bushchat, Egyptian Vulture, Steppe Eagle, Pallas's Fish-Eagle, Saker Falcon, Long-billed Bush Warbler, Common Crane, Black-necked Crane, Eurasian Curlew, Black-tailed Godwit and Ruddy Turnstone. The Black-necked Crane has been given particular importance in the assessment and is described as an iconic bird of Ladakh. The region is also recognised as an important breeding area for the species. The bird depends on specific high-altitude wetlands and grassland habitats, making it vulnerable to disturbance around its breeding grounds.

Development and infrastructure expansion have emerged as major concerns for Ladakh's birdlife. Accord-

ing to the assessment, poorly planned infrastructure projects can affect high-altitude wilderness areas by altering and fragmenting habitats.

The proposed geothermal plant at Puga Hot Spring has been cited as an example, with the report noting that the proposed project area provides important habitat for several bird species. Road construction and related infrastructure have also been highlighted as potential sources of disturbance, particularly when roads provide greater access to previously undisturbed areas.

The spread of exotic tree plantations has emerged as another concern. The report notes that Ladakh is naturally characterised by a largely barren mountain landscape. The introduction of species such as poplar and willow can consequently alter the ecological characteristics of these habitats, potentially influencing native biodiversity.

Feral dogs have been identified as another serious threat. The report notes that feral dog populations prey on small mammals as well as birds, with ground-nesting species like the Himalayan Snowcock, Chukar Partridge and Black-necked Crane being particularly vulnerable.

Tourism has emerged as one of the major concerns. The assessment states that tourist numbers increased

from around 2.5 lakh in 2017 to approximately 5.25 lakh in 2024. While recognising tourism as an important contributor to the local economy, the assessment cautions that the growing number of visitors is placing additional pressure on Ladakh's fragile ecosystems through habitat trampling, waste generation, vehicular movement and wildlife disturbance.

Climate change and global warming have also been identified as major long-term threats. The report highlights the vulnerability of the region's mountain ecosystems, glaciers and high-altitude habitats to changing climatic conditions. Changes in temperature and precipitation, along with variations in glacier and snow cover, wetland availability and seasonal patterns, can affect the habitats and food resources on which birds depend.

For migratory birds, even relatively small changes in the availability or seasonal timing of wetland resources could have significant consequences.

The assessment notes that Ladakh already has several major protected areas, including Hemis National Park, Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary and Karakoram (Nubra-Shyok) Wildlife Sanctuary. However, the report cautions that protected-area status alone may not be sufficient to address all conservation threats, particularly when pressures originate outside protected boundaries or when activities in surrounding areas affect ecological connectivity.

The assessment consequently underscores the need for continued habitat protection, species-level monitoring and careful regulation of developmental and tourism activities to safeguard Ladakh's distinctive avian diversity and fragile high-altitude ecosystems—(KNO)

KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL Tuesday informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV Wanpoh Ashajipora

Malaknag DC Line will be observed due to which power supply to Ashajipora, Dialgam, Rohu, Malaknag, ReshiBazar Brakpora and Janglat Mandi, Shira, Nowgam & adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 03 & 07 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Kulgam- DH Pora line will be observed due to which power supply to DH Pora, Ahmadabad, Aharibal, Bhatipora, Hospital, KB Pora, Nagam, Khull, Gopalpora, Rambhama, Nillow, Arreh, Begam, Sehpora & adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM

to 02 PM on 02 & 05 September 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Badampora Lar Tulmulla Line will be observed due to which power supply to Lar, Waliwar, Watlar, Repora, Tulmulla, Dangerpora, Watlar, Theeru, Larsun & adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 05 September 2026

Further, shutdown of 33 kV Badampora -Kurhama Dab Tap line will be observed due to which power supply to Dab, Batpora, Rabitar & adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 05 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Alasteng Nagbal Line will be observed due to which power supply to Shuhama, Bakura, Fethapora, Gadoora, Tulbag,

Chundina, Saloora, Sherpathri & adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 05 September 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Gadoora Tap Line will be observed due to which power supply to Fathapora, Gadoora, Tulbagh, Shairpathri, Kachan & adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 02 & 05 September 2026.

Also shutdown of 33 kV Lassipora-Reshipora Line will be observed due to which power supply to Zainapora, Chitragam, Awneera, Reban, Aglar, Suggan, Turkawangam, Nagbal & adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 06 September 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Lassipora-Landoora Line will be

observed due to which power supply to Landoora, Hermain, Hajipora, Hotline Hermain Hospital, Mantribugh, Chakoor, Wachi, Aglar, Frisal Mooman & adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 06 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Lassipora-Keegam Line will be observed due to which power supply to Pakherpora, Hawal, Rajpora, Rahmoo, Keegam, Gulshanabad, Akhal, Charipora & adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 06 September 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV GIS Theed-Shalimar line will be observed due to which power supply to Deewan Colony, Shalimar, Arabat, Tailbal & adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 03 September 2026.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT HAJIN

Subject: Engagement of candidates for the Posts of Sangnis (AWW).

This office has advertised Six posts of Sangnis (AWWs) vide advertisement Notice No 01 of 2026 Dated 20-06-2026 under endorsement No: CDDP/HJN/ADV/2026-27/375-91 Dated: 20-06-2026 and same was published through department of information vide DIP No. #DIPK-2426/26 in Newspapers JK Newpoint, Kashmir Despatch and Uqaab on 24-06-2026 and vide publicity was also given through PRIs and same was also uploaded on website of DC Bandipora and applications were received accordingly. After proper scrutiny of application forms by the District Level selection committee the final merit of candidates for each ward was made accordingly as per H.R policy for Sangnis (AWW) & Sahikayas (AWH) constituted by Government vide order No: 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 Dated: 30-11-2022 which is now being published for inviting of objections if any within 10 days from the date of publication, after expiry of cutoff date, no objection shall be entertained. The merit list of all candidates is mentioned at Annexure "A" and provisional/Tentative selection list as per Annexure "B" is shown below for each ward from were applications for engagement of Sangnis (AWW) were received.

ANNEXURE "A"

S. No	Name of Candidate	Parentage / Husbands Name	DOB	Name of location for which she has applied	Marks obtained as per 12 th Class Marks Sheet	Percentage of Marks
01	Masrata Banoo	D/o Abdul Rahim Sheikh	09-10-2003	SK Payeen A W.No. 7	363/500	72.60%
02	Nusrata Rasheed	D/o Abdul Rasheed Ganie	01-03-2007	SK Payeen A W.No. 7	344/500	68.80%

01	Rehana Rashid	D/o Abdul Rashid Dar	08-04-1998	SK Payeen E W.No. 1	353/500	70.60%
01	Shaista Manzoor	D/o Manzoor Ahmad Bahar	13-04-2005	Baharabad A - W. No. 5	334/500	66.80%
02	Bilqeesa Nabi	D/o Gh Nabi Dar W/o Aejaz Ahmad Bahar	10-01-1993	Baharabad A - W. No. 5	458/750	61.07%
03	Saima Bano	D/o Mohd Akber Wani W/o Nazir Ahmad Wani	05-10-1989	Baharabad A - W. No. 5	375/750	50.00%
04	Nusrat Bano	D/o Muhammad Sultan Koul	11-06-2000	Baharabad A - W. No. 5	237/500	47.40%
05	Nayeema Ahad	D/o Ab Ahad Mir W/o Shabir Ahmad Wagay	10-03-1989	Baharabad A - W. No. 5	336/750	44.80%
06	Shugufta Mohammad	D/o Ghulam Mohammad Wagay	01-02-1991	Baharabad A - W. No. 5	307/750	40.93%

01	Sonabar Fayaz	D/o Fayaz Ahmad Lone	21-01-2002	Parray Mohalla A W.No. 11	419/500	83.80%
02	Rafiya Zahoar	D/o Zahoar Ahmad Parray W/o Suhail Ahmad Parray	25-01-1994	Parray Mohalla A W.No. 11	540/750	72.00%
03	Mariya Majeed	D/o Abdul Majeed Beigh	03-01-2006	Parray Mohalla A W.No. 11	358/500	71.60%
04	Jasmeena Javeed	D/o Javeed Ahmad Parray	02-08-2005	Parray Mohalla A W.No. 11	357/500	71.40%
05	Masarat Jabeen	D/o Ghulam Mohammad Rather W/o Firdous Ahmad Paray	15-05-1996	Parray Mohalla A W.No. 11	348/500	69.60%
06	Neelofar Akhter	D/o Ghulam Mohammad Rather	04-03-2004	Parray Mohalla A W.No. 11	333/500	66.60%
07	Marifat Jan	D/o Mohammad Ramzan Rather	02-03-2004	Parray Mohalla A W.No. 11	327/500	65.40%
08	Shaista Majeed	D/o Abdul Majeed parray w/o Javeed Ahmad Parray	11-03-1997	Parray Mohalla A W.No. 11	313/500	62.60%
09	Neelofar Aziz	D/o Abdul Aziz Parray W/o Murtaza Saleem Parray	09-10-1993	Parray Mohalla A W.No. 11	285/500	57.00%
10	Yasmeena Bano	D/o Abdul Rehman Parray	08-01-2002	Parray Mohalla A W.No. 11	273/500	54.60%
11	Rukaya Ramzan	D/o Mohammad Ramzan Wagay W/o Showkat Ahmad Parray	17-12-1992	Parray Mohalla A W.No. 11	386/750	51.47%
12	Massarat	D/o Ghulam Mohammad Parray W/o Shoukat Ahmad Parrey	07-10-1997	Parray Mohalla A W.No. 11	227/500	45.40%

01	Mehrukh Sultan	D/o Mohammad Sultan Parray	07-07-2006	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	458/500	91.60%
02	Khushboo	D/o Fayaz Ahmad Parray	12-08-2005	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	439/500	87.80%
03	Shayista Jaan	D/o Ghulam Nabi Parray	15-04-2005	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	396/500	79.20%
04	Shanu Razaq	D/o Abdul Razaq Parray	06-07-2004	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	373/500	74.60%
05	Masrat Razaq	D/o Abdul Razaq Parray	28-07-2007	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	340/500	68.00%
06	Aamina Jan	D/o Zahoar Ahmad Rather	22-06-2002	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	334/500	66.80%
07	Nazrana Akhter	D/o Ghulam Mohammad Rather	29-08-2003	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	303/500	60.60%
08	Shazia Bashir	D/o Bashir Ahmad Parray	12-03-2001	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	264/500	52.80%
09	Sameera Bano	D/o Abdul Majeed Paray	04-03-2002	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	249/500	49.80%
10	Saima Jan	D/o Ghulam Nabi Parray	30-04-1997	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	248/500	49.60%
11	Suriya Rashid	D/o Abdul Rashid Parray	03-07-2001	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	244/500	48.80%
12	Aasifa Zameer	D/o Zameer Ahmad Rather	15-03-1997	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	241/500	48.20%
13	Sabreena Bano	D/o Ghulam Nabi Parray	10-03-1996	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	240/500	48.00%
14	Asifa Jabeen	D/o Gh Ahmad Bhat W/o Zahoar Ahmad Paray	02-05-1989	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	346/750	46.13%
15	Sadakat Rashid	D/o Ab Rashid Shah W/o Qazi Bashir Ahmad	01-03-1990	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	323/750	43.07%
16	Muzamil Hassan	D/o Ghulam Hassan Shah W/o Gayas Ud Din Qazi	01-03-1994	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	204/500	40.80%

01	Sumiya Rehman	D/o Abdul Rehman Bhat	12-03-2002	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 4	444/500	88.80%
02	Bilqees Manzoor	D/o Manzoor Ahmad Rather	28-06-2004	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 4	407/500	81.40%
03	Sumiya Bano	D/o Ghulam Mohi Din Bhat	05-03-2004	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 4	398/500	79.60%
04	Satina Bano	D/o Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Bhat	10-03-2005	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 4	360/500	72.00%
05	Sumeena Farooq	D/o Farooq Ahmad Wagay	10-10-2002	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 4	346/500	69.20%
06	Mehak MohiUdDin	D/o Gh Mohi Ud Din Ganaie	09-03-1999	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 4	340/500	68.00%
07	Shabroza Ali	D/o Ali Mohammed Dar	02-03-1996	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 4	334/500	66.80%
08	Nasreena Bano	D/o Khazir Mohd Dar W/o Abdul Rashid Sheikh	06-05-1992	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 4	495/750	66.00%
09	Bilqes Bano	D/o Abdul Rashid Sheikh	12-03-2002	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 4	303/500	60.60%
10	Subeena Nissar	D/o Nissar Ahmad Sheikh	03-08-2003	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 4	303/500	60.60%
11	Sumeera Abdullah	D/o Muhammad Abdullah Sheikh	08-02-2000	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 4	276/500	55.20%
12	Nusrat Nazir	D/o Nazir Ahmad Ganai W/o Sajad Ahmad Bhat	02-03-1991	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 4	375/750	50.00%
13	Parmeena Ashraf	D/o Mohammad Ashraf Bhat	15-08-2001	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 4	229/500	45.80%
14	Shahida Nazir	D/o Nazir Ahmad Mir W/o Ishfaq Ahmad Bhat	03-01-1994	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 4	311/750	41.47%

ANNEXURE "B"

S. No	Name of Candidate	Parentage/ Husband's Name	DOB	Location for which selected provisionally	Marks obtained as per 12 th Class Marks Sheet	Percentage of Marks	Remarks
01	Masrata Banoo	D/o Abdul Rahim Sheikh	09-10-2003	SK Payeen A W.No. 7	363/500	72.60%	
02	Rehana Rashid	D/o Abdul Rashid Dar	08-04-1998	SK Payeen E W.No. 1	353/500	70.60%	
03	Shaista Manzoor	D/o Manzoor Ahmad Bahar	13-04-2005	Baharabad A - W. No. 5	334/500	66.80%	
04	Sonabar Fayaz	D/o Fayaz Ahmad Lone	21-01-2002	Parray Mohalla A W.No. 11	419/500	83.80%	
05	Mehrukh Sultan	D/o Mohammad Sultan Parray	07-07-2006	Kochak Mohalla A W.No. 10	458/500	91.60%	
06	Sumiya Rehman	D/o Abdul Rehman Bhat	12-03-2002	Sheikh Mohalla Khumina W.No. 4	444/500	88.80%	

No: CDDP/HJN/Rec/2026-27/
Dated:

DIPK-5181-26
DT: 01/09/2026

Child Development Project Officer,
Poshan Project Hajin Bandipora.
(Member Secretary DLSC)

NIA court rejects bail to school teacher arrested for backing Hizbul terrorists in J-K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: A Special NIA Court in Jammu has rejected the bail application of a private school teacher who was arrested more than five years ago for allegedly providing shelter, food and logistical support to Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists in the Doda-Kishtwar region.

The court, presided over by Special Judge Prem Sagar, dismissed the bail plea of Tanveer Ahmad Malik, observing that the material on record prima facie indicated his alleged involvement in unlawful and terror-related activities.

The court also expressed concern that his release could affect the ongoing trial, as it could create a possibility of him influencing witnesses.

Malik, a resident of Tantan village in Doda district, was arrested on March 1, 2021, in connection with a terror case. He was among the seven accused, including three slain terrorists – Osama Bin Javed, Haroon Abbass Wani and Zahid Hussain – chargesheeted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in the case on May 22, 2021.

The case was initially registered at Kishtwar police station under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the Arms Act, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, and Indian Penal Code. The FIR followed the terrorists led by Haroon Ahmad Wani snatching the service weapon of head constable Daleep Singh, who was posted as escort in-charge of the then Kishtwar deputy commissioner, along with three magazines and 90 rounds from his rented accommodation on March 8, 2019.

The NIA subsequently took over the case.

The defence sought bail for Malik citing prolonged incarceration, arguing that he had spent more than five years in jail.



However, the NIA argued that the accusations against Malik were serious, that prima facie material existed against the accused's role in the case, and that his release could prejudice the remaining trial.

The prosecution alleged that Malik had worked as an over-ground worker for proscribed terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen and had provided food, shelter and other logistical support to terrorists Haroon Abbas Wani and Tahir Ahmad Bhat from June 2019 to January 2020, until Wani was killed by security forces on January 15, 2020.

The NIA informed the court that Malik had been motivated to work for the cause of "jihad" and had provided the terrorists shelter at his house as well as in an underground cave near his residence.

The prosecution said there remained a possibility that, if released, he could again be used by terrorist handlers to provide clandestine support.

"The accused is a highly motivated terror associate who had repeatedly put up hectic efforts to support terror-related activities... He was about to join the Hizbul Mujahideen as an active terrorist, but fortunately he was arrested by police at the right time," it said.

After considering the submissions of both sides, the Special Judge concluded that the nature and gravity of the allegations, the material available on record, the progress of the trial and the possibility of the accused influencing witnesses weighed against his release.

DC Anantnag chairs Multi-deptt District-Level Task Force meeting on Mining

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: In order to review issues related to mining and the implementation of S.O. 61 of 2026, aimed at strengthening the enforcement mechanism against illegal mining activities in the district, besides ensuring the availability of construction material for government works, a meeting of the Multidepartmental District-Level Task Force was held under chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Tuesday.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stressed upon the officers of the Irrigation, Flood Control, Geology & Mining, Revenue and other concerned departments to adopt a strict and coordinated approach to curb illegal mining activities in the district. He emphasized ensuring adequate availability of legally sourced construction material for ongoing works being executed by various government departments.

Dr. Bilal directed the Police, Revenue, Mining, Flood Control, Irrigation and other concerned departments to work in close coordination to effectively curb illegal mining and ensure a hassle-free supply of legally extracted

material to macadam plants, crusher plants, contractors and other authorized users, after payment of the applicable consideration fee and other due charges under rules.

He further instructed them to effectively implement the prescribed mining regulations and strengthen field-level monitoring while ensuring prompt action against violations.

The DC further directed the concerned officers to maintain strict monitoring of mining activities and ensure that extraction is carried out from designated and approved sites while safeguarding the environment, irrigation infrastructure and nearby habitations.

During the meeting, the XEN Flood Control and District Mining Officer (DMO) informed the chair that 27 dry blocks, with an estimated quantity of 12 lakh cubic metres, have been identified for extraction of RBM, nallah muck and wet-mix raw material for government works.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Dr. Muzamil Maqbool, ACR, SDMs, SE Hydraulics, DFO, Chief Wildlife Warden, XENs of R&B and Irrigation & Flood Control, DMO, Dy. SP Headquarters and other concerned officers.

CORRECTION

This is to inform the general public that I, Nisar Ahmad Sheikh have changed the name of my son from Mohmmad Ayaan, residing at Haft Chinar Srinagar, born on 10-05-2017, to Mohammad Musa. Anyone having any objection to this change may address the same within 7 days from the date of the publication of this notice.

Nisar Ahmad Sheikh
(Father)

Sports build character, confidence, stronger communities: Javid Dar

Felicitates winners of 2nd Behrampora Football Cup

GMK NEWS NETWORK
BARAMULLA: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Tuesday attended the final match of the second edition of Behrampora Football Cup 2026 as the chief guest at Behrampora Sports Field.

The final witnessed an exciting contest between the Kupwara Football team and Behrampora Football team, with Kupwara emerging victorious after a keenly fought encounter to lift the championship trophy.

Congratulating the winning team, the Minister extended his best wishes to the runner-up Behrampora team, appreciating both sides for their competitive spirit, discipline and sportsmanship. He lauded all the participating teams and organisers for making the tournament a successful platform for promoting football and encouraging greater youth participation in sports.



Javid Dar said that sports not merely a means of recreation but a powerful instrument for building character, discipline, confidence and leadership among the younger generation. He said that sporting activities provide youth with a constructive avenue to channelise their energy, nurture their talent and aspire for excellence.

The Minister observed that grassroots sporting events have the potential to unite communities, foster a spirit of camaraderie and

inspire young people to pursue their dreams with dedication and perseverance. He emphasised the need for sustained efforts to create a vibrant sporting culture across rural and semi-urban areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the government's commitment towards strengthening sports infrastructure at the grassroots level, the Minister announced provision and upgradation of basic sports infrastructure at Behrampora Sports Field.

He announced that macadamisation work at the ground will also be undertaken wherever required, so as to improve the facilities and provide a better playing environment for local youth and sports enthusiasts.

Javid Dar said that developing quality sports facilities closer to communities is essential for identifying and nurturing sporting talent at the grassroots. He maintained that the government will continue to support initiatives that provide young people with better opportunities, facilities and platforms to excel in sports.

The Minister also interacted with the players, organisers and local residents and appreciated the efforts of the organising committee in successfully conducting the tournament.

A large gathering comprising public representatives, senior citizens, youth, sports enthusiasts and people from adjoining areas attended the event.

Duleep Trophy: Nishant Sindhu, Kamboj hold fort for struggling North Zone after South bowlers star

BIANS
BENGALURU: All-rounders Nishant Sindhu and Anshul Kamboj arrested the slide for North Zone as South Zone bowlers threatened to run away with the game on the third day of the second semifinal of the Duleep Trophy at the BCCI Centre of Excellence Ground 2 in Bengaluru.

North Zone were going strong with opener Sanat Sangwan (76) and Ayush Doesja (52) having put up a 104-run stand for the second wicket, and Ayush Badoni (32) also scoring a crucial 31. But South bowlers Shreyas Gopal and MD Nidheesh triggered a collapse as North were jolted severely from 175/2 to 209/7.

Medium-pacer Vidhwath Kaverappa initiated things when he nicked behind Badoni, before Shreyas and Nidheesh ripped the North Zone's middle-order apart. The two traded the next four wickets with two scalps



each. Leg-spinner Shreyas trapped Abdul Samad in front before medium-pacer Nidheesh ended Sanat's strong stay in the middle to leave North reeling at 192/5. The troubles compounded when Nidheesh dismissed captain Kanhaiya Wadhawa, and Shreyas got Abid Mushtaq.

At 209/7, North had a lead of only 92 and were in trouble. But spin all-round-

er Nishant and fast-bowling all-rounder Kamnooj stood to see off the threat and arrest the slide.

The two put up an unbeaten 47 for the eighth wicket and have given hope to North to take their lead close to 200 in a bid for a win on the fourth and final day of the second semifinal.

The third day started when South Zone resumed their charge with the bat

from 285/9. Unbeaten centurion and skipper Tilak Varma and Kavuri Saiteja resumed the charge and added crucial 27 runs on the third day before Abid Mushtaq cleaned Saiteja for 13. Tilak went back unbeaten on 116 as South made 312, with Grunoor Brar of North taking 4-88, while Arshdeep Singh and Kamboj scalped two wickets each.

Earlier, South had bowled North out for 195, with pacer Vidhwath Kaverappa starring with a four-wicket haul. Nidheesh and Tanay Thyagarajan also took two each, while Saiteja and Gopal took a wicket apiece.

Brief scores: North Zone 195 & 256/7 in 66 overs (Sanat Sangwan 76, Ayush Doseja 52; MD Nidheesh 2-47, Kavuri Saiteja 2-34) lead South Zone 312 all out in 100.3 overs (Tilak Varma 116, Shreyas Gopal 88; Grunoor Brar 4-88) by 139 runs

US Open: Rain delays start of play on outside courts

BIANS

NEW YORK: Rain disrupted the start of Tuesday's play at the US Open, where the scheduled first-round matches on the outside courts will not begin before 2:45 p.m. local time (12.15 IST Wednesday).

Matches were continuing on the show courts—Louis Armstrong Stadium and Arthur Ashe Stadium—under the roofs.

The inclement New York weather has not stopped fifth seed Flavio Cobolli from beginning his title bid at the hard-court major; however, the Italian is contesting his opener against

Francisco Comesana under the roof at Louis Armstrong Stadium. French star Gael Monfils will later begin the final Grand Slam campaign of his career against Adolfo Daniel Vallejo.

The Tuesday schedule on Arthur Ashe Stadium, which also has a retractable roof, features 2024 finalist Taylor Fritz. The home favourite faces his fellow American, #NextGen-ATP Darwin Blanch, in the second match on. In the night session, top seed Alexander Zverev takes on Lorenzo Sonego.

Alex de Minaur against Andrea Guerrieri, Lorenzo Musetti against Arthur Fery, and Rafael Jodar against

Thanasi Kokkinakis are among the matches scheduled for outside courts on Tuesday once the rain clears at Flushing Meadows.

Meanwhile, Madison Keys survived a tough encounter before getting the better of Alina Korneeva in their first-round clash in the women's singles event.

Teen sensation Korneeva had recently defeated Keys' compatriots Emma Navarro and Iva Jovic at the WTA 1000 Toronto and posed some tough questions in the opening set. However, the 2017 runner-up found the telling shots in the crunch moments for a 7-5, 6-4 victory.

BIANS

NEW DELHI: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Tuesday announced India's squad for the upcoming three-match T20I series against Afghanistan to be played at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi from September 13.

Fast bowlers Jasprit Bumrah and Harshit Rana and all-rounders Washington Sundar and Nitish Kumar Reddy have been picked, but the participation of all four players is subject to fitness clearance, the BCCI confirmed.

Shreyas Iyer will keep



leading the Men in Blue, while Tilak Varma remains his deputy. The squad features regulars Abhishek Sharma, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Shivam Dube, Arshdeep Singh and Varun Chakravarthy, while there have been some changes

to the team that played in Zimbabwe in July.

Sanju Samson returned to the side after not being picked for the Zimbabwe T20Is, while the bowling department has seen changes with regular speedsters returning. Arshdeep is joined by Bumrah and Harshit, as the likes of Prince Yadav, Yash Thakur, Ashok Sharma, and Mayank Yadav, all of whom were on the touring party for Zimbabwe, miss out. Contrary to reports, there is no place for Hardik Pandya.

The biggest development is the return of Bumrah, who had suffered an impact injury during the England

ODIs in July and has been out of action since then. He also missed the recent Test series against Sri Lanka, which India won 1-0. Sundar was another key three-format player who was out of Sri Lanka's Tests due to a hamstring injury he sustained in the ODIs against the Three Lions.

Harshit Rana is also back in the squad after being ruled out of the England ODIs due to a hamstring strain sustained in the preceding T20Is. This came shortly after he made a return to the international fold following his recovery from a knee injury that made him miss the T20 World Cup 2026.

Asian Games 2026: Indian athletes undergoing 'smart track' training at SAI Bengaluru



BIANS
BENGALURU: With the season's biggest competition ahead, Indian athletes have hit the top gear in their preparations for the Asian Games 2026, with the middle- and long-distance runners using smart track technology ahead of the Aichi-Nagoya Games at the national coaching camp in Bengaluru.

The Sports Authority of India's National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) in Bengaluru has become an important preparation base for India's middle and long-distance runners, prepping for the Asian Games 2026.

A national coaching camp is currently underway at the SAI centre, scheduled until September 8. The camp, sanctioned by the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), features 800m runner Krishan Kumar, steeplechase star Avinash Sable, high jumpers Aadarsh Ram and Supriya B, decathlete Thowfeeq N, middle and long-distance runner Parul Chaudhary, and race walkers Manju Rani and Priyanka.

All eight are part of the approved 73-member (35 men, 38 women) Indian athletics contingent for the Asian Games, with the competition scheduled to be held in Aichi-Nagoya from September 19 to October 4.

Beyond the conventional camp infrastructure, the athletes in Bengaluru have another advantage—a specialised smart track, which allows coaches to capture real-time performance data during training.

"This is one of a kind in India," said Suresh Kumar, Coach (Athletics) at SAI NCOE Bengaluru, explaining the technology embedded into the track. "So what happens is when the athlete runs, we get the real-time speed data. We get the split timings wherever the gates are placed, then the total timing we get, as well as the stride length and the stride frequency. All this data is captured in real time. This helps a lot for the athletes in the training," Kumar was quoted as saying by SAI Media.

The track was used extensively for training by Commonwealth Games 2026 para-athletics medalists - Dilip Mahadu Gavit and Mohammed Basil—ahead of the Glasgow Games. The duo finished in the top two positions in the men's 100m T47 category to win gold and silver medals respectively in CWG 2026.

For athletes, the ability to replicate electronic timing during training is another advantage, Kumar explained. The technology also helps athletes get a more accurate understand-

ing of their performances. "The athletes are very happy because they get to understand and find out the real data based on the electronic timing, not just during training but in any competitions that take place here," Kumar said.

The smart track was installed in 2024 and has since been used by elite athletes training at the centre. Its timing gates are positioned both on the straight and around the curve, allowing coaches to analyse different phases of a run. An accompanying app also enables the data to be accessed immediately for subsequent analysis.

The technology has been designed to work alongside existing athletics infrastructure rather than requiring a completely new track. According to Kumar, the system can be installed on any existing synthetic track by embedding the magnetic gates beneath the surface, with installation possible within a day.

The SAI Bengaluru centre is therefore combining high-level coaching, sports science and technology in the pre-Asian Games camp, which includes specialised coaches such as race-walking coach Ronald Gerd Weigel, jumps coach Sahana Kumari Nagaraj Gobbargumpi, besides coach Kalyan Chaudhary and masseuse Meena Sagar Ugale.

The system also gives coaches information that is difficult to capture manually during a sprint. "You even get the split timing because, for a sprint coach, if I'm at the finish line or like 40m or 50m away from when the athlete is starting, we will be able to get the electronic split time," Kumar explained to SAI Media.

The track's embedded

WEDNESDAY

02

SEPTEMBER

2026

IN X

LIVE the MOVIE

SRINAGAR

AWARAPAN 2

(HINDI) (U/A 16+)

11:05 AM

02:00 PM

07:45 PM

TOXIC:

A FAIRY TALE FOR GROWN-UPS

(A)

HINDI

01:55 PM

05:40 PM

HINDI ATMOS

11:00 AM

03:00 PM

07:00 PM

SPIDER-MAN:

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(ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (U/A 13+)

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