

JammuBeat

THE PULSE OF THE CITY

THE AUGUST COVER STORY

A Palace, Paused

A locked treasury, two decades of restoration plans and one public question: when does Jammu's most important palace become a place the city can truly use?

- **Independence, unfinished** — what 15 August 1947 actually changed here
- **Dogri, after us** — can a language survive celebration without use?
- **Food with a future** — Kaladi, rehri carts and the business of taste
- **September starts here** — films, fencing, jobs and application dates



Contents —

EDITOR'S NOTE

August made Jammu look both backward and forward. We went back to 1947, to a palace whose restoration keeps slipping, and to the language spoken across generations. We also watched a food street become infrastructure, a satellite-data door open for students, and September fill up with films, fencing, applications and new ways to make work. This is a month to read slowly — then use.

The Desk

JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL

3 September Diary — the dates worth blocking out

4 Rewind — six more things that mattered

● NEWS

6 The Day Jammu Waited — what 15 August 1947 actually changed here

8 A Palace, Paused — why Mubarak Mandi still needs time

10 Seven Years Later — what changed after Article 370

11 The Bill Goes Up — the electricity tariff now in force

12 Safety Has a Date — the coaching-centre compliance hearing

12 Counting Starts Elsewhere — why Jammu City waits until 2027

● CULTURE

14 Dogri, After Us — the language gap inside Jammu homes

16 A Sabre from Jammu — Shreya Gupta's Commonwealth gold

17 Nine for Ninety-Nine — Abid Mushtaq's Duleep Trophy spell

17 From MA to the Asian Games — two Jammu fencers make history

● FOOD & DRINK

19 Food Street, Built Properly — the 120-cart rehri-zone rebuild

20 Kaladi Gets Time — the 21-day shelf-life breakthrough

21 The City Drinks Cold — inside Jammu's summer café boom

21 Rain, Chai and Fried Things — a Jammu monsoon food map

● TRAVEL & WEEKENDS

23 A Dump, Reimagined — inside the new Tawi Wonderland

24 The Old City, Walkable — 5.5 km through the old city

25 The Fish Are Coming — the Oceanarium's route to opening

25 A Third Train North — a new Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat

● EDUCATION

27 Eighteen Acres Return — the land transfer that expands JU

28 After Class Ten — 714 high schools on a K-12 path

29 The Sky Sends Data — what NISAR gives Jammu students

29 518 Posts, One Window — the JKSSB September application window

● JOBS & CAREER

31 Which Door Is Yours? — Mission YUVA in plain English

32 Science, Scaled Here — the industrial biotech park at Ghatti

33 A Seed Fund, Explained — up to ₹20 lakh for a startup

34 A Label for Jammu — ten crafts awaiting GI recognition

34 AI Has a Local Address — IIT Jammu's AI centre of excellence

35 The Board — live jobs and deadlines

What's *next*

September is unusually full: live music, films, student technology, national sport and a first half marathon. Check the live listing before travelling; schedules and venues can change.

5
SEPT

Afsana Khan Live in Jammu

Radisson Blu, Jammu · From 7,999

Popular Punjabi singer Afsana Khan performs live in Jammu — an evening of her chart-topping hits and fan favourites.

6
SEPT

Build with AI: ABC (Any Body Can Code)

Central University of Jammu · Price not published; RSVP required

A pre-DevFest Jammu workshop on building a Bargaining Shopkeeper agent with Gemini 3, followed by lunch, a DevFest introduction and netwo...

7
SEPT

IFFJK 2026 — International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (Jammu Leg)

Movie Time Cinemas, KC Central

Session timings to be announced. J&K's first international film festival runs 7-10 September 2026 across Srinagar, Jammu and Gulmarg, wit...

7
SEPT

IFFJK 2026 — International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (Jammu Screenings)

Movie Time Cinemas, KC Central

J&K's first international film festival brings 875 films from around 50 countries to Jammu's Movie Time Cinemas (KC Central) from Septemb...

13
SEPT

Akhil Sachdeva - Homecoming India Tour | Jammu

Venue to be announced · ₹899 onwards

Akhil Sachdeva brings his Homecoming India Tour to Jammu for an evening of Hindi music, familiar melodies and heartfelt songwriting. Dist...

19
SEPT

Mohabbat Ka Shehar - RJ SHANKYY LIVE

TCB Studio · ₹499 onwards

Mohabbat Ka Shehar is a poetry and musical mehfil featuring RJ Shankyy, with storytelling, songs and reflections on love, life and human ...

20
SEPT

Vinay Bhatia Live: Stand-Up Comedy in Jammu

TCB Studio · ₹399 onwards

Doctor-turned-comedian Vinay Bhatia — 75M+ YouTube views, known for relatable takes on middle-class Indian life — brings his stand-up set...

23
SEPT

14th Mini & 8th Child National Fencing Championships 2026-27

Gymnasium Hall, University of Jammu · ₹1,000 participation fee

An open national fencing championship for Under-10 and Under-12 athletes, covering foil, épée and sabre. Competitors need a valid Fencing...

Never miss what's on.

The live city diary updates daily — every gig, fair and fixture, with timings and tickets in one place.

jammubeat.com/events →

August, elsewhere

Six August developments that belonged in the month's record but sit outside this issue's longer stories.

SPORT

2 fencers

Jammu's fencers kept raising the ceiling

After Shreya Gupta's Commonwealth gold and Vishal Thapar's silver, the pair were named in India's sabre squad for the Asian Games cycle — the first from J&K to reach that level in the discipline.

SCIENCE

AI centre

IIT Jammu received an AI centre mandate

An AI Centre of Excellence announcement put a local institution into the region's technology conversation, alongside a marketplace idea for makers and small enterprises.

CAMPUS

new routes

Cluster University widened its academic menu

Cluster University Jammu announced new flexible-degree and semiconductor-linked learning routes, extending the month's wider conversation about what local higher education can teach and where it can lead.

TRAVEL

1 less change

A direct Sabarmati–Katra connection was announced

The railway plan removed a Jammu Tawi change for travellers on the Sabarmati Express route, another small but practical shift in the city's growing rail map.

SPORT

230 paddlers

Jammu's young players filled the stadium calendar

Ranking meets in table tennis and badminton brought school-age competitors into city venues, a reminder that a sporting month is built as much by entry points as headline medals.

CULTURE

5 minutes

A five-minute-film call put young makers on notice

Rang-e-Cinema invited short-film entries for J&K's first international film-festival cycle, giving first-time filmmakers a local deadline and a reason to finish the cut.

SECTION 01

News

August made the city ask where its political history began, what its institutions now owe young residents, and which September changes will land on everyday life.

IN THIS SECTION

01	The Day Jammu Waited — what 15 August 1947 actually changed here	6
02	A Palace, Paused — why Mubarak Mandi still needs time	8
03	Seven Years Later — what changed after Article 370	10
04	The Bill Goes Up — the electricity tariff now in force	11
05	Safety Has a Date — the coaching-centre compliance hearing	12
06	Counting Starts Elsewhere — why Jammu City waits until 2027	12

NEWS · COVER STORY

The Day Jammu *Waited*

On 15 August 1947, Jammu joined neither India nor Pakistan. The ten weeks that followed built the political geography young residents still inherit.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL · 23 MIN READ

IMAGE · THE PUBLISH NEWS

On 15 August 1947, Jammu did not become part of India. It did not become part of Pakistan either.

That is not a provocation. It is the plain constitutional position. What ended at midnight was British paramountcy over a princely state — not the Maharaja's rule over his subjects, and not the question of which country Jammu belonged to. That question stayed open for another ten weeks, and then it was answered by a war.

10 weeks

BETWEEN INDEPENDENCE AND ACCESSION

British paramountcy ended on 15 August 1947; Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India followed in late October amid invasion and war.

The gap matters more than it sounds. It is why your domicile certificate exists in the form it does, why the train out of Jammu runs south instead of west, why the districts along the border have bunkers, and why "statehood" is still an argument in 2026 rather than a settled fact. This is the longer version of a day everyone marks and almost nobody explains.

So what actually happened here on 15 August 1947?

Jammu and Kashmir was not a province of British India. It was a **princely state** — governed internally by a hereditary Maharaja, under an elastic British doctrine called paramountcy that controlled defence, external relations, succession and anything else the empire decided was its business.

What ended at midnight was British paramountcy over a princely state — not the Maharaja's rule over his subjects, and not the question of which country Jammu belonged to.

Section 7 of the Indian Independence Act 1947 declared that British suzerainty over the Indian states would lapse, along with the treaties and obligations attached to it. For a province, independence and Partition settled the successor state on the spot. For a princely state, the ruler was expected to accede to India or Pakistan, normally taking geography and practical realities

Dominions so that communications, supplies and transport could keep running while he decided. Pakistan accepted by telegram. India asked for discussions instead.

So on the morning of 16 August 1947, Jammu was in a state that had stopped being British-supervised and had not started being Indian or Pakistani. That is the actual local content of Independence Day here.

Why was Jammu a princely state in the first place?

The state that existed in 1947 was not an ancient inheritance. It was assembled in the nineteenth century out of regions with different languages, religions and political histories.

Gulab Singh, of Jammu's Jamwal line, rose within Maharaja Ranjit Singh's Sikh empire and was recognised as Raja of Jammu in 1822 — a moment you can still stand on the spot for at Akhnoor. His general Zorawar Singh brought Ladakh under Dogra control through the 1830s and pushed into Baltistan in 1840. Kashmir Valley had passed from Afghan to Sikh rule in 1819.

Then came the First Anglo-Sikh War. The defeated Lahore State signed the **Treaty of Lahore on 9 March 1846**. The British demanded an indemnity of one and a half crore rupees; Lahore could not pay it. Article IV of that treaty therefore ceded to the East India Company, in perpetual sovereignty, all the Lahore ruler's "forts, territories, rights and interests in the hill countries" between the Beas and the Indus — including Kashmir and Hazara — as the equivalent of one crore rupees.

One week later, the Company signed the **Treaty of Amritsar, 16 March 1846**, with Gulab Singh. Article 1 transferred to him and the male heirs of his body the hilly country east of the Indus and west of the Ravi. Article 3 fixed the price: **75 lakh Nanakshahi rupees** — 50 lakh on ratification, the remaining 25 lakh on or before 1 October 1846.

This is where the line about Kashmir being "sold for 75 lakh" comes from, and the language is not invented — Article 3 ties the money to the transfer in writing. But the slogan flattens the transaction. Gulab Singh already held Jammu, and already held Ladakh and Baltistan, before 1846. What the British handed over was the political title they had just taken from a defeated Lahore, chiefly over Kashmir, while confirming and enlarging his position as Maharaja.

The accurate description is neither a gift nor a property sale. It was a war settlement in which sovereignty over a territory and everyone living in it was transferred for a stated price, agreed between two parties, neither of whom asked a single person who lived there.

"Independent possession" — independent of whom?

Article 1 of the Amritsar treaty grants the territory

horse, twelve shawl goats of approved breed — six male and six female — and three pairs of Kashmir shawls.

The rest of the articles fill in what supremacy meant in practice. He could not alter his boundaries without British concurrence. Disputes with neighbours went to British arbitration. He had to put his whole military force alongside British troops when required in or near the hills. He could not employ a British, European or American subject without permission. In exchange, Britain promised protection from external enemies.

That grip tightened over the decades. In February 1889 the British Resident stripped Maharaja Pratap Singh of governing authority and installed a four-member Council of Regency headed by the Resident himself. The council was wound up in October 1905, but real power stayed with the Residency for years afterwards. Meanwhile the Gilgit Agency became a theatre of direct British strategic operation, and the state's Imperial Service troops fought on imperial fronts including East Africa and Palestine.

The same relationship built infrastructure — railway, telegraph, postal integration, trade rules. None of it was politically neutral. Roads and telegraphs served commerce and administration, and they served imperial movement and surveillance just as well.

What Jammu ended up with was a double subordination: a Maharaja with formidable power over his subjects, and a British Residency with decisive power over the Maharaja.

So who were Jammu's freedom fighters?

This is where the national script stops fitting. In British India the demand was freedom from colonial rule. Inside Jammu and Kashmir there was a second question stacked on top of it: would the Maharaja's subjects get responsible government and civil rights?

The two struggles overlapped without being the same. A person from Jammu could join the all-India fight against the British. Another could organise against taxes, forced labour and unequal access to state jobs inside the princely state. A third could oppose the Maharaja and still disagree completely about whether the state should join India, join Pakistan, or stay independent. Filing all of them under "Indian freedom fighter" erases exactly the differences that defined the 1940s here.

The institutional trail is easy to follow: the Young Men's Muslim Association, founded in 1909; the Dogra Sadar Sabha; the 1931 agitation and the Glancy Commission that followed it; a limited Praja Sabha in 1934; the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference in 1932, renamed the National Conference in 1939 with membership opened across communities; a dissenting stream that refounded the Muslim Conference in 1941; the

NEWS · HERITAGE

A Palace, *Paused*

A reopened treasury, stalled verification and two decades of plans: why Jammu's palace remained a work in progress even as the old city began to open around it.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL · 17 MIN READ

IMAGE · KARANKAPOOR1314 / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS (CC BY-SA 4.0)

On 28 May 2025, a door inside Mubarak Mandi opened for the first time in more than eighteen years.

Officers from the Hospitality and Protocol Department and the Directorate of Archives, Archaeology and Museums stood inside the palace Toshkhana — the old royal treasury. Police armourers examined weapons. Metallurgists looked at corrosion on metal objects. An older inventory was checked against what was actually in the room, and the whole thing was videographed.

20 years

OF RESTORATION ATTEMPTS

The palace complex has moved through repeated conservation plans, funding announcements and administrative handovers.

It looked like the end of a long bureaucratic story. It was not. Within months the exercise had stopped, tangled in a dispute over method: experts objected that measuring every single artefact before handover was impractical given how many objects were waiting. Nothing moved for the better part of a year. On **19 May 2026**, the Hospitality and Protocol Department issued a fresh circular restarting it — verification sessions every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, the whole job to be finished **within three months**, with any laxity to be "viewed seriously."

Those three months are up this week.

A room gets opened but its contents do not become a collection. A building gets restored but does not become a place people use.

That small, unglamorous saga is Mubarak Mandi in miniature. A room gets opened but its contents do not become a collection. A building gets repaired but not necessarily opened. A master plan gets approved but the money arrives through four different schemes. A deadline gets announced, missed, and replaced with a new one.

If you have grown up in Jammu, you have watched this from the outside — scaffolding you have never seen come down, gates you have never walked through, a skyline everyone calls the city's pride and almost nobody has been inside. So here is the whole story: how the palace was built, how it fell apart, where roughly ₹100 crore of public money has gone, what is actually

1710 or 1824? A palace built in layers

Mubarak Mandi does not have a birthday, and you should be suspicious of anyone who gives it one.

One tradition, drawn from the nineteenth-century Dogra chronicle *Rajdarshani*, traces the royal precinct to Raja Dhruv Dev, who is said to have moved his court from Purani Mandi up to the ridge above the Tawi around **1710**. Government and tourism descriptions more often date the oldest surviving palace fabric to **1824**. Both can be true: an earlier courtly site on the ridge, and a much larger nineteenth-century complex built over and around it. What you should not do is treat the two dates as interchangeable.

What is not in dispute is how it grew. Gulab Singh's rise — from Raja of Jammu under the Sikh empire to Maharaja of the new princely state created in 1846 — changed the scale of the court entirely. Under Ranbir Singh the palace stopped being a residence and became a machine of government: residences for different branches of the royal household sitting alongside courts, an army headquarters, a foreign office, stores, stables and ceremonial halls. Pratap Singh's period added more palaces and late-Victorian flourishes. By the time Hari Singh succeeded in 1925, this was a dense urban complex of roughly 25 buildings, not one architect's neat composition.

Which is why the architecture changes as you walk through it. Rajput and Rajasthani vocabulary in the projecting *jharokhas*, chhatris and carved brackets. Mughal and wider Indo-Islamic forms in the courtyards, cusped arches and domes. Europe in the classical columns, the long arcades, the Durbar Hall conventions and the theatrical rounded mass of Gol Ghar. The Government of India's own tourism listing runs through the names: Darbar Hall, Pink Palace, Royal Courts, Gol Ghar, Nawa Mahal, Rani Charak Palace, Hawa Mahal, Toshkhana, Sheesh Mahal.

That mixture is not confusion. It is a record of how a Himalayan court presented itself while moving through Rajput, Sikh, Dogra-princely and British-imperial worlds. And it makes conservation genuinely hard: you cannot recover a complex like this by fixing one façade, because its meaning came from the relationships between courts, offices, private palaces, ceremonial routes and the old city pressed up against it.

What happened after the Maharajas left

The decline did not start in 1947.

Hari Singh moved his principal Jammu residence to Hari Niwas in **1925**, which ended direct royal maintenance while the palace stayed the seat of government. An 1898 fire is reported to have destroyed administrative records. You will often read that the complex has suffered "36 fires" — treat that as a repeated claim rather than an

After monarchy receded, the offices of the democratic state simply moved into rooms built for the princely one. Revenue courts, the High Court, the Public Service Commission, the Directorate of Information, archives and a long list of departments were fitted into palace halls. That kept the buildings occupied, but it was not conservation. Reception rooms were chopped up with brick and plywood partitions. Steel almirahs, coolers and open wiring were bolted into lime plaster. Tonnes of paper records piled onto floors designed for domestic use. Blocked drains and unmaintained roofs let water into lime-mortar masonry for decades.

Gol Ghar lost its floors and roof in the mid-1980s and has stood as a hollow shell ever since. The October 2005 earthquake pushed cracks through already weak walls. Engineering assessments found much of the complex unsafe, and the offices left — the High Court in **1994**, the lower courts and remaining offices only by **2006**.

Then came the part nobody plans for: a large, empty, unsupervised heritage site. Vegetation in the joints. Pigeons in the halls. No daily custodian, and no new public use ready to take over. As recently as 2024, heavy rain brought down another multi-storeyed portion of Gol Ghar. In June 2026, a slab beside the roughly 200-year-old Gadadhar temple next to the complex collapsed after rain, with residents linking it to excavation for the new multi-level parking nearby; officials said repairs had started.

This is the wider lesson about Jammu's built heritage, and it is not a comfortable one. Government occupation stops total abandonment, but decades of institutional use without a conservation regime eats the very fabric it accidentally protects — and when the offices finally leave, the buildings lose their last daily supervision before anything is ready to replace it.

The money: estimate, sanction, release, spend — four different things

Mubarak Mandi was declared a state-protected monument through **SRO 126 on 26 April 2005**. The Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage Society (MMJHS) was created in 2006 and the complex handed to it in 2008. INTACH prepared a conservation vision the same year.

Here is where reading the numbers carefully matters, because almost every public argument about this palace gets them wrong.

- **2010:** a comprehensive project of about **₹296 crore** was announced, with ₹50 crore approved by the Thirteenth Finance Commission for selected buildings. That was a plan estimate, not a cheque.
- **2017:** an RTI-based report put actual money at **₹21.26 crore released and ₹13.51 crore used** against a ₹298.86 crore estimate. In November that year the High Court recorded

NEWS · CIVIC EXPLAINER

Seven Years *Later*

Seven years after the constitutional change, the useful question was not who won the argument but what system young Jammu now lives under.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 11 MIN READ



Tuesday marked seven years since August 5, 2019 — the day Parliament revoked Article 370 and Article 35A of the Constitution, ending the special status the former state of Jammu and Kashmir had held since 1954, and splitting it into two Union Territories: Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. If you were in Class 5 or 6 when it happened, you are now old enough to vote, apply for a government job, or be in your first year of college — and every one of those things now works differently than it did before that day.

This piece is not about who was right. It is about what actually changed, what both sides are saying seven years on, and — the part that usually gets skipped — what any of it concretely means for a 20-something living in Jammu today.

What actually happened on August 5, 2019

Article 370 was a constitutional provision that gave Jammu and Kashmir a degree of autonomy other Indian states did not have — its own constitution, a separate flag until 1965, and restrictions on who could buy land or settle permanently in the state. Article 35A, added in 1954, specifically empowered the state legislature to define "permanent residents" and reserve state-subject rights — land ownership, government jobs, college admissions — for them alone.

On August 5, 2019, the Union government issued a Presidential Order that effectively read down Article 370, and Parliament passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, which took effect on October 31, 2019. The state ceased to exist in its previous form. In its place: two Union Territories, Jammu & Kashmir (with a legislature) and Ladakh (without one, administered directly by the Centre).

Why the provision existed in the first place

It's easy to lose the backstory in a debate that's now mostly about the last seven years, but the "why" matters for understanding what actually got argued over. Jammu and Kashmir acceded to India in October 1947 under an Instrument of Accession signed by its ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh, during the first India-Pakistan war — a conditional accession that covered defence, foreign affairs and communications, leaving other subjects to the state. Article 370, drafted into the Constitution in 1949-50 with Sheikh Abdullah's National Conference government as the principal state-side negotiator, was meant to formalise that special, negotiated relationship as a "temporary" provision pending a fuller settlement that never arrived. Article 35A followed in 1954 via a Presidential Order, at the state government's own request, to protect the permanent-resident law the state's Constituent Assembly had already framed. For most of the seven decades between 1954 and 2019, the debate over these provisions ran along a fairly consistent line: supporters called them a necessary safeguard against demographic and land-ownership change in a border, Muslim-majority region; critics called them an obstacle to full integration and, specifically, to non-locals investing in or settling in the state. That is the same basic argument that resurfaces every August 5 — the actors and the stakes have simply moved from 1954 and 1974 to 2019 and 2026.

What has structurally changed since then

Whatever your view of whether the decision was right, a set of factual, on-the-record changes

have followed it — these are not disputed by either side, only their value is:

- **Permanent residency replaced by domicile.** The old "permanent resident" category — reserved for pre-1954 state subjects and their descendants — was replaced by a "domicile" category that is easier to acquire: 15 years of residence, seven years of study plus appearing in Class 10/12 exams locally, or being a child of a Central government employee posted in the UT for 10 years, among other routes. Domicile is now the basis for J&K government jobs and college admission quotas, not the older permanent-resident test.
- **Land ownership rules opened up.** Non-domiciles can now buy certain categories of land in J&K, which was not possible under the old permanent-resident law. Agricultural land still carries restrictions.
- **Central laws now apply directly.** Around 890 central laws that previously did not automatically extend to J&K — including the RTI Act's central provisions, the SC/ST Reservation Act, and various labour and business laws — now apply. Roughly 205 state laws were repealed.

→ *The full story is at jammubeat.com/post/seven-years-after-article-370-what-actually-changed-for-young-jammu-explained*

NEWS · SEPTEMBER GUIDE

The Bill Goes *Up*

The tariff order was passed in August and now applies. Here is the small print worth checking on a September electricity bill.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 5 MIN READ



IMAGE · KASHMIR OBSERVER

₹2.45. That is what one unit of electricity costs a metered domestic consumer in Jammu from 1 September, up from ₹2.30. Fifteen paise does not sound like much. Stacked across a month, a shared flat and a fixed charge that has gone up by a quarter, it is the difference you will notice.

The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has approved an average **6.83% increase** in the retail supply tariff, through Order No. 06 of 2026 dated 20 August. The new rates apply to consumption from **1 September 2026 to 31 March 2027**.

If this feels familiar, it should. In August we covered JPDCL's proposal for a 5% basic-tariff increase, and noted that no new rate had actually been set. The regulator has now ruled — and the final number is higher than the distribution company asked for, with a billing structure the proposal did not contain.

What the new slabs actually say

For metered domestic consumers, the energy charge now runs:

- **Up to 200 units a month:** ₹2.45 per unit, up from ₹2.30
- **201 to 400 units:** ₹4.20 per unit, up from ₹4.00
- **Above 400 units:** ₹4.60 per unit, up from ₹4.35

Consumers below the poverty line keep a subsidised rate of **₹1.40 per unit for up to 30 units a month**. Metered agricultural connections up to 20 HP are set at ₹1.05 per kWh, and unmetered ones at ₹375 a month.

The part that catches everyone: the fixed charge

The per-unit rates went up by roughly 5 to 6.5%. The **fixed charge went up by 25%** — from ₹8 to ₹10 per kW of sanctioned load, per month.

This is the line on the bill people forget exists, because it has nothing to do with how much power you use. It is charged on your *sanctioned load*. A student who goes home to Udhampur for three weeks and switches everything off still pays it. So does a small studio or tuition centre that shuts for the summer.

If your connection is sanctioned at 4 kW, that line moves from ₹32 to ₹40 a month — ₹96 more across the seven months this order covers, before a single unit is consumed.

What it looks like on a real month

Take a 2 kW domestic connection using 150 units in a month — comfortably inside the first slab, so the arithmetic is clean:

- **Before:** $150 \times ₹2.30 = ₹345$, plus a fixed charge of $2 \times ₹8 = ₹16$. Total **₹361**.
- **From September:** $150 \times ₹2.45 = ₹367.50$, plus $2 \times ₹10 = ₹20$. Total **₹387.50**.

About **₹26 a month** more, or roughly ₹185 over the order's seven-month life. That calculation is ours, and it covers energy and fixed charges only — your actual bill also carries electricity duty and any other statutory levies, and heavier users crossing into the second and third slabs will see a bigger jump.

Time-of-day billing arrives — and it cuts both ways

The genuinely new thing in this order is a **Time-of-Day tariff**, applied to all categories except

agriculture. It does something the old flat structure never did: it charges you differently depending on *when* you use power.

- **Peak hours:** a surcharge of 20% for industrial and commercial consumers, and 10% for others.
- **Solar hours:** a rebate of 20%.

The mechanism applies to non-agricultural consumers with a sanctioned load **above 10 kW** — which means most households in Jammu will not be inside it, but a hostel, a coaching institute, a café, a co-working space or a small workshop very likely will be.

One honest gap: the exact clock hours that count as "peak" and "solar" have not appeared in the reporting of the order. If you run anything above 10 kW, that is the single detail worth confirming with your JPDCL division before September, because it decides whether the rebate is worth reorganising your day around.

Why the increase happened at all

The numbers behind the order are large. JERC approved an Aggregate Revenue Requirement of **₹5,095.82 crore for JPDCL** and **₹5,179.90 crore for KPDCL** — a combined ₹10,275.72 crore for the year.

At the old tariff, the two utilities would have collected about **₹7,352.87 crore**, leaving a gap of roughly **₹2,922.85 crore**. The tariff rise closes only part of that. The J&K government has committed **₹2,420.78 crore** in subsidy support to cover the rest.

→ The full story is at jammubeat.com/post/jk-power-tariff-2026-your-electricity-bill-changes-on-september-1

NEWS · SEPTEMBER

Safety Has a *Date*

A fresh compliance report was due on buildings many students use every week.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 5 MIN READ

If you spend four evenings a week in a coaching class above a shop on Gandhi Nagar or Shastri Nagar, a hearing scheduled for **3 September** is about the building you are sitting in.

The story so far

In July, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh ordered the Jammu Municipal Corporation to survey the city's coaching institutes, hotels, banquet halls and commercial establishments for building violations, parking provision and fire-safety clearances. We covered that order at the time in *Fire Exits and Parking, Finally in the Spotlight*. The corporation filed an affidavit in response.

What's new

On **29 August 2026**, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal held that affidavit **deficient** and ordered a fresh, comprehensive one. The new affidavit has to state, specifically:

- the **total number** of hotels, commercial establishments, coaching institutes and public buildings actually surveyed;
- the **building permissions and occupancy certificates** those premises hold;
- the violations found — unauthorised construction, missing parking, absent fire-safety clearances;

NEWS · CENSUS

Counting Starts *Elsewhere*

An early census phase began in J&K, but Jammu City was not part of it.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 6 MIN READ

India's first fully digital Census has already begun counting people in Jammu and Kashmir. It started on **17 August**. Most of us will not be part of it until February 2027.

That is not a contradiction, and it is not a mistake. J&K has been split into two different census timetables, and which one applies to you depends on the exact village you are standing in — not the district, not the town, the village. Here is how it actually works, and who needs to do something about it in the next two weeks.

What opened on August 17?

The self-enumeration window for Phase II of Census 2027 — the population count. Until **31 August**, residents of designated "snow-bound, non-synchronous" areas can log in and fill in their own household's census details online, instead of waiting for an enumerator to knock. From **1 September to 30 September**, enumerators and supervisors do the physical rounds in those same areas, picking up everyone who did not self-enumerate.



- and the enforcement actually carried out: notices issued, premises sealed, demolitions, prosecutions.

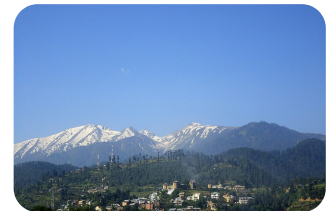
The Court also warned that it may initiate coercive proceedings against the **JMC Commissioner**, the **Director of Fire & Emergency Services**, the **Vice-Chairman of the Jammu Development Authority** and the **IGP (Traffic)** if compliance does not improve. The matter is listed again on **3 September 2026**.

The shift here is small but real. The July order asked for a survey. This one asks for a number — and a number is much harder to file without doing the work.

What is a fire NOC, actually?

A fire safety clearance — commonly called a fire NOC, for No Objection Certificate — is issued by the Fire & Emergency Services department. It certifies that a building's exits, staircases, extinguishers, alarms and access for a fire tender meet the requirements for the way the building is being used. The requirements are stricter for a premises where large numbers of people gather than for an ordinary shop, which is exactly why a coaching hall packed with a hundred students is treated differently from the showroom it may once have been.

→ The full story is at jammubeat.com/post/update-jmc-is-back-in-court-on-september-3-over-jammus-coaching-centre-fire-clearances



The whole thing has been pulled forward for one plain reason: by December, a lot of these places are cut off. Snow closes roads into the upper reaches of Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban for weeks at a time, and an enumerator cannot count a household they cannot reach. So the government moved the count to late summer for those pockets and left the rest of the country on the regular schedule.

Which parts of J&K are being counted now?

Sixteen of J&K's twenty districts have been *partially* declared snow-bound. In total the current window covers **1,115 villages** and **three municipalities** — the municipal areas being Uri, Gulmarg and Kishtwar.

The district-wise spread, as released by the Directorate of Census Operations:

→ The full story is at jammubeat.com/post/census-2027-has-already-started-in-jk-but-not-in-jammu-city-heres-who-gets-counted-now

SECTION 02

Culture

A language, a fencing hall and a scorecard made August feel like a month about the long work behind public achievement.

IN THIS SECTION

- | | | |
|----|--|----|
| 01 | Dogri, After Us — the language gap inside Jammu homes | 14 |
| 02 | A Sabre from Jammu — Shreya Gupta's Commonwealth gold | 16 |
| 03 | Nine for Ninety-Nine — Abid Mushtaq's Duleep Trophy spell | 17 |
| 04 | From MA to the Asian Games — two Jammu fencers make history | 17 |

Dogri

डोग

३ ३ ३ ३ ३ ३

ca cha ja jha na

३ ३ ३ ३ ३ ३

ta tha da dha na

३ ३ ३ ३ ३ ३

CULTURE · EDITORIAL

Dogri, *After Us*

Dogri had recognition, institutions and millions of speakers. The harder question was whether it was still being handed to children as a living language.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL · 25 MIN READ

IMAGE · RITI RIWAZ

Here is a test you can run at your next family function. Listen to how your grandparents talk to each other. Then listen to how your parents talk to them. Then listen to how your parents talk to you.

In a lot of Jammu families, the language changes somewhere in that third step. Grandparents speak Dogri naturally. Their adult children understand it and use it with elders. But when those adults turn to their own children, they switch — often deliberately — to Hindi or English. The child understands Dogri, laughs at a joke in it, knows exactly what tone means trouble, and cannot hold a five-minute conversation, read a page, or write a sentence.

2.6m

DOGRI SPEAKERS IN THE 2011 CENSUS

Institutional recognition and speaker numbers do not by themselves guarantee that a language is passed on at home.

That break is the whole story. A language can stay loud as an identity and go quiet as an inheritance at the same time.

So the question is not whether Dogri disappears tomorrow. It won't. The 2011 Census of India counted roughly 2.6 million Dogri speakers nationally, and institutions still fund Dogri literature, teaching and broadcasting. The sharper question is whether Dogri is becoming a language Jammu celebrates more often than it uses — and whether any amount of official recognition can substitute for the ordinary business of one generation handing it to the next.

A language can stay loud as an identity and go quiet as an inheritance at the same time.

This piece is not a lament. It is an attempt to lay out what is actually happening, what the evidence does and does not show, and what would genuinely have to change.

First, the three words: Dogri, Dogra, Duggar

They overlap, and they get used interchangeably, and they are not the same thing.

Dogri is a language. **Dogra** describes a people and a regional-cultural identity. **Duggar** is the historical-cultural region attached to that identity — centred on the Jammu hills and plains, but

Even those definitions come with an argument attached. Nobody has settled where the word *Duggar* comes from. Different writers have traced it to *Durgara*, a name in an early medieval inscription; to *durg*, a fort; to *dungar*, a hill word; or to *Dwigarta*, read by some as the land between two lakes or depressions. Linguists and historians have not agreed on one.

That is not a hole in the history. It is what regional identities normally look like up close — assembled slowly out of geography, political rule, language, migration and shared memory, rather than founded on a single tidy date.

One of the earliest literary mentions people cite is Amir Khusrau's *Nuh Sipahr* of 1317, where *Duger* appears among the languages of the subcontinent. By the nineteenth century the colonial linguist George Grierson had documented Dogri in the *Linguistic Survey of India* — though where exactly Dogri ends and Punjabi or the Western Pahari languages begin was contested then and still needs care now.

Modern linguistics puts Dogri in the Indo-Aryan branch of the Indo-European family, usually within the Western Pahari group. Like every modern Indo-Aryan language, it did not "start" on a particular morning. It grew over centuries through older and Middle Indo-Aryan stages, with scholars often pointing to an affinity with Shauraseni Prakrit and its descendants, absorbing vocabulary along the way from Sanskrit, Persian, Punjabi, Urdu, Hindi and — lately — English.

Which is worth saying plainly, because the lazy version gets repeated a lot: Dogri is not Hindi with a Jammu accent, and it is not Punjabi with the edges filed off. It has its own grammar, its own literary history and its own sound system. Its most distinctive feature is tone — a change in pitch can change meaning, something it shares with Punjabi and some neighbouring Western Pahari languages. And it shifts as you move, plains to hills, the way living languages do.

One more thing worth getting right. Dogra identity is not one religion, one caste or one political story. Duggar has been shaped by Hindu, Muslim and Sikh communities and by several language groups at once. Dogri sits at the centre of Dogra cultural history, but Jammu's actual linguistic map is wider than that: Gojri, Punjabi, Pahari varieties, Kashmiri, Bhaderwahi, Sarazi, Pogli, Urdu and Hindi all live here too. Protecting Dogri should not mean flattening any of them.

Before it had books, Dogri lived by being performed

For most of its history, Dogri's richest archive was not a library. It was people.

Songs marked births, marriages, harvests, separation and going away to serve. Ballads carried folk figures like Bawa Jitto and Mian Dido. Proverbs compressed a whole district's experience into one line you could not argue with.

That matters, because a language's literary history is not measured from the date of its first printed book. Oral literature can be formally complex and culturally durable even while political power, literacy and printing all run in somebody else's language.

Dogri did build a written tradition too. A 2024 study on the history of translation in Dogri, published by the University of Jammu, traces an early printed milestone to *Dharam Pustak*, a Dogri translation of the New Testament brought out by the Serampore missionaries in 1818. Under Maharaja Ranbir Singh, translation and printing picked up state patronage — and a Dogri translation of Bhaskaracharya's mathematical treatise *Lilavati* was printed in Jammu in the early 1870s. That last one is the detail worth holding onto: Dogri was not only for folklore and devotion. It was used to carry maths.

So the arc is not "oral dialect becomes modern language." It is a mature spoken culture that kept gaining and losing access to the institutions of writing, administration and education.

The script Dogri lost, and the one it adopted

Nowhere is that push and pull clearer than in what happened to Dogri's script.

Variants of Takri were used across the western Himalayas. In Jammu, a standardised form tied to the Dogra administration became known as **Dogra Akkhar**, or **Name Dogra Akkhar**. Under Maharaja Ranbir Singh it was used in administration and printing alongside other scripts and languages. What survives includes books, revenue and legal papers, postal and fiscal items, and multilingual state documents.

The most detailed technical account you can actually read is Anshuman Pandey's proposal to encode the Dogra script in Unicode, which reproduces historical specimens — pages of the Dogri *Lilavati*, stamps, official documents — and works through how the older and newer Dogra letterforms relate.

Then it receded, as Urdu took over the princely state's administration and education. In the modern literary movement, Devanagari became the main script for Dogri in India. Across parts of Pakistan and Pakistan-administered territory, related speech is more often written in Perso-Arabic.

Devanagari made printing and teaching far easier — the fonts, the presses and the readers already existed. It also opened a gap that has never closed: most Dogri speakers alive today cannot read the script that was once specifically theirs.

Reviving it is not a technology problem any more. Dogra Akkhar was added to the Unicode Standard in June 2018, in version 11.0, as a block of 60 characters — which is the foundation for fonts, keyboards, digital archives and searchable text. But Unicode inclusion is plumbing, not

CULTURE · SPORT

A Sabre from *Jammu*

A Jammu training hall produced a Commonwealth champion — and a sharper case for backing the rooms where young athletes begin.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 5 MIN READ



IMAGE · GREATER KASHMIR

There is a fencing hall at MA Stadium in Jammu where children turn up after school, borrow kit that has been repaired more than once, and learn to hold a sabre. It is not a glamorous room. It is, however, the room where Shreya Gupta started.

On Wednesday, in Lagos, she won a gold medal at the Senior Commonwealth Fencing Championship — the first J&K woman fencer to do so, according to reports of the result. Vishal Thapar, who came through the same Jammu setup, took silver in men's team sabre. The J&K Sports Council called the performances “a proud moment for the Union Territory.”

What actually happened in Lagos

Two Commonwealth fencing championships ran concurrently in Lagos, Nigeria, from 9 to 14 August 2026 — a Senior championship and an Under-23 championship. It is worth separating them, because Shreya medalled at both and the two results have been blurred together in some coverage.

- **Senior championship:** Shreya Gupta won **gold**, with Daily Excelsior reporting she played “a key role in the Indian team's victory.” Vishal Thapar won **silver** in men's team sabre.
- **Under-23 championship:** Shreya took **bronze** in women's individual sabre, behind Jeferlin (gold) and Aakhari (silver). India finished the U-23 event with 17 medals — four gold, four silver and nine bronze.

So: a team gold at senior level and an individual bronze at U-23, in the same week, in the same city.

The two-year climb

This is not a debut. In July 2024, at the Commonwealth Fencing Championship in

Christchurch, New Zealand, Shreya won bronze in the sabre category — reported at the time as J&K's first individual international fencing medal. Two years on, the colour of the medal has changed.

Between those two results sits a domestic record most readers will not have seen: Senior and Junior National Champion titles, and 17 gold, 11 silver and seven bronze medals across national competition. She is on the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports' Target Olympic Podium Scheme and is a Khelo India athlete — the two funding routes that decide whether an Indian athlete in a minority sport can afford to keep going.

In July this year, we wrote about Shreya and Vishal making India's squad for the World Fencing Championships. Lagos is the next entry in the same story.

Why the MA Stadium detail matters

It would be easy to file this under “athlete does well abroad” and move on. The more useful fact for a reader in Jammu is where it began: the **Sports Council Fencing Centre at MA Stadium**, under coaches Shotu Lal Sharma and Ujwal Gupta.

That is a public facility in the middle of the city. It is not selective in the way an academy in Delhi or Pune is. A school student in Jammu who wants to try fencing can, in principle, walk in and find out what it involves — which is a very different proposition from reading about a medal won 7,000 kilometres away and assuming the pathway does not exist here.

Shreya now trains at the Vijay Bharat Sports Academy in Ahmedabad, which is its own honest part of the story. Jammu produced her; a bigger centre finished the job. That gap — strong

grassroots coaching, thin high-performance infrastructure — is the recurring theme in almost every J&K sport story we cover, from wushu players asking for a training hall to soft tennis players commuting to nationals.

What we do not know yet

Two things are still unclear, and we would rather say so than fill them in.

First, the exact senior event Shreya's gold came in has not been specified in the reporting we have seen — the coverage refers to the Indian team's victory without naming the weapon and format, though she is a sabre fencer and Thapar's silver is explicitly men's team sabre. Second, the “first J&K woman to win Commonwealth gold” line comes from Daily Excelsior's report rather than from a federation record we have been able to check independently.

Neither changes the substance. A fencer who learned the sport at MA Stadium is a Commonwealth champion.

What sabre actually is

Fencing has three weapons, and they are not interchangeable. Foil and épée score with the point alone. **Sabre** scores with the edge as well as the point, and only above the waist — a legacy of cavalry swordsmanship. It is the fastest of the three: exchanges are often decided inside a second, and right-of-way rules mean the referee has to judge who attacked first as much as who landed.

→ *The full story is at jammubeat.com/post/she-picked-up-her-first-sabre-at-ma-stadium-in-lagos-shreya-gupta-won-commonwealth-gold*

CULTURE · CRICKET

Nine for *Ninety-Nine*

One J&K spinner's nine wickets shifted a Duleep Trophy quarter-final.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 5 MIN READ

Nine wickets for 99 runs. That is what a left-arm spinner from Jammu and Kashmir did to a West Zone batting line-up containing Rituraj Gaikwad, Musheer Khan and Shams Mulani — and it is why North Zone are in the Duleep Trophy semifinals.

Abid Mushtaq bowled 47.4 overs across the quarter-final at the BCCI Centre of Excellence Ground 1 in Bengaluru and finished with 5 for 39 in the first innings and 4 for 60 in the second. North Zone won by 52 runs. They play South Zone in the semifinal, in Bengaluru, from 30 August.

How the match actually went

Nothing about it was comfortable. North Zone were bowled out for 251 in the first innings — a moderate total on a surface that was already helping the spinners. Mushtaq then took the game away from West Zone almost single-handedly, running through them for 187 with figures of 5 for 39 from 25.4 overs. A 64-run lead on first innings is useful; it is not decisive.

The second innings did not extend it much. North Zone managed 222, with Anshul Kamboj's 60 off 52 balls the innings' one piece of genuine counter-attack, Ayush Badoni contributing a fifty and Nishant Sindhu making 44. That set West Zone 287 to win.

They got to 234. Musheer Khan made 96 and Gaikwad 66, and for a long stretch of the fourth innings the chase looked like it might hold. Mulani's 52 lower down kept it alive further than it should have gone. Mushtaq took four

of the wickets that ended it, Sindhu chipped in with wickets of his own, and North Zone came home by 52 runs.

Why this one matters from here

The Duleep Trophy is India's zonal first-class competition — the tournament where selectors watch players who have already dominated the Ranji Trophy do it against the best of four other zones. It is one of the last rungs before an India A tour or a Test squad conversation.

North Zone this season is not a side J&K players are guests in. As ESPNcricinfo reported when the squad was named, the zone went in with a J&K-dominated group under Kanhaiya Wadhawan's captaincy — the direct consequence of J&K winning their first Ranji Trophy title in February. We wrote about how that squad came together here: [Six of Fifteen: J&K Cricketers Now Fill a Third of North Zone's Duleep Trophy Squad](#).

There is a difference between being *selected* for a zonal side and being the reason it wins. Selection can be argued away as reward for a good domestic season. A nine-wicket match haul in a knockout, on a pitch where the opposition's international-capped batters were trying to survive you, cannot be. That is the shift that happened in Bengaluru this week.

→ *The full story is at jammubeat.com/post/duleep-trophy-abid-mushtaq-9-for-99-sends-a-jk-heavy-north-zone-into-the-semifinals*



CULTURE · SPORT

From MA to the *Asian Games*

The two Jammu sabreurs turned an August medal run into a national selection milestone.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 4 MIN READ

The room where this started is not much to look at. It is an indoor hall at the Maulana Azad (MA) Stadium in Jammu, where beginners borrow repaired kit and learn to hold a sabre after school. Over the weekend, the two names most closely tied to that hall reached a level no fencer from Jammu and Kashmir had reached before.

The J&K Sports Council announced on Sunday that **Shreya Gupta** and **Vishal Thapar** have been named in India's sabre squad on the road to the **2026 Asian Games** in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan — the first sabre fencers from the Union Territory to get this far. Gupta has a place in both the individual and team events; Thapar is in the men's team sabre.

"The J&K Sports Council is immensely proud of our athletes and their coaches, whose dedication has made this historic achievement possible," the Council said in its statement.

Who they are

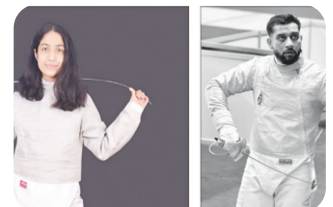
Neither name is new to anyone who has followed Jammu's small but stubborn fencing scene. Gupta, 21, is the fencer who picked up her first sabre at MA Stadium and went on to win Commonwealth gold in Lagos earlier this month. Thapar, 32, took silver in the men's team event at the same championship. Both had already earned places in India's squad for the World Fencing Championships in July and have been training at the national camp.

What has changed is the size of the stage. The World Championships put them among the world's best; the Asian Games put them in India's medal-hunting continental team, alongside Olympian C.A. Bhavani Devi. India's women's sabre line-up reads Bhavani Devi, Gupta, Jifarlini Jani Rexlin Simla and Shruthi Joshi; the men's sabre squad is Karan Singh, Gisho Nidhi Kumares Padma, Thapar and Lakshay Badser.

How you get to an Asian Games in a sport nobody teaches you

This is the part that matters for a reader in Jammu who has never picked up a blade. Fencing here has almost no pathway — a handful of coaches, borrowed equipment, and a single serviceable hall. The route these two took ran through the national selection ladder: the Fencing Association of India named its senior squad off results at ranked national and international events, with the **26th Senior Asian Fencing Championships** in New Delhi (June 19–24) serving as the direct qualifying event for the Games. Strong results there and on the international circuit — Gupta's Commonwealth gold among them — are what put them in the frame.

→ *The full story is at jammubeat.com/post/two-fencers-from-ma-stadium-are-now-on-indias-asian-games-sabre-squad*



SECTION 03

Food & Drink

The month's food stories were really infrastructure stories: a vendor street getting a system, a local cheese gaining time, and a city learning where it likes to gather.

IN THIS SECTION

-
- | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| 01 | Food Street, Built Properly — the 120-cart rehri-zone rebuild | 19 |
| 02 | Kaladi Gets Time — the 21-day shelf-life breakthrough | 20 |
| 03 | The City Drinks Cold — inside Jammu's summer café boom | 21 |
| 04 | Rain, Chai and Fried Things — a Jammu monsoon food map | 21 |
-

FOOD & DRINK · GANDHI NAGAR

Food Street, *Built Properly*

Jammu's rehri culture began receiving the infrastructure it has long deserved — without removing the vendors who made it matter.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 3 MIN READ



IMAGE · THE TRIBUNE

The rehri zone at Gandhi Nagar — the one you have almost certainly eaten at, standing up, between a class and a bus — is being rebuilt as something more permanent. Jammu Municipal Corporation has finished the first phase of what it is calling a modern food zone, and **22 food carts are now in place** of a planned **120**.

JMC Commissioner Dr Devansh Yadav inspected the site this week and pushed vendors on the thing that will decide whether any of it works: hygiene. He asked them to maintain "high standards of cleanliness and hygiene" and to take ownership of the space, describing the project as part of a push towards a "cleaner, more organised, modern and citizen-friendly Jammu".

The upgrade is not just the carts. The corporation is putting in water supply, street lighting, rooftop facilities over the zone, and a regular sanitation arrangement — the four things that separate a functioning food street from a row of stalls sharing one tap and no bin.

The allotment rule is the detail worth knowing, because it answers the question everyone asks when a street-food strip

gets formalised. The carts are going to vendors **already operating in that zone on valid licences**. This is an upgrade of the people who are there, not a replacement of them by whoever can afford a new pitch. In a city where informal food work supports a lot of households, that distinction is most of the story.

What has not been published matters too. Neither the corporation nor the reports carry a **cost figure**, and there is no **timeline for the remaining 98 carts** — no phase-two date, no completion target. So the honest read is: roughly a fifth of the zone is built, the model is now visible on the ground, and the rest is unscheduled.

If it lands well, it matters more than a municipal note suggests. Gandhi Nagar is one of the few places in Jammu where eating out costs student money rather than café money, and where the city's food actually mixes across incomes. The café boom rewrote where young Jammu sits down; the rehri zone is what it did not replace. Formalising it with lighting, water and a roof is either the thing that keeps it alive for another decade, or the thing that polishes the character out of it. The next 98 carts will tell you which.

FOOD & DRINK · UDHAMPUR

Kaladi Gets *Time*

A longer shelf life gave Udhampur's Kaladi a chance to travel from local favourite to viable food business.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 3 MIN READ



Twenty-one days. That is the number that could change what Kaladi is — from a thing you eat fried at a roadside stall near Udhampur to a product somebody can actually box up and sell.

Kaladi, the dense traditional cheese of Udhampur district often called the mozzarella of Jammu, has been through a technological intervention at **CSIR-CFTRI in Mysuru**, working with **CSIR-IIIM Jammu**. The result: its refrigerated shelf life has been extended to **21 days**, with improved microbial safety and — the part that matters to anyone who has eaten it — no loss of quality, texture or nutritional value.

Why a shelf life is the whole story

Before this, Kaladi kept only a few days, and considerably less unrefrigerated. That single fact explains the cheese's economics. You cannot supply a restaurant chain in another state, or put a product on a shelf in Delhi, if it spoils in transit. Kaladi stayed local not because nobody wanted it, but because it could not travel.

Three weeks is a different proposition. Three weeks gets you a cold chain, a packaging run, a wholesale buyer, and distance to market.

The cheese, and the tag

Kaladi is made from cow or buffalo milk and is known for its flavour, its meltability and a characteristic stretchiness — hence the mozzarella comparison. It is long associated with the region's Gujjar-Bakarwal pastoral communities, and Ramnagar in Udhampur district is one of its best-known centres. It received **Geographical Indication protection in October 2023**, tying the name legally to its place of origin.

The work was directed in January 2026 under the One District One Product initiative by Dr Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of State for Science and Technology and the MP for Udhampur. The stated objectives went beyond shelf life: nutrient profiling, recipe diversification into new functional forms, and documenting traditional preparation methods across J&K before they are lost.

What comes next

On the record, the next step is turning Kaladi into what the minister described as "a commercially scalable product, that can be served in different recipes by professional food chains," with an eye on national and international markets as a premium indigenous cheese.

What is *not* on the record: no producer counts, volumes, income figures or retail prices have been published, and no named company or market plan exists yet. This is a laboratory result and a stated intention, not a business that has launched.

The bit that's actually for you

If you are in the Jammu belt and thinking about food as a business, this is a rare, concrete opening: a GI-tagged product with a solved shelf-life problem, a central lab's validated process behind it, and no established brand occupying the space.

In the meantime, the cheese is still best eaten the old way — shallow-fried until the edges crisp, in a bun or with roti. For where it sits in the wider regional kitchen, start with our Dogri food map.

FOOD & DRINK · CAFÉS

The City Drinks *Cold*

Heat turned cafés into a social infrastructure business, not a seasonal side act.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 4 MIN READ

There is an unwritten law of Jammu summers: the hotter it gets, the longer people linger over a cold drink. From **Trikuta Nagar** to **Gandhi Nagar** and the stretch around **Residency Road**, the city's cafés have figured out that May, June and July are not a slow season at all — they are the main event. The trick is reading the heat and serving the city exactly what it wants: somewhere cool to sit, and something cold to hold.

Over the past few years, neighbourhoods like Trikuta Nagar have quietly become café clusters, with a dozen names — from neighbourhood coffee houses to lounge-style hangouts — competing for the same young crowd. That competition is good news for everyone holding a wallet and a thirst: prices stay honest, menus keep evolving, and there is almost always a new corner to try.

What summer does to a menu

Step into almost any café this month and the chalkboard tells the story. The hot-coffee section shrinks; the cold half explodes. Iced lattes, cold brews, frappés, lemon and mint coolers, thick shakes and fruit-forward mocktails crowd the page. Watermelon and mango turn up everywhere, and even the food leans lighter — wraps and salads edging out the heavier winter plates. The menu, in other words, dresses for the weather.

The smartest kitchens lean into a local sweet tooth, folding the flavours of **kulfi**, **mango** and **rose** into desserts and drinks so the menu tastes like a

Jammu summer rather than a generic franchise one. A rose-and-pistachio shake or a kulfi-inspired dessert does something a standard iced latte cannot: it tastes of here.

That instinct is not new. Long before soft-serve arrived, this region — like much of the country — cooled itself with mango-based treats, cooling milk-and-nut drinks and dense, slow-frozen kulfi sold off handcarts by vendors who needed no electricity at all. The better cafés today are simply giving that old heritage an air-conditioned, latte-art makeover, and the ones that respect it tend to taste the best.

More than a drink — a place to be

The deeper draw is the room itself. For a student on summer break or a young professional escaping a fan-cooled office or a sweltering PG room, a café is the affordable third place: not home, not work, just a cool corner with decent Wi-Fi where you can stretch a single iced coffee across two hours of conversation, revision or quiet work. In a month when stepping outside at noon feels like a dare, that air-conditioned table is worth far more than the drink that buys it.

→ The full story is at jammubeat.com/post/the-cold-drink-economy-inside-jammus-summer-caf-boom



FOOD & DRINK · MONSOON

Rain, Chai and *Fried Things*

A rainy Jammu evening still asked for hot food, a dry corner and no elaborate itinerary.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 2 MIN READ

There is a specific mood to a Jammu monsoon evening: the light goes grey by five, a scooter kicks up a sheet of water, and every craving narrows to one thing — something hot, and ideally fried. The good news is the city is built for exactly this. Here is where a rainy afternoon is best spent, on a student budget.

Start with the obvious: pakoras

There is a reason the pakora is the unofficial mascot of the Indian monsoon. Onion, potato, paneer or mixed-veg, dropped into hot oil and pulled out crisp, it is cheap, everywhere, and immeasurably better with rain on the window and a cup of tea beside it. Pair it with a plate of steaming momos — the roadside stalls near the university belt and the main markets run out fast on wet evenings for a reason. If you want the full monsoon package, add a paper cup of chai and find an awning; half the pleasure is standing under cover watching the rain come down while the plate is still hot.

The sweet detour: malpuda

When the craving turns sugary, the move is malpuda — a soft, syrup-soaked fried pancake that Jammu's older sweet shops, like



The Sweet House, treat as a seasonal favourite. It is rich, it is unapologetic, and it is precisely the kind of thing you eat because it is raining and you have decided the day is a write-off anyway.

The Dogra classic: kaladi kulcha

If you eat one thing that is properly *ours*, make it kaladi (also spelt kalari) — a dense, chewy Dogra cheese that is pan-fried until it blisters and squeaks, then tucked into a soft kulcha. It is filling, faintly tangy, and completely at home in cold, wet weather — the kind of thing that turns a miserable commute home into a reason to stop. For the full cold-season version of this map, JammuBeat's Dogri winter food trail goes deeper.

One for the road

And if you catch a break in the rain and can get out of the city, the hills carry their own plate — Bhaderwah's famously aromatic rajma, slow-cooked and served with rice, is worth the drive when the weather clears. But you do not need to go anywhere. The whole point of Jammu's monsoon food is that the best of it is a five-minute walk and forty rupees away. Grab an umbrella, or don't.

SECTION 04

Travel & Weekends

August widened the city's leisure map — scrap turned into a park, old streets became walkable and the rail route north added another option.

IN THIS SECTION

- | | | |
|----|--|----|
| 01 | A Dump, Reimagined — inside the new Tawi Wonderland | 23 |
| 02 | The Old City, Walkable — 5.5 km through the old city | 24 |
| 03 | The Fish Are Coming — the Oceanarium's route to opening | 25 |
| 04 | A Third Train North — a new Jammu–Srinagar Vande Bharat | 25 |

TRAVEL & WEEKENDS · BHAGWATI NAGAR

A Dump, Reimagined

Jammu's new scrap-built park changed a former dump into an evening plan — and raised the standard for public space.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 5 MIN READ



IMAGE · THE TRIBUNE

For two years the stretch of Tawi bank at Bhagwati Nagar was a place you drove past with the windows up. It was a garbage dump — 40 kanals of it, sitting next to the ground where Amarnath Yatra pilgrims assemble every summer. On Wednesday evening, a 40-foot Statue of Unity welded out of scrap iron looked down on the same patch, and people were queueing to walk under it.

Tawi Wonderland — the ₹11-crore "waste to wonder" park that Jammu has been promised since early 2026 — was inaugurated on **6 August 2026** by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. It is the largest single addition to the city's list of places-to-actually-go in years, and unusually for Jammu, it is not a temple, a fort or a mall.

What is actually in there

The centrepiece is a set of **14 monument replicas**, built almost entirely from discarded material: iron pipes, stripped machine parts, e-waste and rubber tyres. The split is seven international, four national and three local.

The international set includes the Eiffel Tower, the Colosseum, the White House, the Statue of Liberty and Bhutan's Tiger's Nest monastery. The national ones include the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Hawa Mahal and the 40-foot Statue of Unity. The three local replicas are the part that matters most here — the Krimchi temples, Akhnoor fort, and the Chenab rail bridge, the highest railway arch bridge in the world and about as close as J&K gets to a modern monument of its own.

Around the replicas there is a small lake with pedal boats, children's play and adventure zones, an open-air theatre, and food stalls selling local food — rajma-chawal among them. Even the benches are made from recycled plastic. The park sits inside a roughly 100-kanal riverfront

corridor that is also meant to carry a botanical park, urban forest patches and running tracks.

Who built it

The replicas were led by artist **Ram Krishen Augisti**, working with a team of scrap artists brought in from Odisha — a state with a long line in sand and scrap sculpture. The project was executed by Jammu Smart City Limited under the Smart City Mission.

That detail is worth pausing on if you are studying design, fine art or engineering in Jammu. The park is, functionally, a large public commission built by people who make things out of other people's rubbish. It is proof that the skill has a market, and that a municipal budget will pay for it.

The bit nobody has announced yet

Here is the honest gap: **no entry fee and no opening hours have been published**. Not on the day of the inauguration, and not in any of the reporting since. If you are planning a trip this weekend, that is the one thing to check locally before you set out. We have not seen a ticket price anywhere, and we are not going to guess one.

What is known: the park is at Bhagwati Nagar, on the Tawi, reachable on the same routes as the Yatra base camp. It has ticketing counters and an administrative block built in, which strongly suggests it will be ticketed rather than free — but that is an inference, not an announcement.

Why the city keeps building things like this

Inaugurating the park, the Chief Minister made an argument that has been circling Jammu's tourism

planning for a while: the city is known as a "city of temples" and a transit stop on the way to Vaishno Devi and Kashmir, and it needs reasons for people to stop that have nothing to do with pilgrimage.

For young residents that argument lands differently. The complaint that Jammu has nowhere to go on an evening that isn't a café, a mall or a fort is not a tourism problem — it is a daily-life problem. A lit park with a boating lake and an open-air theatre is a straightforwardly useful thing to add to a city where the cheap options run out fast.

It came as part of a bigger package

Tawi Wonderland was one of six Housing & Urban Development projects worth over ₹60 crore that the CM inaugurated or laid foundation stones for in Jammu that day — roughly ₹32 crore of completed work and ₹28 crore of work not yet built.

Also *inaugurated*, meaning open now:

- **Heritage Trail and site beautification** across Jammu city — ₹15.74 crore
- **Modernised food street at Bahu Fort** — ₹1.65 crore
- **Shopping-cum-municipal complex, Akhnoor** — ₹3.61 crore

And *foundation-stoned*, meaning not built yet:

→ The full story is at jammubeat.com/post/tawi-wonderland-is-open-jammu-11-crore-park-built-entirely-out-of-scrap

TRAVEL & WEEKENDS · HERITAGE TRAIL

The Old City, *Walkable*

The heritage trail made a long-neglected walk across old Jammu possible again.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 3 MIN READ



IMAGE · WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

For most of the last few years, walking through Jammu's old city meant negotiating a building site. Panjtirthi was dug up. Moti Bazar was dug up. Shopkeepers in Raghunath Bazar spent seasons watching customers decide it was not worth the trouble.

That phase is over. The **Heritage Trail and site-beautification project** was inaugurated on 6 August at a cost of **₹15.74 crore** under the Smart City Mission — one of a set of Housing and Urban Development projects worth over ₹60 crore opened in the city that day.

What the project actually laid down

The design brief runs the trail roughly **5.5 km**, from **Mubarak Mandi** through **Panjtirthi, Pucca Danga, Moti Bazar and Jain Bazar** to **Raghunath Bazar**. The work included:

- Cobblestone flooring at Raghunath Bazar, the Mubarak Mandi–Panjtirthi stretch and major intersections
- Sandstone footpaths and uniform signage
- Decorative lighting, and communication cables moved underground
- A gate at City Chowk, plus pick-up and drop-off points with paid parking

Undergrounding the cables is the change you notice first. The old city's skyline of drooping black wire is what made it unphotographable; take it away and the Dogra-era facades are visible from the street for the first time in decades.

Why it is worth a Saturday

The trail's real value is that it strings together things that were always there but never connected. Start at **Mubarak Mandi**, where the 'Royal Legacy' complex now gives you a courtyard library, a Dogra-cuisine kitchen and a 12D theatre inside the palace, with the Dogra Art Museum next door. Walk down through Panjtirthi and Pucca Danga into the bazaars, and finish at the Raghunath temple complex.

It is a couple of unhurried hours, it costs nothing but what you eat, and it is entirely within the city — no Katra traffic, no 100 km drive. Paired with an evening at Tawi Wonderland across the river, it makes a full day out of a city most young residents say has nothing to do in it.

Two honest caveats

First, the route and specifications above come from the project's design documentation. Whether every metre of the 5.5 km is finished to that standard, and whether the paid parking is actually operating, is something you will find out by walking it — the inauguration list gives the cost and the date, not a completion audit.

Second, the cost has been reported at different figures over the project's long life — ₹16.18 crore and ₹16.56 crore both appear in 2022 coverage. ₹15.74 crore is the figure attached to the August 2026 inauguration.

Go early on a weekend morning, before the bazaars fill up. That is when the new stonework and the missing wires are most obvious — and when you can see what the old city looks like when someone finally cleans up after themselves.

TRAVEL & WEEKENDS · BAGH-E-BAHU

The Fish Are *Coming*

A fish order gave Jammu's long-stalled Oceanarium its first credible route to opening.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 4 MIN READ

1,362. That is how many live marine ornamental fish are being procured to fill the Oceanarium at Bagh-e-Bahu — across **14 species**, arriving in planned batches, mostly from South India.

It is a mundane-sounding number, and it is the most meaningful thing anyone has said about this project in a year. You do not order the fish until the tanks hold water. Civil works are finished, the project has moved into its stocking phase, and Jammu Smart City Limited is now targeting **the end of October or early November 2026** for opening.

To understand why that matters, you have to know where this was in December.

The story so far

Late 2025 — stalled. The Oceanarium was publicly described as facing uncertainty. Jammu Smart City Limited's board had not approved variations to the Detailed Project Report that had emerged during construction, which meant the Roads and Buildings Department could not proceed with essential components. Worse, no firm decision had been taken on *who would actually procure the marine species* — including the sharks, which are the entire point

of a tunnel aquarium. A finished building with no fish and no department willing to own the fish is not an attraction; it is a very expensive room.

August 2026 — moving. Construction complete, procurement under way, a species list and a count on the record, and a target month. The bottleneck that defined the project for most of a year appears to have been cleared.

What is actually being built

The centrepiece is a **20-metre glass tunnel** you walk through, holding roughly **four lakh litres** of salt water, with around 40 varieties reported and sharks among them. Cost figures reported for the project differ between outlets — **about ₹18.57 crore to ₹19 crore** — so treat the total as a range rather than a settled number.

It is being billed as **North India's first oceanarium**, and India's third, after Chennai's VGP Marine Kingdom and Bengaluru's Aquarium Paradise. That claim is worth exactly as much as it sounds: it means that until now, seeing a marine tunnel meant buying a flight.

→ *The full story is at jammubeat.com/post/1362-fish-and-a-20-metre-glass-tunnel-how-bagh-e-bahus-oceanarium-got-unstuck*



TRAVEL & WEEKENDS · RAIL

A Third Train *North*

Another Vande Bharat promised more capacity on Jammu's fast-changing rail corridor.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 5 MIN READ

If you have tried to book a seat on the Jammu Tawi-Srinagar Vande Bharat in the last three months, you already know the problem. Two train pairs, both running at what the Railways describes as almost full occupancy, on a route that students, jobseekers and weekend travellers have taken to immediately. A third service has now been approved.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh announced the approval on 20 August 2026, sharing a letter from Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. The new service will run as **train numbers 26407 and 26408** between Jammu Tawi and Srinagar — and unlike its two predecessors, it is being routed via **Shaheed Captain Tushar Mahajan Udampur railway station**.

What the route looks like today

The two pairs already running are **26401/26402** and **26403/26404**. They cover **269 km in about 4 hours 45 minutes**, stopping at Udampur, Katra, Reasi and Banihal. Commercial operations on the Katra-Srinagar section began on **2 May 2026**, after the service was extended down to Jammu at the end of April.

For a Jammu student heading to a campus in the Valley, or anyone with family at the other end, that timing has been the headline: a journey that used

to mean a full day on NH-44, subject to landslides and daylight-only advisories, compressed into a single morning. The catch has been capacity. Two pairs is not much for a route this popular, and the occupancy numbers reflect it.

What the third train actually adds

Two things, on the face of it.

The first is simply seats. A third daily pair is roughly a fifty per cent increase in Vande Bharat capacity on the corridor. If you have been losing out on booking windows, this is the fix — eventually.

The second is the Udampur routing. All three services stop at Udampur, but this is the first one whose approved routing names the station explicitly, which matters for a belt town that has spent years watching fast trains pass through. Udampur sits about 65 km up the road from Jammu city and is a real catchment for students commuting to Jammu's colleges and for families along the Chenani side.

→ *The full story is at jammubeat.com/post/a-third-vande-bharat-is-coming-to-the-jammu-srinagar-run-and-this-one-stops-at-udampur*



SECTION 05

Education

The strongest education stories looked beyond this admissions cycle: more land, more school years in one place, better data and a September recruitment window worth preparing for now.

IN THIS SECTION

- | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| 01 | Eighteen Acres Return — the land transfer that expands JU | 27 |
| 02 | After Class Ten — 714 high schools on a K–12 path | 28 |
| 03 | The Sky Sends Data — what NISAR gives Jammu students | 29 |
| 04 | 518 Posts, One Window — the JKSSB September application window | 29 |

EDUCATION · JAMMU UNIVERSITY

Eighteen Acres *Return*

A long-held parcel beside Jammu University was cleared for return — a rare chance to think seriously about the campus students need next.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 5 MIN READ



One hundred and forty-seven kanals and eleven marlas — roughly 18 acres — sit immediately next to the University of Jammu's main campus at Rakh Bahu. The Army has held them for more than 53 years. On 5 August, the university announced that the Ministry of Defence has cleared their transfer back to the Jammu and Kashmir administration, and onward to JU.

For a campus that has spent decades rationing space between departments, hostels and laboratories, this is the largest single change to its physical footprint in a generation. It is also not going to happen tomorrow, and the reason why is worth understanding before anyone starts drawing floor plans.

What exactly has been cleared?

The Ministry of Defence has conveyed Presidential sanction, with the concurrence of its finance wing, for the release of **147 kanals and 11 marlas** at Rakh Bahu — land adjoining JU's main campus that has been under Army occupation since the early 1970s. The sanction was communicated to the Chief of Army Staff and to the Director General Defence Estates.

The university's own announcement, published on its news page on 5 August under the heading "JU Expansion Unlocked", describes it as closing a chapter that has weighed on the institution's growth for over five decades.

Why is the Army getting land too?

Because this is an exchange, not a handover. In return, the Jammu and Kashmir administration transfers **2,124 kanals and 17 marlas** to the Army

at Nagrota Military Station. That splits into 2,062 kanals 17 marlas falling in Nagrota tehsil, under Udhampur's jurisdiction, and 62 kanals in Jammu tehsil.

The arrangement is not new. It traces back to a Civil Military Liaison Conference held on 29 September 2015 — which gives a fair sense of how slowly land swaps of this kind move.

Kanals, marlas, and how much land this actually is

Land in Jammu is still measured in kanals and marlas rather than acres, which makes the figures hard to picture. Twenty marlas make one kanal, and eight kanals make roughly one acre.

On that arithmetic, 147 kanals 11 marlas is about **18 acres** — a substantial block by the standards of an urban campus. The 2,124 kanals 17 marlas going the other way is about **265 acres**, or roughly fourteen times the area the university receives. That is not as lopsided as it sounds: the Nagrota land is station and training ground, while the Rakh Bahu parcel is city-adjacent land next to an existing campus, where every metre is at a premium.

So when does the campus actually change?

This is the part worth reading twice. Possession is **conditional and sequenced**. The Defence Estates Office in Jammu hands over the 147 kanals only *after* the UT administration first issues the transfer order for the 2,124 kanals 17 marlas in favour of the Ministry of Defence. The J&K government also bears the cost of reconstructing any Army assets affected by the move.

In plain terms: the paperwork clearing the larger transfer at Nagrota has to be completed first. Until it is, the land next to the campus stays exactly where it is. No date has been announced for either step, and a student starting a three-year degree this session should not assume they will ever study on it.

What might the space be used for?

The university has said it intends to use the land for academic and research infrastructure, innovation facilities and student amenities. It has not published a masterplan, a budget, or a phasing schedule, and nothing beyond that broad statement of intent is on the record. Anyone telling you there are confirmed hostel blocks or a new research park coming is filling in a blank that has not been filled in.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Umesh Rai, quoted in coverage of the sanction, framed it as a planning question rather than a construction announcement: "The availability of the land will help us plan future development in a more systematic manner."

That is an accurate description of where things stand. Land is the constraint that has to be lifted before any of the usual asks — more hostel beds, bigger laboratories, dedicated research blocks, sports and recreation space — can even be costed properly.

→ *The full story is at jammubeat.com/post/jammu-university-is-getting-147-kanals-back-from-the-army-after-53-years*

EDUCATION · SCHOOLS

After Class *Ten*

J&K's K-12 plan addressed the point where too many students leave school — but delivery will decide its value.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 6 MIN READ



IMAGE · WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Forty-four. That is roughly how many young people out of every hundred in the right age band are actually enrolled in Classes 11 and 12 across Jammu and Kashmir — 44.8%, against 113.7% at the primary level. The distance between those two numbers is the single biggest structural hole in the UT's school system, and on 24 August the government finally attached a figure to closing it: **714**.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a review of the School Education Department at the Civil Secretariat and cleared a phased roadmap to upgrade 714 existing high schools into **K-12 composite schools**. If it is delivered, it is the largest single expansion of senior secondary capacity the UT has attempted — and it is aimed squarely at the point in a student's life where J&K loses the most of them.

So what is a "K-12 composite school"?

A composite school runs the full ladder on one campus — from the foundational years through to Class 12 — instead of stopping at Class 10 and handing the student off to a different institution somewhere else. It is the model the National Education Policy 2020 pushes, and the logic is unglamorous but sound: every institutional handover is a chance to lose someone.

Right now a student in a village high school who clears Class 10 has to find a higher secondary school, which may be several kilometres away, may not offer the stream they want, and may cost money in transport that the family decides is not worth it. A composite school removes that decision entirely. The student simply carries on.

Why the jump after Class 10 is where people disappear

The enrolment ratios tell the story in a straight line. Primary sits at 113.7%. Upper primary drops to 77.3%. Secondary falls to 66.1%. And higher secondary lands at 44.8% — a fall of more than twenty points in a single step, with a dropout rate of 12.9% recorded between secondary and higher secondary.

We went through those figures in detail when NITI Aayog's school report landed — NITI Aayog on J&K Schools: 44.8% Enrolment by Class 12, and 1,371 Single-Teacher Schools — and the diagnosis there was that the system thins out exactly where it should be getting more serious. The 714-school plan is the first concrete answer anyone has put on the table since.

The government's own framing matches that reading. The upgrade is meant to ensure continuity in school education, expand access to Classes 11 and 12, and reduce dropouts at the transition after Class 10 — with explicit emphasis on underserved and geographically remote areas. In a UT where a great many high schools sit in hill blocks a long bus ride from the nearest higher secondary, that emphasis is the whole point.

What the meeting decided — and what it did not

The review went past the headline number into the things that actually determine whether an upgrade is real. The roadmap covers requirements for **teaching and non-teaching staff, infrastructure, laboratories** and other essential facilities, and the Chief Minister asked for a focused, need-based strategy rather than a blanket rollout, along with better coordination of centrally sponsored schemes to pay for it.

That matters, because a "K-12 school" that is a Class 10 school with a new signboard and no physics teacher is not an upgrade. Adding Classes 11 and 12 means subject specialists, lab equipment, and rooms — and J&K is a system that still reports 1,371 single-teacher schools between them serving 32,303 students.

What the review did *not* produce was a timeline. No implementation schedule was disclosed, no list of which 714 schools, and no phase-wise breakdown of how many come first. Until those exist, the number is an intention rather than a plan you can hold anyone to.

The meeting was attended by Education Minister Sakina Itoo, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Commissioner Secretary School Education Ram Niwas Sharma, and senior officers from the School Education, Finance, Planning and Public Works departments — PWD's presence being the clearest signal that construction, not just paperwork, is expected.

The other numbers in the room

Days earlier, speaking at SCERT Bemina on 21 August, Education Minister Sakina Itoo put some context around the same problem. School enrolment, she said, has risen about 17% over two years. Roughly 2,500 government schools had zero or minimal enrolment when she took charge. Around 700 lecturer posts have been referred for recruitment.

→ *The full story is at jammubeat.com/post/714-jk-high-schools-are-becoming-k-12-campuses-what-changes-after-class-10*

EDUCATION · SCIENCE

The Sky Sends *Data*

NISAR opened a cloud-proof view of the ground for students willing to learn what it can reveal.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 4 MIN READ

What if you could study a landslide near Ramban, a swollen river in the Chenab belt or a change in Jammu's forest cover without waiting for a cloud-free photograph?

That is the practical promise behind a quiet update from ISRO. On **24 July 2026**, the space agency said it had begun releasing processed **S-band radar data from NISAR** through Bhoonidhi, its earth-observation data portal. The release covers Indian land areas as well as selected global locations, and it gives students and researchers a new stream of real satellite observations to work with.

What NISAR sees differently

NISAR is the joint NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar mission. Unlike an ordinary camera, radar sends out microwave signals and reads the return. That means it can observe the ground through cloud and at night — useful conditions in a Himalayan monsoon, where the most important change may happen precisely when optical imagery is hardest to get.

The satellite carries both L-band and S-band radar. ISRO's latest release is for the S-band side. The mission uses a 12-metre reflector, observes a swath roughly 240 kilometres wide and is designed to revisit the same ground on a 12-day cycle. That repeat view is what makes change detection possible:

compare one pass with the next and small shifts in land, water or vegetation begin to show.

What has actually been released

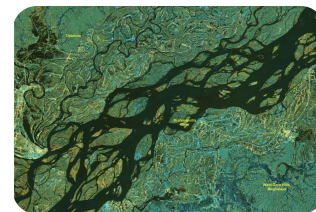
ISRO says S-band products from **Cycle 25 onward** are being generated in its operational system and made available through Bhoonidhi. Cycle 25 began on **8 July 2026**. Older acquisitions will be reprocessed in phases and added to the archive later.

This is not a one-off gallery of satellite pictures. It is a growing data series. That distinction matters if you want to build a college project, dissertation or mapping tool that needs more than a single before-and-after image.

Why Jammu is not a forced angle

J&K is already one of the places where satellite data is used for flood mapping, landslide assessment, forest-fire response, agriculture and planning. In a March parliamentary reply, the Department of Space pointed to customised forest-fire monitoring, disaster information through Bhuvan and the National Database for Emergency Management, and ISRO's continuing work with the J&K Remote Sensing Application Centre.

→ The full story is at jammubeat.com/post/isro-just-opened-nisar-radar-data-heres-what-jammu-students-can-build-with-it



EDUCATION · CAREERS

518 Posts, *One Window*

A September–October JKSSB window puts 518 posts on the board. The official notification is the only safe checklist.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 6 MIN READ

Mark two dates: **September 10** and **October 9**. That is the entire window in which you can file an application against the J&K Services Selection Board's newest advertisement — **Notification No. 08 of 2026**, notified on 5 August, covering **518 posts** across four government departments. Miss it and the next comparable opening is anyone's guess.

This is the largest single JKSSB advertisement of the year so far, and it is unusually lopsided: more than four in five of the vacancies sit inside one department.

Where the 518 posts actually are

- **Health and Medical Education — 421 posts.** The overwhelming bulk of this advertisement. If you hold a paramedical, nursing, laboratory or allied-health qualification, this notification is aimed squarely at you.
- **Higher Education — 48 posts.**
- **Agriculture Production — 46 posts.**
- **Labour and Employment — 3 posts.**

The vacancies span UT, Divisional and District cadre posts, which matters more than it sounds: a district-cadre post ties your posting to one district, while a UT-cadre post can send you anywhere in the Union Territory. Check which cadre a post carries before you rank your preferences.



Am I eligible?

Three gates, and all three are hard:

- **Domicile.** You need a valid Jammu & Kashmir domicile certificate, held *on or before* the closing date of applications. Not applied-for. Held.
- **Age, reckoned as on 1 January 2026.** Open Merit candidates must be no older than **40**. Reserved-category candidates get until **43**, and physically challenged candidates until **42**.
- **Post-specific qualifications.** These are not uniform across the 518 posts — they are set out post by post in **Annexure-A** of the official notification. Read your post's row rather than assuming a general degree covers it.

What it costs

The application fee is **₹600** for General and other categories, and **₹500** for SC, ST-1, ST-2, EWS and PwBD candidates. Applications are filed online at jkssb.nic.in; there is no offline route.

→ The full story is at jammubeat.com/post/jkssb-advt-08-of-2026-518-posts-and-the-application-window-opens-september-10

SECTION 06

Jobs & Career

August's career stories asked a broader question than where to apply: what can young Jammu residents build, fund, protect and scale from here?

IN THIS SECTION

- | | | |
|----|---|----|
| 01 | Which Door Is Yours? — Mission YUVA in plain English | 31 |
| 02 | Science, Scaled Here — the industrial biotech park at Ghatti | 32 |
| 03 | A Seed Fund, Explained — up to ₹20 lakh for a startup | 33 |
| 04 | A Label for Jammu — ten crafts awaiting GI recognition | 34 |
| 05 | AI Has a Local Address — IIT Jammu's AI centre of excellence | 34 |

JOBS & CAREER · ENTERPRISE

Which Door Is Yours?

Mission YUVA was not one scheme. The useful question was which route fits a first-time founder's actual plan.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 6 MIN READ

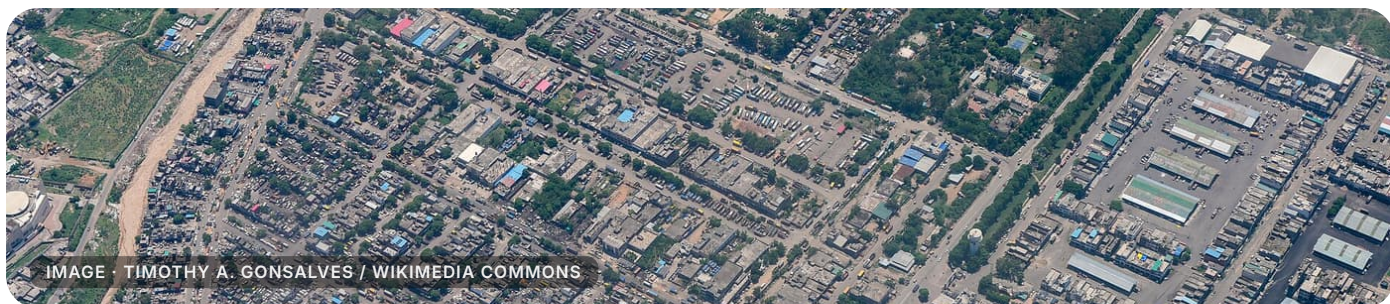


IMAGE · TIMOTHY A. GONSALVES / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Suppose you are twenty-two, out of college in Jammu, and the government-job queue is looking longer every year. What does the state actually put on the table if you say you would rather start something?

Since June 2025 the answer has had a name: **Mission YUVA**, J&K's flagship enterprise programme, launched by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on 28 June 2025 with a five-year target of about **1.37 lakh new enterprises and 4.25 lakh jobs**. It is a big number and easy to dismiss as a press release. The money moving through it is not. By May 2026 banks had sanctioned credit in more than **25,000 cases** worth over ₹1,200 crore, with roughly **₹1,119 crore already disbursed across more than 21,000 cases**.

What follows is the plain version: what the mission is, the four schemes underneath it, and where a first-time founder in Jammu should start.

So what is Mission YUVA, exactly?

It is not one scheme. It is an umbrella that routes young people towards bank credit, with the government paying down part of the cost. The official portal describes it as an initiative to turn J&K into "a thriving hub for entrepreneurship and employment" — in practice, a pipeline that takes you from registration, through a district help desk, to a bank.

The scale of interest has been the surprise. As of early 2026 the mission had recorded **1,59,327 registrations** and **65,353 submitted applications**, of which 44,857 proposals were approved, 13,324 cases sanctioned by banks and 10,329 entrepreneurs had actually received money. The gap between those last numbers is the honest part of the story: registering is easy, getting to disbursement is not.

Which of the four schemes is yours?

The portal splits the mission into four tracks, and picking the wrong one is the fastest way to waste a month.

- **Nano Entrepreneurs and Collectives.** The entry door, and the one most readers will want. Maximum project cost **₹10 lakh**. Explicitly open to first-time entrepreneurs, with *no prior credit history required* — which matters if you have never held a loan. Interest subvention of 5% for five years.
- **New MSMEs in Focus and Sunrise Sectors.** For a formally registered MSME in a priority industry — renewable energy, pharma, IT. Loans up to **₹2 crore**, with 6% interest subvention for five years. MSME registration is mandatory, so this is not a starting point.
- **Business Acceleration for Existing Enterprises.** Expansion capital for a registered business that has been running at **least five years**. Interest subvention capped at ₹10 lakh.
- **Neo-Innovative Enterprises.** The deep-tech and R&D track, with access to a **₹250 crore venture capital fund**. This is the one Jammu's campuses are being wired into — more on that below.

How much of it is a grant, and how much is a loan?

This is the question people get wrong most often. Mission YUVA is a *credit* programme with a subsidy attached, not a cash handout.

The government subsidy is **25% of project cost for general applicants and 30% for women and persons with disabilities**, and in both cases it is capped at **₹1,00,000**. That cap is the detail to internalise: on a ₹10 lakh project, 25% is

notionally ₹2.5 lakh, but you will see ₹1 lakh. The rest is a bank loan you repay.

The subsidy also arrives in two tranches — an initial incentive when the loan is sanctioned, and a completion incentive once the business is actually set up. Budget for that timing rather than assuming the whole amount lands upfront.

One genuinely encouraging signal on the credit side: of the 10,172 cases J&K Bank had sanctioned under the mission, **9,393 were collateral-free**. For an applicant with no property to pledge, that is the difference between a plan and a non-starter.

Where do you actually go?

Registration runs through the mission's own portal at missionyuva.jk.gov.in, which takes role-specific sign-ups from applicants, employers and enterprises.

The offline half matters as much. The mission runs **Small Business Development Units** at district level and **Business Help Desks** across all 20 J&K districts, whose stated job is documentation and financial guidance. If your project report is the thing standing between you and a sanction — and it usually is — that desk is a better first stop than the website.

One caveat worth stating plainly: the applicant age band for Mission YUVA is widely cited as 18 to 40, but the portal's detailed scheme pages sit behind a login and we could not confirm the age criteria from the official text. Confirm your own eligibility at a district Business Help Desk before you build a plan around it.

→ The full story is at jammubeat.com/post/mission-yuva-explained-the-four-doors-and-which-one-a-22-year-old-in-jammu-should-knock-on

JOBS & CAREER · KATHUA

Science, Scaled Here

Kathua's biotech park put a serious science-and-startup address within the Jammu region's orbit.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 4 MIN READ



IMAGE · CAREERS360 / CSIR-IIIM JAMMU

North India is getting its first Industrial Biotech Park — and it is not landing in a metro. It is coming up at Ghatti in Kathua, inside the roughly 100-kilometre belt a Jammu student can reach in under two hours. On 1 August 2026, CSIR-IIIM Jammu signed a memorandum of understanding with the Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKST&IC) to operationalise and run the park, turning a long-planned facility into a working address for scientists, startups and farmers.

For a region whose science graduates have long had to leave for Chandigarh, Delhi or Bengaluru to find a lab bench or an incubator, that address matters. The park is designed as a single campus where research, product development, startup incubation and industrial-scale production can sit side by side — the kind of end-to-end pipeline that turns a college project into a company.

What is actually being built

At its core, the park is a shared platform. CSIR-IIIM describes it as common ground for scientists, researchers, startups, entrepreneurs, established industry and farmers to work together on biotechnology-led innovation. In practice that means space and equipment for the expensive middle stretch of the journey — the part between a good idea and a market-ready product that most young founders cannot afford on their own.

The thematic focus plays directly to J&K's strengths: medicinal plants, aromatic crops, floriculture and other bio-based enterprises. These are not abstract choices. They are the crops and products CSIR-IIIM has spent years building agro-technologies around, and the park is meant to give them a place to be processed, distilled, packaged and commercialised at scale rather than shipped out as raw material.

Why a science student in Jammu should care

The short answer is proximity. A biotechnology, botany, chemistry or agriculture graduate in Jammu now has a serious research-and-enterprise hub within the belt, not a flight away. That opens up internships, project fellowships, dissertation tie-ups and — for the more ambitious — incubation support to test a product idea.

It also reframes what a science degree can lead to. The park's explicit pitch is agri-entrepreneurship and startup culture: the aim is not only to train people for jobs but to help them build ventures that hire others. For students who have watched the region's startup conversation grow louder over the past year, this is the physical infrastructure that conversation has been missing.

The money, and who is behind it

The Industrial Biotechnology Parks Society and JKST&IC will provide financial support of **₹15 crore over three years** to CSIR-IIIM to execute the project, with backing from the J&K Science & Technology Department and the Centre's Department of Biotechnology. CSIR-IIIM Jammu, led by director Dr Zabeer Ahmed, will act as the project management unit — meaning the institute that will run the park is also the region's flagship natural-products research body.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who has championed the facility, said the government "will continue to provide enabling policies, infrastructure and institutional support." The framing throughout has been less about a ribbon-cutting and more about a pipeline: policy, land, labs and money aligned so that a bio-based

product conceived in J&K can also be made in J&K.

Built on a decade of quiet groundwork

None of this appears from nowhere. CSIR-IIIM — the Jammu institute that began in 1941 and grew into one of India's lead labs for natural-products drug discovery — has spent years turning Himalayan medicinal and aromatic plants into farmer income. Its lavender programme, the much-cited "Purple Revolution," has helped more than 5,000 farmers across J&K shift from low-value traditional crops to high-value ones such as lavender, rosemary, clary sage, damask rose, mint and saffron, backed by improved cultivation and distillation technology.

The Kathua park is the industrial floor that work has been pointing toward: a place to convert that cultivation into finished, branded, bio-based products. JammuBeat has followed this thread before — from CSIR-IIIM nudging students toward biotech startups on World Youth Skills Day to the institute landing J&K's first Health Technology Assessment Centre. The park is the largest piece yet.

What to watch next

The MoU is the starting gun, not the finish line. The details young applicants will want — when incubation slots open, what internship and fellowship routes exist, how a student or a farmer collective actually applies for space — will follow as the park is operationalised over the coming months. For now the takeaway is simple: the infrastructure that lets a J&K science idea grow into a business without leaving the region is finally being built, and it is being built close enough to Jammu to be within reach.

JOBS & CAREER · STARTUPS

A Seed Fund, *Explained*

No degree and no application fee did not make the seed fund easy money — it made it a route worth understanding properly.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 5 MIN READ



IMAGE · KASHMIR LIFE

Most young founders in Jammu have heard some version of "there's government money for startups." Very few can tell you what it is called, what it pays, or the one box you have to tick before any of it becomes available to you.

It is called the **Seed Fund Scheme**. It runs under the J&K Startup Policy through JKEDI — the J&K Entrepreneurship Development Institute — and it pays up to **₹20 lakh** per startup, released in **four equal instalments of ₹5 lakh**.

Here is what it actually asks of you.

Do I need a degree?

No. The scheme states plainly that there is **no minimum education qualification required for founders**.

That single line makes this one of the more genuinely open funding routes available here. It does not ask for an engineering degree, an MBA, or a college affiliation. It asks whether you have a startup that qualifies — which is a different question, and one you can influence.

What does it cost to apply?

Nothing. There is **no application fee**, and the process is **entirely online with no physical submission of documents**. You do not travel to an office, you do not pay an agent, and anyone asking you for money to "process" a Seed Fund application is running a scam.

What is the one thing I have to do first?

This is where most applications die before they start.

You cannot apply for the Seed Fund as a general member of the public with a good idea. Your startup must first be **registered on the J&K**

Startup Portal and recognised by JKEDI. Recognition is the gate. Everything downstream — seed funding, and the other supports attached to the startup policy — runs through that recognition.

So the first action for a Jammu founder reading this is not to look for a Seed Fund form. It is to go to the J&K Startup Portal and get recognised. Do that now, whether or not a funding window is currently open, because when a window does open it runs for about a month and recognition is not something you want to be starting from scratch that week.

Who is ruled out?

Four conditions, and they are worth reading slowly because two of them catch people by surprise:

- The startup must be registered on the J&K Startup Portal and **recognised by JKEDI**.
- A startup can receive seed support from JKEDI **only once**. This is not a renewable annual grant.
- An entity, or any partner **holding more than a 49% stake**, cannot have previously received seed funding from JKEDI. If your co-founder took JKEDI seed money for an earlier venture and holds a majority stake in this one, you are out — and people genuinely do not check this before applying.
- You must **not be a defaulter** with JKEDI.

What can I actually spend it on?

The money arrives in two different forms, and they are not interchangeable.

The **grant portion** is for the early, unprovable stage: validating a proof of concept, developing a

prototype, running product trials. This is the part that funds finding out whether the thing works at all.

The **debt or convertible-debenture portion** is for what comes after: market entry, commercialisation, scaling up. This is money against a business that has already shown something.

One hard restriction: the funds **cannot be used for facility creation**. This is not money to buy a building or fit out a workspace, and a proposal built around premises will not clear.

The four-instalment structure follows the same logic. You are not handed ₹20 lakh and wished well — you draw it down as you hit stages, which is also why a realistic, staged plan reads better than an ambitious flat one.

It is worth being clear-eyed about what the debt portion means, because "government funding" makes people assume the whole ₹20 lakh is a gift. It is not. The grant part you do not repay; the debt or convertible-debenture part is finance, and convertible instruments can become equity later depending on the terms you sign. Read that section of any sanction letter properly, and if you do not understand it, take it to someone who does before signing. That is ordinary diligence, not pessimism — founders who skip it are the ones who get surprised two years in.

Who decides?

Applications are screened by a **Screening Committee** and then approved by the **Startup Task Force**. JKEDI is the nodal agency throughout.

→ The full story is at jammubeat.com/post/20-lakh-four-instalments-no-degree-required-how-jks-startup-seed-fund-actually-works

JOBS & CAREER · CRAFTS

A Label for Jammu

GI recognition can be a business tool when young makers can turn it into visible, sellable work.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 5 MIN READ

24. That is how many Geographical Indication registrations the Jammu division already holds — out of 63 across J&K. Ten more dossiers from Jammu are now sitting with evaluators, and two of the names on that list will be familiar to anyone who grew up here: the **Jammu Dogri Suit** and **Palm Leaf Craft**.

The numbers came out of a review of the handicrafts and handloom sector chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on 14 August. Read past the officialese and it is a fairly precise map of where the money, the training and the market access sit for anyone in Jammu thinking about making things for a living.

What a GI tag actually does

A Geographical Indication is a legal label that ties a product to the place that makes it — the reason Basohli painting from Kathua can be sold as Basohli painting and a lookalike from elsewhere cannot. For a young maker, that is not romance; it is pricing power and a defence against being undercut by a cheaper imitation with the same name.

The ledger so far: **63 GI registrations** across J&K — 39 in Kashmir, 24 in Jammu — and **97,178 GI labels** issued to date. Alongside Jammu's ten

pending dossiers, Kashmir has six more under evaluation, including copperware and Wagguv reed mats.

The rest of the numbers

- **4,61,381** artisans and weavers registered across J&K.
- **13,264** registered in the current financial year alone — 7,919 in Kashmir, **5,345 in Jammu**.
- **₹817.39 crore** in handicraft exports in FY 2025-26, with **₹73.85 crore** already logged in the first quarter of the current year.
- **1,871** artisans and weavers onboarded onto ONDC, the government-backed open e-commerce network.

The registration figure is the one to sit with. Over five thousand new artisan registrations in Jammu division in a single financial year is not a dying trade; it is a sector that a meaningful number of people are still choosing to enter — and the scaffolding around it is what decides whether they can make a living at it.

→ *The full story is at jammubeat.com/post/ten-jammu-crafts-are-in-line-for-a-gi-tag-including-the-dogri-suit*



JOBS & CAREER · TECHNOLOGY

AI Has a Local Address

An AI centre matters only when local talent can actually use what it builds.

BY JAMMUBEAT EDITORIAL • 5 MIN READ

The building blocks of an AI industry do not usually arrive with a ribbon. They arrive as a lab, a budget line, and a list of departments willing to hand over their hardest problems. This week Jammu got all three at once.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah launched the **Jammu & Kashmir Artificial Intelligence Centre of Excellence (AI CoE)** at IIT Jammu, and dedicated **Project Phoenix**, an AI-enabled digital commerce platform, at the same campus. The centre has been set up with the support of the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Information Technology Department of the J&K government — which is the detail that matters most, because it means this is not a campus club with a nice name. It is a funded node in India's national AI push, and it sits about 20 km from where a lot of you are reading this.

What the centre is actually supposed to do

The AI CoE is described as a hub for AI research, solution development, benchmarking, technology evaluation and deployment support. Unpacked, those five words describe a fairly specific job: not just building models, but testing whether they work, comparing them against alternatives, and helping a government department or a company actually put one into service.

The centre is meant to work with government departments, academia, startups and industry partners across governance, education, healthcare,

agriculture, infrastructure and disaster management. The Chief Minister's own examples were concrete rather than abstract — using AI to improve teaching in remote areas where specialist teachers are scarce, to help diagnose disease where a specialist doctor is not available, to catch orchard diseases early, and to produce location-specific weather forecasting that could reduce damage from a flash flood or a hailstorm.

That list is worth reading twice, because it is a list of problems that are recognisably ours. Remote schools, thin specialist coverage in district hospitals, orchards, and weather that turns dangerous fast in the hills are not generic AI use-cases lifted from a Bengaluru pitch deck. They are the reason a regional centre exists at all rather than a line item in someone else's lab.

Project Phoenix: a shopfront, not a scheme

The second launch is the one with the shorter path to somebody's bank account. Project Phoenix is a digital commerce platform built to connect artisans, self-help groups, cooperatives, startups, brands and MSMEs from Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh to national and global markets. Its stated features are simplified onboarding, product discovery and market access.

→ *The full story is at jammubeat.com/post/iit-jammu-gets-jks-ai-centre-of-excellence-and-a-marketplace-for-the-regions-makers*



What to *apply for*

These openings remain live as this issue lands. Read the original notification and apply early: a magazine can orient you, but the official page is the final word.

Junior Research Fellow — Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis Project, Advt 27/2026

BY 6 SEPT

CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu · Canal Road, Jammu, J&K · ₹43,660/month (years 1-2); ₹49,560/month (year 3, SRF) · contract

Admin & Accounts Officer, Programme Assistant, Graphic Designer & Data Entr...

BY 6 SEPT

National Development Foundation (NDF) · Jammu, J&K (one Programme Assistant post at Rajouri) · ₹15,500-₹26,000/month · full-time

Project Assistant-II (Chemistry) — Bioresource Conservation and Prospection...

BY 6 SEPT

CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu · Canal Road, Jammu, J&K · ₹20,000/month + HRA · contract

Local Bank Officer (JMG/S-I) — 15 Jammu & Kashmir Vacancies

BY 7 SEPT

Bank of Baroda · Jammu, J&K · full-time

72 Divisional Cadre Posts under PM's Package — Advt 07 of 2026

BY 8 SEPT

Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) · Jammu, J&K · full-time

Medical Officer, Specialist & Super Specialist (282 posts) — CAPF MOSB 2026

BY 8 SEPT

Medical Officer Selection Board (MHA), via ITBP — for BSF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB and Assam Rifles · All India, including Jammu & Kashmir formations · **Group A — Assistant Commandant / Deputy Commandant / Second-in-Command grades** · full-time

NIELIT J&K Recruitment 2026 — Multiple Posts (Digital J&K Project)

BY 9 SEPT

National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), Srinagar/Jammu · Jammu, J&K · contract

Junior Research Fellow (2) and Research Associate-II — DRDO Polymer Project

BY 9 SEPT

Indian Institute of Technology Jammu · IIT Jammu, Jagti, Nagrota, Jammu, J&K · **JRF: ₹37,000-₹42,000 + 20% HRA; RA-II: ₹61,000 + 20% HRA** · contract

Apprentice Trainee 2026-27 — Graduate, Diploma & ITI (8 slots for J&K)

BY 10 SEPT

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) — Northern Region Transmission System-II · Jammu, J&K · ₹13,500-₹17,500/month · internship

Research Associate and Project Assistant — Baremetal AI Defence Imaging

BY 10 SEPT

Indian Institute of Technology Jammu · IIT Jammu, Jagti, Nagrota, Jammu, J&K · **Research Associate: ₹70,000; Project Assistant: ₹21,000 consolidated** · contract

Your next job, first.

The full board is live year-round, and members get every new opening and deadline before it goes public.

[jammubeat.com/jobs →](https://jammubeat.com/jobs)

BECOME A MEMBER

Belong to the *city.*

The magazine is only the start. Membership is how you keep up with Jammu — and how independent city journalism keeps going.

The weekly city brief

Every Saturday morning — the five stories, openings and decisions shaping Jammu, in your inbox to start the weekend.

Events & jobs, first

Member-only early access to the city diary and the JammuBeat jobs board — listings before they go public.

The monthly issue, delivered

Every issue of this magazine in your inbox, plus the full archive online.

[jammubeat.com/join →](https://jammubeat.com/join)

from ₹49/month · free for students