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Mehbooba heads to Sheshnag lake after excavator row, stopped mid-way



CHENNAI – 25 Nov, 2026 Former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti was stopped at Chandanwari as she was heading to Sheshnag lake on the Pahalgam-Amarnath cave route on Tuesday.

Mufti was accompanied by two PDP legislators: Waheed Para and Aga Muntazir Mehdi.

As they reached Chandanwari, the police stopped them citing "security reasons".

Sheshnag lake, a glacial lake that sits at an altitude of 3,950 meters on the route to Amarnath cave, is around 12 kilometres from Chandanwari.

A controversy has erupted in the Valley after a video showing excavators moving mounds of earth near the Sheshnag alpine lake and dumping soil on its shores. The lake is also considered sacred in Hinduism.

The political and religious leaders of the valley as well as environment activists have called for an immediate halt of the use of excavators in the ecologically fragile region citing damage to Himalayan ecosystem and sacredness of the lake.

"This is a disaster. How such heavy machines reach our glaciers of Kashmir," asked climate activist Raja Muzaffar Bhat in a post on X.