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Counter False Narratives: LG To Writers

'Youth Of J&K Deeply Engaging With Nation's History'



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday also urged writers and poets to counter false narratives about Jammu and Kashmir and present the younger generation with a brighter and more authentic perspective of the region.

Sinha said that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir are now deeply engaging with the country's history, values, and aspirations, forging stronger bonds with its diversity and heritage while fostering a shared cultural identity for nation-building.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Veshaw Literary Festival in Kulgam through video conferencing, the Lieutenant Governor said that such platforms

celebrate literature by bringing together writers, artists, and readers to share ideas and promote creative expression.

"The literary festival will also explore the region's unique spirituality and cultural richness, while providing a platform for women writers and young authors to showcase their creative works. Such events foster appreciation for literature and strengthen community bonds," the LG said.

Highlighting the legacy of renowned literary figures from Jammu and Kashmir, Sinha said their writings have inspired generations and continue to enrich the region's intellectual tradition.

"Kulgam stands as a testament to a | **More on P6**

A Year In Office: Judge Our Govt After 5 Yrs, Says CM

■ Urges PM Modi & HM Shah To Restore Statehood

■ We Are Working for J&K's Betterment: CM On LG-Govt Relationship

Observer News Service

Srinagar: "This is a five-year government; if you want to judge us by our manifesto, judge us after five years," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said.

Omar defended the performance of the National Conference-led government as it completed one year in office, emphasizing that the people should evaluate the administration after its full five-year term.

Addressing a press conference, Omar said the government has worked to the best of its ability under challenging circumstances in the Union Territory. "We want the people



to be satisfied with our work. I believe we couldn't have done better under these circumstances, but we will do much better in the | **More on P6**

'CSC Report on Reservation To Be Sent To LG'

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that the Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet has accepted the report of a cabinet sub-committee on reservation, which will now be sent to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for approval. On December 10 last year, | **More on P6**

Severe Gridlock Hits Jammu-Sgr Highway

Agencies

Srinagar: What should have been a routine journey between Qazigund and Ramban has turned into a nightmare for commuters, with severe traffic snarls plaguing the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. The road remains heavily congested, and journeys that once took 4-5 hours are now stretching to 10 hours, commuters said.

Commuters said that the highway has been brought to a halt from Qazigund to Udhampur. "Massive traffic jams have brought movement to a near standstill," said a passenger, adding that the gridlock is being described as the worst of the season.

A passenger travelling from Srinagar to Jammu said, "We left at dawn, but we barely moved a few kilometres | **More on P6**

'Clear Our Bills First' Mufti Sets Conditions For Backing NC In RS Polls

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday said her party would consider supporting the National Conference (NC) in the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections only if the government clears two key bills proposed by the PDP in the next assembly session.

Addressing reporters in Srinagar, Mehbooba revealed that NC President Dr. Farooq Abdullah had personally reached out to her, seeking the PDP's support in the elections.

"Farooq Sahib called me and asked for support. I told him that if they clear our bills, then we will think about supporting them," Mehbooba said.

The PDP chief said her | **More on P6**

Terror Handler's Property Seized Under UAPA

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: A property of an alleged terror handler operating from Pakistan was attached on Thursday under the UAPA in Budgam district, police said.

The property spanning 10 marlas was attached along with a two-storey residential house in Sandipora, a police spokesperson said. He said the property belongs to Muzaffar Hussain Allie, a resident of Sandipora, an area in the central Kashmir district.

Allie had exfiltrated to Pakistan and was using the property to promote terror activities.

During the course of the investigation, it was revealed that Allie was trying to sell the property and use its proceeds to finance terror activities, the spokesperson said.

The action was taken under Section 25 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

Allie is at present operating from Pakistan and continues to be actively involved in anti-national activities, the spokesperson said.

Create Special Jails For Fugitives In Every State: Shah

KO Web Desk

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday suggested the creation of a special prison for fugitives in each state that meets international standards, and cancel the passports of those facing Interpol red notices to blunt their claims of mistreatment upon extradition and stop their free movement across borders.

Several fugitives, including Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi, have raised the issue of "poor conditions" of Indian prisons to counter their extradition in foreign courts.

Inaugurating a conference on 'Extradition of Fugitives - Challenges and Strategies' organised by the CBI, Shah said, "Till the time we create fear for the Indian legal system in the minds of fugitives who are hurting the Indian economy, our sovereignty, and our security from abroad, we



cannot ensure security of the country." India has 338 extradition requests pending with various countries to bring back fugitives wanted for financial crimes, terrorism, and narcotics smuggling, among others.

Shah said the passports of fugitives could be red-flagged upon the issuance of an Interpol Red Notice against them.

"It is not a difficult thing to do with the present technologies. When a red notice is issued, the passport should be cancelled to | **More on P6**

1,614 J&K Policemen Killed In Past 3 Decades: DGP

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Stating that more than 1,614 Jammu and Kashmir policemen laid down their lives over the past three decades while fighting Pakistan and its proxies, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Thursday reiterated the force's commitment to maintaining peace and stability in the Union Territory.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the 10th All India Police Games Judo Cluster at the Indoor Stadium here, DGP Prabhat said, "Supreme sacrifices of police martyrs stand as | **More on P6**

Filling Vacant Posts Employer's Discretion: HC

Says Candidate Cannot Dictate Employer To Fill All Vacancies

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has held that the decision to fill vacant posts lies solely with the employer, emphasizing that candidates cannot compel it to fill all vacancies.

A bench of Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal made the observations while upholding decision of the Central Administrative Tribunal, which had dismissed an application filed by 52

applicants challenging their non-selection as constables in the Jammu and Kashmir State Disaster Response Force. The recruitment was advertised in 2012, and the final select list was issued in 2019.

The candidates had contended that as per the information obtained under Right to Information Act, 516 number of posts were required to be advertised but instead of doing so, the authorities notified only 355 posts of SDRF Constables.

"This contention | **More on P6**



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DIPK-NB-2207/25 | Dated: 16.10.2025



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2

‘Time Used Differently Across Society Can Undermine How One Manages Dementia Risk’

Press Trust Of India

How time is used differently by sections of a society and therefore gets unequally distributed can significantly undermine one's ability to manage their risk of dementia, researchers argue and call for policies that allow an individual to engage in brain-healthy behaviours.

Essential aspects of daily lifestyle take up 10 hours -- at least seven hours of sleep, up to an hour of physical and social activity each, half an hour per meal -- at the bare minimum, but is not an ideal amount for maintaining and promoting brain health, said the team from the University of New South Wales Sydney in Australia and Ireland's Trinity College Dublin, which reviewed evidence from previously published studies.

Results suggest more than 10 hours a day might be required for engaging in brain-health activities, excluding the time needed for work, commute, personal care and caregiving, and household routines, the authors said in the article, published in The Lancet Healthy Longevity journal.

Structural conditions, including irregular work hours, digital overload and socioeconomic disadvantage, can create 'temporal inequity' or 'time poverty' that disproportionately affects already vulnerable groups, they added.

A 2024 Lancet Commission report added high cholesterol and loss of vision to 12 previously recognised risk factors for dementia, including low education, air pollution, high blood pressure and diabetes.

Nearly 45 per cent of the world's dementia cases could be prevented by addressing the risk factors, the report said.

"However, many people simply don't have the discretionary time to exercise, rest properly, eat healthily or stay socially connected. This lack of time -- what we call 'time poverty' -- is a hidden barrier to dementia risk reduction," said lead author Susanne Roehr, associate professor at centre



“Many People simply don't have the discretionary time to exercise, rest properly, eat healthily or stay socially connected. This lack of time -- what we call 'time poverty' -- is a hidden barrier to dementia risk reduction

for healthy brain ageing, University of New South Wales Sydney.

The authors wrote, "Although evidence for modifiable risk factors of dementia, such as sleep, physical activity, nutrition, and social engagement, is strong, adopting healthy behaviours requires time."

"In this Personal View, we integrate insights from epidemiology, neuroscience, and time-use research to argue that addressing temporal inequity is essential for brain health and dementia risk reduction," they said.

Further, low and middle-income countries, which are projected to see the most rapid increase in dementia cases in the decades to come, "bear a disproportionate burden of temporal inequity (time poverty)", the researchers said.

They added that frameworks on brain health need to shift away from ne-

glecting time or prescribing how time should be used towards diverse and culturally grounded approaches.

They called for a coordinated action across multiple levels, governments legislating flexible work and caregiving leave, workplaces allowing a 'right-to-disconnect', safe walking and cycling networks in communities and health systems assessing how one uses time into brain-health tools.

International collaboration, especially with LMICs, can extend these benefits through co-developed, culturally grounded solutions and support for time-saving infrastructures, the team said.

Further, studies on how time is used by varied sections of the society is underdeveloped in low and middle-income countries and are urgent for an equitable reduction of dementia risk, they said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In my Driving License bearing DL NO. JK05 20200002202 name is mentioned as ALI ASGAR SHEIKH. But my actual name is ALI ASSGAR SHEIKH, and my father's Name is mentioned as ALI HADIR , But my actual name is ALI HAIDER SHEIKH. Now I want to correct it if anybody has any objection, he/she may contact ARTO OFFICE SOPORE within the period of 7 days; after that, no objection will be accepted.

Name: ALI ASSGAR SHEIKH
S/O: ALI HAIDER SHEIKH
R/O BAGNAH NOOR KHA BLA.
PANJOORA BARAMULA,JK
Pincode : 193122

Abbas Ads

PUBLIC NOTICE

In my Driving License bearing DL NO. JK-0520150050132 name is mentioned as JAHANGIR AHMAD. But my actual name is JAHANGIR AHMAD SHEIKH, and my father's Name is mentioned as ALI AKSER , But my actual name is ALI ASGER SHEIKH. Now I want to correct it if anybody has any objection, he/she may contact ARTO OFFICE SOPORE within the period of 7 days; after that, no objection will be accepted.

Name: JAHANGIR AHMAD SHEIKH
S/O: ALI ASGER SHEIKH
R/O BAGNAH NOOR KHA BLA.PANJOORA
BARAMULA,JK
Pincode : 193122

Abbas Ads

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION, BIJBEHARA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e-NIT No.:-34/PHE/BIJ of 2025-26 [e-Tendering]

issued under endorsement No.PHE/BIJ/6924-47Dated :-15.10.2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K Union Territory e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on percentage basis from approved and registered Govt. contractors, for the works mentioned below:-

S.No.	Name of work	Adv Cost Rs in Lacs	Earnest money. (in Rs)	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender doc. (in Rs)	Time of Completion
1.	Restoration of Lehenwan impounding reservoir by way of removal of debris/silt and restoration of chain link fencing damaged due to floods of 26/27th Aug. 2025.	.50	4500	DEE	200	15 days

Position of Accord of Administrative Approval:- Accorded
Position of Technical Sanction:- Accorded
The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below.

S. No.	Description	Date	Time
		DD	MM
1	Publishing date of NIT	16	10
2	Download start date	16	10
3	Bid submission start date	16	10
4	Bid submission end date	21	10
5	Bid opening date	21	10

Bids must be uploaded on Jktenders.gov.in with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/ e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHEDivision Bijbehara (Tender receiving authority).

Earnest Money equivalent to 3% of Advertised cost shall have to be uploaded by the tenderer in shape of CDR/FDR without which the tender shall not be entertained.

The quantity of items in the B.O.Q are purely on tentative basis just to arrive at a genuine / exact comparative cost. The quantity items in the B.O.Q can increase or decrease and shall not be mentioned in the allotment order.

The successful bidder shall have to respond within the minimum possible time (not more than 03 hours) to execute the requisite job failing which the Engineer In-charge or the authorized supervisory staff shall be at liberty to get the job executed / completed through any other means on the risk and cost of the allottee. If the allottee will fail to respond in time continuously for 03 turns his contract shall be deemed to have been cancelled and the job shall be put to fresh tenders after forfeiting of his performance security and shall be debared to take part in any other tendering process of the Division.

The tenderer shall have to satisfy himself regarding all aspects like topography of the area, climatic conditions, geographical conditions within the peripherals of the area, before tendering for the work of the particular area at his own expenses.

The tenderers have to submit the tender online without any addition or alteration in the rate schedule items or any conditions thereof. No conditional tender whatsoever shall be entertained even if the rates shall be lowest one.

The tenderer has to understand fully the nature of work or works as per proper nomenclature of items of work in rate/quantity schedule in the form of B.O.Q.

The tenderer has to sign a deed at the time of allotment and has to give full details of men and machinery available within or he has to give a written bond duly stamped as per norms of providing men and machinery as required for execution of any of the work or works allotted to him.

The successful bidder has to remain in close liaison with the Divisional Office / Sub Divisional Office of PHE Division Bijbehara till the expiry of the contract, besides the tenderer shall have to remain available during the contract period.

Since the work is of emergent nature, therefore, in order to execute work and to be carried out during execution period as mentioned.

The Payment to the concerned agency shall be made as per availability of funds.

Any item of work not included in the B.O.Q but required for the completion of the work, shall be executed by the contractor, as directed by the Department. Such extra item shall be paid on J&K SOR 2022 rates with allotted appreciation/depreciation of the contractor. In case such item does not figure in J&K SOR 2022, the same shall be paid as per the current market rate analysis (LMR), to be approved by the competent authority. Work done claims has to be supported with pre, during and post photographic evidence.

All other terms, conditions are as per the PWD Form 25 (Double agreement form).

SL No
01. Enlistment card Registration with latest card renewal 2025-26
02. Card verification
03. Latest GST Certificate along with GST 3b
04. Scanned copy of the latest Income Tax Return.
05. Treasury Challan/e-Challan (MhN-0215)
06. Earnest Money as specified shall have to be uploaded by the tenderer in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG without which the tender shall not be entertained.
07. Additional security deposit in the shape of CDR / FDR/ BG as specified, in case of unbalanced tenderer
08. Debarred Affidavit duly notarized
09. Bidder Address details
DIPK-7248/25
dated: 16-10-2025

Executive Engineer,
J.S PHE Division Bijbehara.

از ریاست پٹھان بنی اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار پٹھان درخواست از جانب محمد شرف شیخ ولد عبدل شیخ ساکن پٹھان تحصیل پٹن برادرکم یوم پیدائش یکت شیخ محمد افہام

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نام تاریخ پیدائش سکونت

شیخ افہام 29-06-2018 پٹھان

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نائب تحصیلدار پٹھان

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Old name Zubair Ahmad Khan To New Name Zubair Ahmad . In future I will be known as Zubair Ahmad . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the Passport Office Sringar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

my name has been wrongly written in driving licence bearing DL No: JK0520150049381 AS Mohammad Yaseen S/o Gh Mohammad Bhat while my correct name as per School Certificate is Mohammad Yaseen Bhat S/o Gh Mohammad Bhat. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Yaseen Bhat
S/o Gh Mohammad Bhat
R/o Khambyar Pattan

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Ghulam Mohi ud -din Dar to new name Gh Mohi Din Dar . In future I will be known as Gh Mohi Din Dar. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the Passport Office Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

INFO

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class-10th) under Roll No.: 8129288 , 8120265, 81118410 Session: Year 2015,2016,2017 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/Board/parent against my father's Name as Ghulam Hussain Akhooon instead of Ghulam Hassan Akhooon Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Mubashir Ali Akhooon
Father's Name: Ghulam Hussain Akhooon
Mother's Name: Amina
DOB: 17-10-1998
R/o. Akhooon Mohalla Srinagar
Mobile: 9266603160



INF

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name & Parentage of my ward has been wrongly written in his adhaar card as Vijdhan Jahangir S/o Jahangir Ahmad Mir while his correct name and Parentage is Mir Mohammad Tahir S/o Jahangeer Ahmad Mir . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Jahangeer Ahmad Mir

F/o Mir Mohammad Tahir

R/o Chotigam Herman Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Bashir Ahmad Kalas while my correct name is Shabir Ahmad Kalas . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shabir Ahmad Kalas
S/o Ghulam Nabi Kalas
R/o Mukani Dunaroo

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his adhaar card as Dilawar Shabir while his correct name is Dilawar Ahmad Kalas . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shabir Ahmad Kalas

F/O Dilawar Ahmad Kalas

R/O Devpora Shopian Tehsil & Distt Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Khurshid Ah Khan while my correct name is Khursheed Ahmad Khan . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Khursheed Ahmad Khan

S/o Mohd Latief Khan

R/o Shadab Karewa Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Jawid Iqbal, S/o Ab Rashid Wani, R/o Sonagam, Onagam, District Bandipora, have applied for correction of my name in the vehicle registration record. My name has been wrongly written as Javeed Iqbal Wani instead of Jawid Iqbal in the RC of vehicle bearing registration number JK15 0443. I am applying for the correction of the same so that the vehicle can be transferred. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may contact the ARTO Bandipora within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated period.

fko

NOTICE

It is hereby informed that I, Marifat tak , W/o Nadeem Ahmad tak R/o Ahmedgrah Sangrur Punjab holder of Bank Account No. SB 12874 maintained with Jammu and Kashmir bank, Branch Molvi stop Lal bazar, have applied to the bank for updating my name and address in the bank records as per KYC norms From Old Name Marifat yousuf R/o Lal Bazar to New Name Marifat tak R/o Ahmedgrah Sangrur Punjab
Any person having any objection to this change may contact the undersigned or the concerned bank branch within 7 (seven) days of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.
Contact No: 8006239730

Media line addn

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION TANGMARG.

FRESH NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Fresh NIT No. 86/ OF RNB/ Tangmarg/2025-26/E-TENDERING DATED. 16.10.2024

The Upper Sealing for Inviting Stage Contract Shall Be Kept as Restricted Rs: 19.00 Lacs for Sr. 1

For and on behalf of the Government of UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage Rate Basis from Eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Earnest money (In Rs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Tender Call
1	Maintenance and Repairs of various Roads/Bridges/culverts in the Jurisdiction of Sub-Division Kunzer (Stage contract -) Part -C	38000/-	800/-	FY 2025-26	3054-M&R	C/B	3rd

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

2.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	16.10.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	17.10.2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	17.10.2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	28.10.2025 upto 4.00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	29.10.2025 at 11:00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg

3. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan Should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority).

as mentioned on above Table pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg

5. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value and Additional Performance Security as per unbalance bid chart mentioned below in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority) as per rule-171 (I) of GFR 2017. The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security and Additional Performance Security of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP / maintenance period and completion of work respectively.

6. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (Tender Receiving Authority).

7. The earnest money/ Bid security in favour of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of original Treasury Challan.

8. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

8.1 The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-

i. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

ii. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

iii. Failure of successfully bidder to submit the performance security & Additional Performance Security within the time period (as per JKPWD Engineering Manual 2020) i.e. 21 Days from the issuance of letter of acceptance, after that the work will be put to fresh tenders without any notice to the contractor and the EMD will be forfeited.

34. As per the Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated: 08-07-2025 issued by Finance Department of UT J&K "Every participating supplier/contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GST IN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/ Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder".

No. R&B/Div./T/5253-63

DIPK-7263/25

Dated: 16-10-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Tangmarg.

Transporters Protest Route Closures, Say Livelihoods Threatened

Agencies

Srinagar: Growing discontent is brewing within Srinagar’s private transport sector, as drivers and vehicle owners have accused authorities of arbitrarily closing several key routes and introducing major diversions, severely impacting both transporters and commuters.

Members of the Kashmir Transport Welfare Association said that the recent administrative measures have crippled the already struggling private transport industry, leaving hundreds of families on the brink of financial ruin.

“When the state of this industry is already unstable, several of our routes, such as Pampore, Narbal, and Budgam, have been closed,” Sheikh Muhammad Yousuf, General Secretary of the Association said. “This has not only affected the livelihood of transporters but also subjected commuters to severe hardship.”

Sheikh Muhammad Yousuf said that the number of private passenger vehicles operating within Srinagar city has drastically fallen over the years. “In 2006, around 1,800 vehicles were operating; now we have barely 800 left. Even the few remaining vehicles are constantly targeted, and every day new restrictions are being introduced to push our families into distress,” he said.

He also expressed concern over what he described as “unjustified route extensions,” citing examples such as the Lal Chowk–Soura route, which has been stretched from 12 to 17 kilometers. “This wastes fuel and valuable time. Passengers are forced to spend more money and reach their destinations late,” he added.

Mukhtar Ahmad, another transporter, said, “The private vehicle services must be restored immediately. Though some buses are running, the waiting time is long, and daily commuters — including students and patients, are facing huge difficulties.”

Transporters allege that the ongoing restrictions are part of a larger attempt to weaken the private transport network in favor of other services. They demanded that the administration restore traditional routes and hold consultations with stakeholders before implementing new traffic plans.

Appealing directly to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the Association urged immediate intervention to “protect the livelihoods of thousands of transporters” and ensure that “the people of Srinagar are not left stranded due to unilateral administrative decisions.” [KNT]

‘Craft Bazar’ at KU Showcases Kashmir’s Timeless Artistry & Craft Innovation

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a vibrant celebration of Kashmir’s timeless craftsmanship and cultural legacy, the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Srinagar on Wednesday inaugurated a three-day event titled “Craft Bazar – Artisan Awareness Workshop and Craft Demonstration” at the University of Kashmir.

The event was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor, University of Kashmir, Prof. Nilofer Khan, alongside Registrar Syed Azhar, Joint Director NIFT Srinagar, faculty members, students, and several dignitaries from both institutions.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Khan lauded NIFT Srinagar’s initiative in or-

ganizing what she termed a “meaningful and inspiring” platform for artisans. “The craftsmanship of Kashmiri artisans has no match in the world,” she said, commending NIFT Srinagar for its efforts to celebrate and preserve the region’s rich craft heritage through awareness, education, and innovation.

The Vice-Chancellor called for greater collaboration between NIFT Srinagar and the University of Kashmir to create more opportunities for artisans. “The University is fully committed to supporting initiatives that promote our crafts and artisans. Together, we can provide platforms that enhance both cultural recognition and economic empowerment,” Prof. Khan affirmed.



Careless Heating Practices Spark Most Winter Fires, Says F&ES

F&E Issues Winter Advisory; Urges Use of ISI-marked Appliances, Safe LPG Handling

Agencies

Srinagar: While briefing on the winter advisory, Er Aqib Husain Mir, Deputy Director, Fire and Emergency Services Srinagar on Thursday cautioned that fire incidents tend to rise sharply during the cold season due to the careless use of heating appliances and LPG devices.

He urged the public to follow safety measures and use certified equipment to prevent fire mishaps during the winter months.

The Deputy Director said fire incidents tend to increase significantly during the winter months, mainly due to the careless and excessive use of heating gadgets.

“Compared to summer, we see a significant rise in fire cases during winter. The root cause remains the excessive and sometimes careless use of heating devices,” Er Aqib said during a press conference at Gowa Kadal.

He advised the public to procure ISI-marked heating appliances and ensure proper servicing of old devices before use.

“If you are using old gadgets, get them inspected and serviced. And very importantly, switch them off or unplug them before going to sleep or leaving the house,” he said.

“

We have lost lives to such practices. The public is strictly advised not to use electric blankets

Highlighting the dangers of electric short circuits and overloads, Er Aqib urged citizens to conduct ‘electrical audits’ of their homes and use ISI-marked circuit breakers and wiring systems.

On LPG safety, he recommended using piped gas connections in kitchens to reduce the risk of gas accumulation. “Ensure you have proper accessories like regulators and hoses. Also, avoid unattended cooking,” he said.

The Deputy Director also warned of toxic gas emissions and oxygen depletion from LPG heaters. “Many casualties occur due to suffocation. Always maintain ven-

tilation while using such devices, and never use them while sleeping,” Er Aqib said.




He further warned against unsafe traditional practices such as using electric blankets alongside hot water bottles. “We have lost lives to such practices. The public is strictly advised not to use electric blankets,” he said.


The department also cautioned residents to store combustible materials like dry grass and firewood away from living areas, especially attics, and to handle Kangris carefully. “Kangris must be placed safely, especially during night hours, to avoid fire incidents,” Er Aqib shared.

He further said that in case of any fire emergency, people should contact the department immediately. “Instead of trying to control the fire themselves, people must inform F&ES at the earliest. Our toll-free number 101 is available round-the-clock,” he said.

Er Aqib added that the department is fully prepared for winter emergencies, including dewatering operations during heavy rainfall and assistance during snow accumulation. “Our manpower and machinery are on high alert. We request public cooperation to ensure a safe winter for all,” he said—(KNO)

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

AIRPORTS	
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311	
RAILWAYS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259• ANANTNAG: 01932-228243• BARAMULLA: 0194-102029• BUIBHARA: 01932-228243• PAMPORE: 01933-294132• PATTAN: 01954-293507• QAZIGUND: 01951-296153
HIGHWAY STATUS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)• Mughal Road - (Open)• Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

 HIJRI CALENDAR 23 Rabi-ul-Sani 1447	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	5:16
	ZUHR	12:16
	ASR	4:17
	Magrib	6:00
	ISHA	7:18

This Day In History

- 415- Jewish autonomy in Palestine ended by the Romans and Raban Gamliel forced from office
- 532- Boniface II ends his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1346- Battle of Neville's Cross: King David II of Scotland is captured by Edward III of England at Calais, and imprisoned in the Tower of London for eleven years
- 1387- Swells convent Windesheim initiated
- 1404- Cosma de' Migliorati elected Pope Innocentius VII
- 1448- Second Battle of Kosovo, where the mainly Hungarian army led by John Hunyadi were defeated by an Ottoman army led by Sultan Murad II.
- 1456- The University of Greifswald is established, making it the second oldest university in northern continental Europe (also for a period the oldest in Sweden, and Prussia)
- 1483- Tomas de Torquemada appointed inquisitor-general of Spain
- 1556- Ex-emperor Karel departs Netherland for Spain
- 1776- Captain James Cook arrives in Cape Town with Resolution on his third trip to the Pacific Ocean
- 1777- British General John Burgoyne surrenders at Saratoga during the American Revolutionary War
- 1797- Peace of Campo Formio: Austrian Dutch possessions & France
- 1800- Dutch colony Curacao transfered to Great Britain
- 1806- Former leader of the Haitian Revolution, Emperor Jacques I of Haiti is assassinated
- 1829- 1st supposed attack on abandoned German teenager Kaspar Hauser
- 1829 Delaware River & Chesapeake Bay Canal formally opens
- 1854- French and British forces bombard Sevastopol for the first time during the Crimean War
- 1855- Bessemer steelmaking process patented by Henry Bessemer - revolutionises manufacturing
- 1862- Battle of Leetown & Thoroughfare Gap, VA
- 1871- Great Britain annexes Griqualand, South Africa
- 1912- Bulgaria, Greece & Serbia declares war on Turkey
- 1917- 1st British bombing of Germany
- 1951 - Egyptian army fires on British troops
- 1956 - England's 1st large scale nuclear power station opens
- 1956 - Pakistan defeat Australia by nine wickets at 1st attempt
- 1960 - US & Britain sign accord for nuclear submarine bases
- 1961 - Battle of Paris-police kill 210 Algerians
- 1961 - NASA civilian pilot Joseph A Walker takes X-15 to 33,100 m
- 1969 - Soyuz 7 returns to Earth
- 1970 - Anwar Sadat sworn in as the 3rd President of Egypt
- 1973 - OPEC oil ministers agree to use oil weapon in Arab-Israeli War, mandate cut in exports, and recommend embargo against unfriendly states.
- 1975 - 1st Space Shuttle main engine test at National Space Tech Labs, Miss
- 1975 - UN passes resolution saying “Zionism is a form of racism”
- 1976 - China performs nuclear test at Lop Nor, PRC
- 1979 - Mother Teresa of Calcutta awarded Nobel Peace Prize
- 1983 - Nobel Prize in Economics awarded to Gerard Debreu
- 1984 - Nobel prize for chemistry awarded to Bruce Merrifield
- 1986 - Yitzhak Rabin forms Israeli government
- 1994 - Kapil Dev's final one-day international (v West Indies)
- 1998 - At Jesse, in the Niger Delta, Nigeria, a petroleum pipeline explodes killing about 1200 villagers, some of whom are scavenging gasoline.
- 2003 - Eunuchs in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh float the political party Jiti Jitayi Politics.
- 2006 - The United States population reaches 300 million

Public Notice

I have changed my name from Old name Mohammad yaqoob Son of . Mohammad shaban labroo To New Name Mohammad Yaqoob Labroo S/O Mohammad Shaban Labroo . In future I will be known as Mohammad Yaqoob Labroo S/O Mohammad Shaban Labroo . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/ she may file them in the Passport Office Sringar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Mohammad Yaqoob Labroo S/O Mohammad Shaban Labroo Hilalabada qamarwari, Srinagar Karanagar


fko

DEMISE

It is with profound grief that we inform the sad demise of Mrs. Ayesha Begum, wife of Late Ali Mohammad Baba, resident of Badu Bagh, Khanyar, Srinagar, who passed away today, Thursday, 16th October 2025.

The Chahrum/Fateh Khawani will be observed on Sunday, 19th October 2025, at 10:00 AM at the family graveyard located at Ramzana Mohalla, near Green Valley School, Elahibagh, Srinagar.


Bereaved Family:
Bilal Ahmad Baba (Son)
Gulzar Ahmad Kundangar (Son-in-law)
Fayaz Ahmad Shah (Son-in-law)
Contact:
+91 70068 39769 | +91 94190 05401




OBSESSIVE
COMPULSIVE DISORDER

8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY

I did wash my hand ... but... did I clean it enough? ?Wash it again? is it clean now?




It's not just RECURRENT HANDWASHING AND CHECKING BUT UNSEEN PAIN distress myths and stigma associated with OCD



KASHMER / Kashmir American Society of Healthcare, Medical Education & Research in collaboration with HPVT (Help Poor Voluntary Trust).


is initiating a free 8 weeks group therapy for the individuals suffering with OCD by a team of counselling clinical psychologists led by leading consultant clinical psychologist of J&K.



If you or some one you know is experiencing symptoms of OCD, seeking professional help is crucial.

You do not have to fight your battles alone.

There is no need for referral , simply call us for registration.

 Happy & Healthy minds Office, HPVT Building (First Floor), Dareesh Kadal Chowk, Srinagar

9070806160

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Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

KO VIEW

Darbar Move: Between Legacy and Logic

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah’s announcement of the revival of the Darbar Move after a four-year hiatus has stirred both nostalgia and controversy across Jammu and Kashmir. The century-old bi-annual practice — where the government alternates its seat between Srinagar and Jammu — was halted in 2021 by the Lieutenant Governor’s administration, which cited cost, efficiency, and technological advancement as reasons to end it.

The Chief Minister has said that the cabinet has approved the decision and that the file has received the LG’s nod. The move fulfils a key National Conference election promise to “re-store the full Darbar Move” and “enhance the unity of state.” While the decision appeals to sentiment and symbolism, it also raises questions about priorities in an age of digital governance and fiscal constraint.

Historically, the Darbar Move, introduced by Maharaja Ranbir Singh in 1872, served a practical purpose. It ensured the presence of the administration in both provinces at a time when harsh winters and poor connectivity made year-round governance from one capital impossible. But today, much has changed. Roads, air travel, and communication technology have transformed accessibility. The introduction of the e-office system has allowed both secretariats to function simultaneously, making the physical movement of records and personnel largely redundant.

When the practice was abolished in 2021, the administration argued that ending the Move would save nearly 200 crore annually — money that could be redirected toward welfare and development. The Jammu and Kashmir High Court, in a 2020 ruling, had described the Darbar Move as a “wastage of resources” and “an inefficient and unnecessary activity”, urging the government to invest the savings in healthcare, education, and employment instead.

Supporters of the revival, however, see the Darbar Move as more than bureaucratic symbolism. For them, it represents emotional and cultural continuity — a shared rhythm between the two regions. The physical movement of government, they argue, reinforces the idea of administrative equity between Jammu and Kashmir.

Yet, it is hard to ignore the changing realities. The world has shifted to paperless governance and digital collaboration. At a time when the administration faces challenges of unemployment, healthcare gaps, and infrastructure deficits, restoring an expensive colonial-era practice appears misplaced. The Move, once a bridge between regions, now risks becoming a burden on the public exchequer.

Past efforts to end the Darbar Move have faced political resistance. In the early 1980s, a similar attempt by then Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah triggered unrest in Jammu and had to be rolled back. Ironically, the BJP — which had once opposed the Move’s suspension — later endorsed its abolition, citing efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

If the Lieutenant Governor’s administration managed to function efficiently without the Move, there is little reason to believe an elected government cannot. Symbolism must not come at the cost of pragmatism. Governance today demands continuity, accessibility, and fiscal prudence — not ceremonial migration.

Kashmir’s people deserve a government that stays with them through the harshest winters, not one that moves away from them. The true unity of Jammu and Kashmir will not come from shifting offices but from shared progress, transparent governance, and year-round commitment to the people. In a digital age, governance should move with the times, not with the seasons.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

A Kashmiri Investor’s Hidden Advantage

Irshad Mushtaq

In Kashmir, wisdom has long flowed through generations, carried in the voices of elders whose experiences illuminate the path to success. For Kashmiri investors, listening to such guidance isn’t just cultural respect — it’s a strategic advantage.

The Power of Listening

Elders hold decades of financial and life lessons. Their insights — from navigating uncertainty to seizing opportunity — offer practical roadmaps for today’s investors. Listening to their stories helps one avoid costly mistakes, understand risk, and develop patience, a quality essential in both markets and life.

Learning from Experience

Experience is the best teacher, but it needn’t always be personal. By heeding the lessons of those who’ve endured economic shifts, entrepreneurs and investors can steer clear of the same pitfalls. Such foresight builds confidence and sharpens decision-making, key ingredients for success.

Wealth Through Wisdom

Listening extends beyond words — it’s about absorbing perspective. Elders often emphasize balance: diversifying investments, staying humble during gains and resilient during losses. Their counsel helps investors build sustainable, value-based wealth rooted in discipline and faith.

Conclusion

In an era of noise and haste, listening remains a rare skill. For Kashmiri investors, it’s both a cultural inheritance and a financial compass — one that transforms wisdom into wealth and mistakes into lessons.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

In Defense of Encryption

Breaking encryption is like tearing open a letter in transit; client-side scanning is like someone reading over your shoulder as you write it.



Sally Wentworth

Encryption, the simple act of scrambling data so that it cannot be read by third parties, keeps us, our loved ones, and our communities safe by protecting everything from private messages to online-banking details and medical records. It is the foundation of trust in our digital society, as crucial for personal security as it is for national security.

Despite this, encryption is under unprecedented threat from established democracies, which are inadvertently paving a dangerous path that the world’s autocrats are only too eager to follow. Specifically, policymakers in these countries often present strong encryption as being at odds with effective law enforcement. But this is a false choice. The reality is that we need legislation that protects people online while also maintaining the security infrastructure that safeguards our data. These goals are not mutually exclusive.

Policymakers continue to claim that creating “backdoors” for law enforcement — exceptional government access to encrypted communications — is necessary to help catch criminals. But cybersecurity research has consistently demonstrated the impossibility of building a backdoor that only the “good guys” can use. A backdoor is a backdoor.

The Salt Typhoon case, in which a Chinese government-supported hacker group gained access to US telecom systems by exploiting backdoors originally created for American law enforcement and intelligence agencies, should have sufficed to show that there is no way to control who exploits engineering vulnerabilities built into a system. However noble their aims, such tools will inevitably become a weapon that criminals, hostile state actors, and malicious hackers can abuse.

Consider the European Union’s proposed Child Sexual Abuse Regulation, more commonly known as Chat Control, which would require providers to scan private communications to detect child sexual abuse material (CSAM). While the goal of protecting children from abuse is urgent and critically important, the proposal would compromise the confidentiality provided by end-to-end encryption.

Under the regulation, providers would have to implement client-side scanning — a technology that scans messages on users’ devices before they are encrypted and sent. If breaking encryption is like ripping open an envelope as a letter passes through the post office, client-side scanning is like having someone reading over your shoulder as you write it. The result is the same: privacy and confidentiality are lost. Moreover, client-side scanning would not stop CSAM, as perpetrators can circumvent scanning by zipping the photos or copying and pasting them into another file format.

Once such systems are in place, they create new vulnerabilities that hold implications for free speech. There is no guarantee, for example, that they won’t be used to scan for other types of content — political dissent, union organising, or information that powerful actors want to suppress.

Others, too, face disproportionate harm from weakened encryption. When communications are compromised, journalists lose the ability to protect sources, hampering efforts to expose corruption. Medical professionals need encryption to maintain patient confidentiality. Lawyers need it to preserve attorney-client privilege. Businesses need it to protect trade secrets. Governments need it for national security. For someone escaping domestic violence or living in a community where their identity puts them at risk, encrypted messaging can even be a matter of life and death.



When communications are compromised, journalists lose the ability to protect sources, hampering efforts to expose corruption. Medical professionals need encryption to maintain patient confidentiality. Lawyers need it to preserve attorney-client privilege. Businesses need it to protect trade secrets. Governments need it for national security.

And yes, children need encryption as well. Research from the United Kingdom’s Information Commissioner’s Office found that encryption strengthens online safety for kids by preventing sexual predators from obtaining sensitive information that could be used for grooming. Breaking end-to-end encryption to “protect children” would, paradoxically, put them at greater risk.

Public pressure can make a difference. The Australian government has not yet compelled tech firms to change their services under its controversial 2018 encryption legislation that gives it the power to issue “technical capability notices”, likely because authorities recognise the political risks of using these powers. In the UK, after civil society mobilised against the Online Safety Act, major companies promised to withdraw their services rather than comply with orders to undermine encryption.

As the Chat Control proposal moves through the EU legislative process, member states are locking horns over encryption.

Poland, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, and Finland have opposed the legislation in the Council of the EU on the grounds that it threatens privacy, poses national-security concerns, and is ripe for abuse. But Denmark, France, Hungary, and other countries support it, viewing these risks as worthwhile trade-offs to keep children safe.

The outcome of these political disagreements will be felt far beyond Europe. End-to-end encrypted messaging services are used worldwide, and pressure from a key market like the EU could force firms to compromise the security and privacy of their products, putting users at risk globally.

As the world marks this year’s Global Encryption Day, we must recognise that this debate is not about abstract technical specifications. It is about ensuring that the internet is safe, secure, and trustworthy for all. In terms of protecting children, that means regulations that actually keep them safe, rather than providing false comfort while creating systemic vulnerabilities; targeted law enforcement based on evidence, not mass surveillance; cross-border cooperation to ensure the rapid removal of known CSAM; and robust support for victims and prevention campaigns.

In other domains as well, we need solutions that address online harms without undermining privacy, confidentiality, and freedom of speech. A digital future worthy of our highest aspirations rests on encryption. If we want an internet that is for everyone — where people everywhere can connect, communicate, and innovate safely — we must not allow this foundation to erode.

Sally Wentworth is President and CEO of the Internet Society and the Internet Society Foundation.

By arrangement with the Project Syndicate

Letter to Editor

Modernisation or Moral Decline?

We once took pride in being the Land of Sufis. Today, however, that pride seems to have faded as we drift toward blind imitation of Western culture. Our Sufi saints, whose teachings shaped the moral fabric of our society, are now remembered only on their anniversaries — celebrated by night, forgotten by dawn. We have become admirers of their memory, not followers of their message.

What we call “modernisation” today runs contrary to the principles these saints stood for. The more “educated” our society becomes, the more it seems to lose its sense of decency and discipline. Education, once a sacred pursuit, has been reduced to a business. Tuition centres worth crores now symbolise a race for marks, not for moral or intellectual growth.

Viral videos of online classes showing teachers engaging in inappropriate behaviour are not signs of progress but of decay. The line between teacher and student — once defined by mutual respect

— is now blurred by the commercialisation of learning. The loss of respect for teachers is not because corporal punishment is banned; it is because education has been stripped of its sanctity.

The blame, however, cannot rest solely on the younger generation. They have learnt from what we, as a society, have normalised. When adults chase materialism and indulge hypocrisy, the youth simply mirror that behaviour.

Allama Iqbal (RA), the poet-philosopher, foresaw this moral drift. His verse still resonates:

“Allah se kare dur, to taalim bhi fitnah
Amlak bhi, aulad bhi, jagir bhi fitnah.”

(When one distances from God, even education, wealth, and children become a trial.)

Iqbal’s warning remains relevant — knowledge divorced from values becomes corruption.

Leaked call recordings, social media scandals, and growing indecency in education circles

are signs of a society that confuses literacy with enlightenment. Many parents condemn such trends, yet send their children to the same institutions they criticise — justifying it as “necessary for competition”. This double standard perpetuates the very culture they decry.

We are quick to criticise the times but slow to see our own reflection in the problem. The “society of today” is not a separate entity — it is us. The older generation condemns the youth, forgetting that today’s youth are shaped by yesterday’s adults.

True change begins with introspection. Before condemning vulgarity, we must ask what role we play — directly or indirectly — in enabling it. It may already be late, but not too late to act. Let us stop normalising vulgarity in the name of education and modernisation and reclaim the values that once made our society noble.

Raqif Makhdoomi
raqifmakhdoomi818@gmail.com

Between Tradition and Treatment: The Battle for Healing

When faith attempts to replace medicine rather than stand beside it, the line between belief and danger becomes perilously thin.

Umer Ahmad Ganaie

Kashmir's journey toward healing has never belonged to science alone. For centuries, people have turned to peers — spiritual healers who offer amulets, prayers, and guidance to ease pain and restore balance. Alongside them stand doctors, armed with years of study, research, and evidence-based medicine. Both figures hold authority — one rooted in faith and tradition, the other in science and technology. The question, therefore, is not which to choose, but how to let both coexist without endangering health or life.

Many families in Kashmir find comfort in walking with both worlds. They seek the blessings of a peer while consulting a physician. In such cases, prayer and medicine work together — faith provides spiritual reassurance that no medication can replace, while medicine offers tangible treatment that faith alone cannot deliver. It calms the mind, strengthens the will, and brings hope. Yet, when faith attempts to replace medicine rather than stand beside it, the line between belief and danger becomes perilously thin.

In the hospital where I work, I have seen patients suffer simply because they refused medical care. One colleague shared the story of a man bitten by a snake who insisted on seeking muether — the Kashmiri practice of chanting over a wound — instead of antivenom. He returned the next day, but by then, the venom had spread beyond con-



trol. His story is not rare. Across the Valley, similar tragedies unfold: a young mother in prolonged labour brought to the emergency room too late because her family believed spiritual healing would suffice; a man with kidney failure who trusted only amulets until dialysis could no longer save him.

The same pattern repeated during vaccination drives. During the COVID-19 pandemic — and even earlier during polio campaigns — misinformation led some families

to believe that prayers or amulets offered enough protection. But viruses and infections do not respect belief, even though faith can strengthen the spirit. The refusal of vaccines has left children and the elderly vulnerable to preventable suffering and sometimes irreversible consequences.

This is not an argument against peers. They remain an integral part of Kashmiri life — symbols of faith, comfort, and resilience, especially in rural areas where doctors are

scarce and hospitals distant. Spiritual healing provides psychological relief that medicine sometimes cannot. During my posting in dermatology, I once treated a patient with severe herpes who had first turned to a peer for spiritual therapy. By the time he returned, the infection had worsened into herpetic neuralgia — a painful and often fatal condition.

The real danger arises when spiritual authority is used to dissuade people from essential medi-

MANY FAMILIES IN KASHMIR FIND COMFORT IN WALKING WITH BOTH WORLDS. They seek the blessings of a peer while consulting a physician. In such cases, prayer and medicine work together — faith provides spiritual reassurance that no medication can replace, while medicine offers tangible treatment that faith alone cannot deliver. It calms the mind, strengthens the will, and brings hope.

cal care. The Qur'an itself upholds the preservation of life as a sacred duty. Modern medicines, surgeries, and vaccines — born from human knowledge and discovery — are also tools of divine mercy. Seeking

blessings and seeking treatment are not opposites; they are complementary acts of faith. Medicine cannot replace belief, but faith can strengthen medicine.

The way forward lies in dialogue, not division. In many countries, traditional healers are involved in public health programs. They are encouraged to reassure communities that medical treatment and spiritual belief are not in conflict. Imagine the impact in Kashmir if respected peers reminded families that doctors, medicines, and vaccines are also part of God's will — instruments of His compassion.

True healing is the harmony of body, mind, and spirit. In a land like Kashmir, where faith runs deep and medicine continues to advance, the most humane approach is to let both coexist — each within its rightful boundary. Snake venom cannot be neutralized by a prayer, but prayer can strengthen the heart to endure pain. Spiritual healers can calm fear, but they cannot deliver a baby during obstructed labour. Hope can lift the soul, but only treatment can cleanse the blood of toxins.

The line, therefore, is clear: let faith supplement medicine, not replace it. Because in the end, the greatest act of healing is saving life itself — and both prayers and prescriptions must serve that sacred purpose, together.

The author is an intern at the GMC Handwara and can be reached at: drumerahmad15@gmail.com

Understanding Why Lies Spread and Truth Endures

Aulfat Parveen

In every society, workplace, and family, a painful truth repeats itself: lies often travel faster and sound louder than honesty. Those who twist the truth gain sympathy, while those who speak it are left defending themselves against accusations they never deserved. This is not new—but understanding why it happens, and how truth ultimately prevails, helps us stay strong when we choose integrity over comfort.

People react to emotions faster than they process facts. When someone cries or appears hurt, our minds instinctively feel for them. Scientists explain this through mirror neurons, which make us experience others' emotions. It's a natural human response meant to build empathy—but it can be misused by those who know how to act vulnerable. Psychologist Paul Ekman found that most people are poor at detecting lies. We tend to believe what looks real, especially if it fits what we already think. Someone who appears weak or sad often seems honest, even when they aren't.

Social media has amplified this problem. A tearful video or emotional post spreads faster than any fact-check. By the time the truth emerges, the false story has already shaped public opinion. The person who told the truth ends up misunderstood, while the manipulator gains support.

Groups also behave differently from individuals. When people gather around a story, they often stop thinking critically. They follow the crowd because they want to belong. This is how honest people lose jobs over lies, and how families turn against someone who simply told the truth. The result is double pain—the first from being wronged, and the second from being abandoned by those who should have stood by you.

Science shows that lying is hard work for the brain. When someone lies, the brain's control center works overtime to plan, remember, and hide the truth. Over time, this becomes exhausting. Liars eventually lose their sense of guilt and tell even

bigger lies to keep their stories alive. Truth-tellers, on the other hand, live with more peace. Their thoughts match their words. They may suffer for a while, but they remain mentally and physically healthier because honesty removes inner conflict.

The Qur'an speaks clearly about this human struggle. It warns: "Do not mix the truth with falsehood or conceal the truth while you know it" (2:42). It commands fairness even toward those we dislike: "Be just; that is nearer to righteousness" (5:8). And it promises support for those who remain honest: "Indeed, Allah is with those who fear Him and those who do good" (16:128). Lies may shine for a while, but truth carries divine protection. Falsehood fades once its purpose ends.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) called truthfulness the foundation of faith. He said, "Truthfulness leads to righteousness, and righteousness leads to Paradise. Falsehood leads to wickedness, and wickedness leads to the Fire." The Prophet also warned that lying is a sign of hypocrisy—a sickness of the soul. People who lie repeatedly lose not only their credibility but also their connection with Allah. Truth, even when painful, strengthens the heart. Lies, even when easy, destroy it.

History, too, shows that falsehood always collapses. Companies built on deception—like Enron or Theranos—once appeared unstoppable. But every lie requires a bigger one to survive, and eventually, the whole structure falls apart. In everyday life, manipulators also lose their charm. People begin to notice patterns, see contradictions, and withdraw their trust. The liar ends up alone, while those who stood by truth earn respect and peace.

Research confirms that lying damages health. It increases stress hormones, weakens immunity, and leads to anxiety and depression. People who pretend to be something they're not eventually feel empty. Honest people may face rejection, but they remain at peace with themselves. Living truthfully aligns the heart, mind, and conscience in a way nothing else can.

Lies destroy relationships. Once someone is caught lying, others rarely trust them again. Liars attract people like themselves—fake and selfish—and their relationships remain shallow. Honest people might have fewer friends, but those friendships last. Truth builds deep bonds that survive hardship.

Islam teaches that liars and slanderers face justice both in this world and the next. The Qur'an reminds believers that every false word will one day be exposed, and even a person's own hands and feet will testify against them. No lie stays hidden forever. Allah knows every secret, every intention, every tear.

Patience, in such times, is not weakness—it is strength. It means trusting that Allah sees what others don't. "Seek help through patience and prayer. Indeed, Allah is with the patient" (2:153). The story of Prophet Yusuf (peace be upon him) illustrates this truth beautifully. Falsely accused and imprisoned, he remained calm and faithful. Years later, the truth freed him and raised his status. His story is a timeless reminder that Allah's justice never fails.

If you are someone who stands for truth and faces lies, remember a few things: keep records, but don't make proving yourself your life's goal. Protect your character, and never let others' behavior change your honesty. Choose your defenders wisely. Stay connected to Allah through prayer, and trust that vindication will come—quietly, perhaps—but surely, when the time is right.

Allah knows who is truthful and who isn't. Human judgment may fail, but His never does. When you choose truth over comfort, He records every tear, every silent moment of patience, and every act of restraint. Being alone with truth doesn't mean being abandoned—it means being chosen, to show that character, honesty, and faith still matter.

That's not weakness. That's real strength. It brings peace in this life and reward in the next.

- The author is working in ICDS, can be reached at: piraulfat@gmail.com

When Morality Fades

The Rise of Pre-Marital Culture in a Faithful Society

Aamir Wani

In today's world, what was once considered a moral sin has now become a social trend. Relationships before marriage — emotional or physical — are increasingly being normalised, praised, and even promoted as symbols of confidence and freedom. Yet beneath this glittering surface lies a painful reality: our society is slowly drifting away from the divine values that once gave it strength, purity, and direction.

Allah has laid down clear and perfect boundaries for human life. The relationship between a man and a woman is meant to flourish only within the sacred bond of marriage — a bond built upon respect, responsibility, and the blessings of Allah. Any emotional or physical connection outside this bond not only disobeys divine law but also leads to emotional chaos, guilt, and spiritual emptiness. What we are seeing today is not progress — it is moral decay disguised as modernity.

It is deeply worrying to witness young girls, who are instructed by the Qur'an to guard their chastity and honour, being misled by this cultural shift. The true beauty of a woman lies in modesty, in preserving her soul, emotions, and body for the man whom Allah has written as her husband. When this sanctity is shared before marriage, she unknowingly loses a part of her dignity — and the very essence that makes her unique and precious.

But this crisis is not limited to one gender. Young boys too have fallen victim to this culture of distraction and moral confusion. Instead of channelling their energy towards building careers, learning skills, or preparing to lead families, many are wasting their youth chasing temporary emotions and sinful desires. This has crippled their innovative minds and weakened their will to strive for excellence. A generation once known for courage and hard work is now sinking into laziness, emotional dependency, and spiritual emptiness.

Such a path only leads to destruction — both in this world and in the Hereafter. The youth who indulge in these acts lose focus, discipline, and divine blessings. A life built on sin can never bring peace, and a mind distracted by desires can never achieve greatness.

When we adopt such un-Islamic cultures, we witness drastic consequences in our society. People drift away from the religious path, marriages lose their purity, and divorces become increasingly common. Jealousy, mistrust, and emotional instability now dominate many homes. What was (marriage) meant to bring peace and companionship has turned into conflict, regret, and moral depletion.

It is time we, as a society, reflect and return to our roots. We must preserve the rules set by Islam and live by the guidance of the Qur'an. Parents should start nurtur-



IT IS TIME WE, AS A SOCIETY, REFLECT AND RETURN TO OUR ROOTS. We must preserve the rules set by Islam and live by the guidance of the Qur'an. Parents should start nurturing their children with Islamic values from an early age, teaching them about modesty, purity, and self-respect long before the world teaches them the opposite. Encouraging early marriages and responsibility can also protect our youth from falling into sin and moral corruption.

ing their children with Islamic values from an early age — teaching them about modesty, purity, and self-respect long before the world teaches them the opposite. Encouraging early marriages and responsibility can also protect our youth from falling into sin and moral corruption.

The message is simple yet powerful: our success lies in obedience to Allah. Let us focus on improving ourselves, strengthening our faith, and building lives that shine with both worldly success and eternal peace.

Because no matter how far the world moves, the truth remains — purity is strength, modesty is beauty, and faith is freedom. And remember, "True love does not demand sin; it waits patiently until marriage sanctifies it."

The author is a medical entrepreneur and can be reached at: iamamirwani@gmail.com

'Khadi for Nation, Khadi for Fashion' 150 Women Spinners Shine at Bandipora KVIC Contest

Observer News Service

Bandipora: Under the ongoing Khadi Mahotsav 2025, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), PMTC Pampore today on Thursday organised a spinner contest at Bandipora.

During the contest, 150 women spinners Shine and joined hands for Khadi, Swadeshi AatmanirbarBharat and the Slogan of Khadi for Nation, Khadi for Fashion echoed vehemently.

The contest aimed to encourage and recognize the skill and dedication of Khadi artisans. Participants securing the First, Second, and Third positions



were awarded prizes, while certificates of participation will be distributed to all artisans.

Before the commencement of the contest, Principal PMTC Pampore, Anil Kumar Sharma,

participants and officials took the Khadi Pledge, reaffirming their commitment to Swadeshi, self-reliance, and the spirit of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

An awareness session on Swadeshi and Khadi was also held to highlight the importance of using local and indigenous products.

Following the contest, a Plantation Drive was conducted to promote environmental responsibility. The event concluded with a Khadi Yatra, spreading the message of "Khadi for Nation, Khadi for Fashion" and reinforcing the idea of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Closely Monitoring Situation: India on Afghanistan-Pakistan Clashes

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: India on Thursday said it is closely monitoring the situation arising out of the deadly conflict between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and took a potshot at Islamabad for its "old practice" of blaming neighbours for its own internal failures. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India remains fully committed to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of Afghanistan.

He also announced that India's "technical mission" in

Kabul will transition into an embassy in the next few days.

The military conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan erupted last week following a Pakistani airstrike on Kabul. Afghanistan strongly responded to the attack following which the conflict escalated. Both sides claimed inflicting heavy casualties on the other. The two countries agreed on a temporary ceasefire on Wednesday.

"We are closely monitoring the situation. Three things are clear -- one, that Pakistan hosts terrorist organisations and sponsors terrorist activities,"

Jaiswal said.

"Two, it is an old practice of Pakistan to blame its neighbors for its own internal failures, and three, Pakistan is infuriated with Afghanistan exercising sovereignty over its own territories."

The spokesperson said India remained "fully committed to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of Afghanistan".

On upgrading of the Indian mission in Kabul, he said "our technical mission has been operational in Kabul since June 2022. Its transition to an embassy will happen in the next few days."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Counter False

rich spiritual and intellectual heritage. It is a confluence of nature, spirituality, culture, and literature—making this sacred land an integral part of Jammu and Kashmir's cultural identity," he remarked.

Underscoring the need to create opportunities for young talent, Sinha said that such initiatives would not only expand human creativity but also ensure that literature serves as a mirror reflecting societal and global changes.

"Science, spirituality, and literature are the three powerful forces of a progressive and vibrant society," he said. "Writers, thinkers, and poets must promote literary, scientific, and spiritual heritage, enrich folk traditions, and strengthen social harmony. They must also shed light on pressing public issues and become the voice of the marginalized."

The event was attended by Mohd Afzal Parray, Chairman District Development Council Kulgam; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Javid Iqbal Matoo, DIG SKR Anantnag; Athar Aamir Ul Shafi Khan, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam; Anayat Ali Choudhary, SSP Kulgam; Prof. (Dr.) Mohd Abass Shah, Principal, GDC Kulgam; along with senior officials, literary figures, and a large gathering of youth.

A Year In Office

future," he said.

"Functioning under the current arrangement is a different experience," he said, while reiterating that the restoration of statehood remains central to Jammu and Kashmir's political aspirations.

"We had hoped the Central government would fulfill its promise within the first year. We won't budge; the resolution of all issues lies in restoring statehood," he added.

The chief minister refrained from commenting on his relationship with the LG, saying, "We are working for the betterment of Jammu and Kashmir."

On a question, Omar said, "I will not comment on the relationship between the Lieutenant Governor and the government. You should not assume that the relationship is not good. We are working, and we are working for the betterment of Jammu and Kashmir."

On employment, the Chief Minister said the government has begun the regularisation of daily wagers, highlighting that 860 CPWs in the Education Department were regularised recently. "We are sticking to our promises, and all will be fulfilled within the five-year period. The report card on all promises will be before the people," he said.

Turning to political developments, Omar expressed optimism about the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections, urging opposition unity to prevent the BJP from gaining ground. "When Mehbooba talked to Farooq Abdullah, he told her that any vote in favor of the BJP or abstaining is as good as supporting the BJP. I hope Mehbooba Mufti will vote for our candidate, and I also request Sajad Lone not to stay away from voting. Let him tell the people of Handwara whether he worked for BJP's success," he said.

Addressing speculation about differences with the Congress, Omar clarified there were none. "I spoke to the party's general secretary in Delhi and made it clear we couldn't give them two Rajya Sabha seats. However, we are ready to ally with Congress if they have a strong candidate for the Nagrota Assembly seat," he said.

On legislative matters, Omar said bills, including those proposed by other parties, would be examined on merit. "The condition to accept bills has not yet reached the Assembly. Let the bills come before the House, and if the Assembly wishes to pass them, I won't stand in the way," he added.

The Chief Minister also touched upon disaster management and rehabilitation, noting the government's efforts post-floods. He said the administration is working to provide 5 marla plots to those who lost houses and land and has sought assistance from the Centre to identify flood-prone and crowd-vulnerable areas for better preparedness.

Highlighting the role of bureaucrats, Omar acknowledged their support while noting that not all officers contribute equally.

The Chief Minister further said that the alliance between the National Conference and Congress is intact. "There are no differences. I have met the Congress General Secretary in New Delhi and told him that it would be 3 and 1 in the Rajya Sabha elections. The fourth seat for Congress could have helped secure votes from the other legislators," he said, adding, "The talks with Congress are ongoing regarding the by-elections for the Nagrota and Budgam seats. We are ready to give Congress the Nagrota seat if they have a better candidate."

Regarding the government's measures after the floods in Jammu and Kashmir, the CM said that through SDRF and the CM Relief Fund, the government has done everything possible

according to the guidelines.

Regarding reconstruction and other issues, Omar said the Centre has sent teams that have assessed the situation. "We are expecting a comprehensive package for J&K to repair the losses, as more than 300 roads were damaged, many bridges collapsed, crops were destroyed, and houses were damaged," he said as per KNO

He said the government is in the process of ensuring 5 marlas of land and further assistance for house reconstruction," he assured.

Moreover, CM Abdullah said the government has sought assistance from the Centre to conduct a survey to identify crowd-prone areas vulnerable to cloudbursts and assess the situation, keeping in view the topography, climate, and other factors, so that the government can stay prepared for the future.

Regarding support from bureaucrats, the CM said it would not have been possible for the government to perform without their support. However, he added, "Not all officers are the same; some are willing to work, and they do, while others choose not to."

Asked about Mehbooba Mufti's statement regarding PDP's support to the NC candidate in the Rajya Sabha elections, the Chief Minister said that Dr Farooq Abdullah had talked to her and sought her party's support to fight against BJP in the elections. "If the vote is not cast in our favour, then it will benefit BJP, and abstaining from voting is also akin to supporting BJP. However, as far as her conditions are concerned, it is the Speaker who has to decide on the bills. Nobody other than the Speaker can decide on it. Once it comes to the assembly, we will have no issues creating hurdles," he said.

CM Announces

Winter Shift Schedule

According to the General Administration Department (GAD) order issued on October 16:

Offices with a five-day week will close in Srinagar on October 31, and those with a six-day week on November 1.

All offices will reopen in Jammu on November 3 (Monday).

Departments moving "in camp" will carry 33% of staff or 10 officials, whichever is lower. Logistics and Transport

The JKRTC will provide buses for employees on November 1 and 2, with advance booking available from October 27. Employees are required to move according to the schedule to be eligible for the Special Move Travel Allowance (TA) of Rs. 25,000.

Employees will not occupy government accommodation in Jammu without proper allotment, though Srinagar accommodation can be retained for family use with approval. The Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department will set up ration counters in Jammu residential colonies.

Salaries, Leave, and Allowances

Salaries for October 2025 will be credited on October 31 for all employees in move offices.

Leave during move days will be restricted, except under exceptional circumstances, with administrative approval.

Kashmir-based employees and those without Jammu accommodation may avail five days of special casual leave.

'CSC Report on

the government had constituted the cabinet sub-committee to look into grievances raised by various sections of aspirants against the existing reservation policy in the Union Territory.

Addressing a press conference marking the completion of one year of his government, Omar said, "In the cabinet meeting held yesterday, the sub-committee presented its final report, which the cabinet approved. The social welfare department has been asked to prepare a cabinet memo. I will circulate it among my (cabinet) colleagues for approval before submitting it to the Lieutenant Governor."

He expressed hope that the process would be completed in the next two to four days.

Reservations have become a major issue in J&K following the Central government's decision to add more communities to the reserved category and expand quotas in the UT over the past five years.

There have been growing objections to the Centre's move to push the reservation quota to 70 per cent in J&K, following last year's announcements introducing a separate 10 per cent reservation for Paharis and other tribes and enhancing the OBC quota to eight per cent.

Replying to another question about his relationship with officers, he said the cooperation of officers is essential for fulfilling any government's agenda.

"As far as officers are concerned, looking at what we have accomplished, would it have been possible if we were not working with

those officers? The cooperation of officials is essential for fulfilling any government's agenda," he said.

Omar further said that just as the five fingers of a hand are not equal, not everyone in any government is the same. "This is not just about Jammu and Kashmir; in any state of the country, you won't find all officers equally active. Most officers are good and hardworking, but here and there you will find one or two who do not want to work. The same situation exists here."

Speaking about development in Jammu, the chief minister said the government is focusing on boosting tourism in Jammu with regards to pilgrims of Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, developing the artificial lake area, and promoting border tourism.

"Our effort is to create facilities so that pilgrims who visit for darshan can also stay as tourists. If even 15–20 per cent of the devotees visit additional destinations, it will give a major boost to Jammu's economy," he said.

Omar also announced his decision to restore the Darbar Move, stating that it would help strengthen Jammu's economy.

Dismissing concerns over prepaid electricity meters, he said that a prepaid meter is not privatisation. "When you don't mind using a prepaid mobile, why object to a prepaid electricity meter? These meters are being installed across Jammu and Kashmir. Even my relatives use them without any issue."

On the question of statehood, Omar said he has never used its absence as an excuse.

"Granting statehood was a promise made by the Centre, and it should be fulfilled. But I have never said that work cannot be done because of it," he asserted.

Responding to criticism from the Opposition, Omar quipped that "the deputy chief minister has given him (leader of opposition) a good name — the 'Opposition Party'. The Opposition's job is to oppose. That is why I am the minister, and they are the Opposition. My job is to work, theirs is to oppose."

When asked to describe his one year in office in a single word, the chief minister said it was not his job to provide a headline. "You cannot sum up a government in one word. I leave it to you to judge," he told reporters. (PTI)

'Solution to J&K's Issues

With the National Conference government completing one year in office on Thursday, Abdullah pledged to continue its efforts for the overall development of J-K, and fulfil the promises made in the party's election manifesto.

"We were hopeful that the Centre would fulfil its promise to restore statehood (to J-K) in the first year of our government, but it has not happened," Abdullah said, as he urged the Modi government to fulfil its promise made to the people of the Union territory from the floor of Parliament and the Supreme Court.

"Heading a government in a UT is a different experience. We were hoping that the Centre would fulfil its promise on statehood, but it has not happened yet. But we will not back down from our efforts."

"We still believe that the solution to all the problems facing Jammu and Kashmir lies in the restoration of statehood," Abdullah told reporters at the NC headquarters here.

Urging the prime minister to keep his promise on statehood, Abdullah said, "Once again, I would like to urge the government of India, the prime minister and his entire team to fulfil the promise made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

The chief minister said he took over the reins of the government one year ago, and it is making all out efforts to improve the lives of the people by speeding up developmental works.

"We have made a start. Be it the political promises we made to the people to bring a resolution in the Assembly on the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, or to get a resolution approved in the Cabinet for the restoration of statehood — we did both things," he said.

Referring to the demand of the opposition parties to make public the NC government's one year report card, Abdullah said when his party sought votes from people, it emphasised that the government will last not just for six months or one year, but for a full five-year term.

Severe Gridlock Hits

before being stuck for hours. This is unacceptable."

Ashiq Imtiyaz, a daily commuter at Qazigund, said, "Every evening we get stuck due to traffic jams. This has been happening for the past two months. If this is the condition on the national highway, what can we expect from internal routes?"

Truck drivers, who are already under pressure, said the delays are mounting costs. "The double-lane claim exists only on paper. We are driving on single lanes, especially from the Ramban to Udhampur sector," one driver said.

Beyond commuter agony, the traffic paralysis is hurting the local economy. Kashmir's apple growers are already facing losses due to delays in dispatching produce, as excess time on the road can spoil fruit and increase logistics costs.

"It takes two to three days before trucks get the green signal from Qazigund towards Jammu. We have no option but to wait," a truck driver said, adding, "You can see trucks lined up for kilometres. When one vehicle stalls, there is no turning back. Both sides get jammed."

The highway remains single-lane at multiple locations, which worsens the situation.

Officials said overtaking, wrong-lane driving, heavy truck breakdowns, and the movement of nomadic flocks have further contributed to the chaos.

"There is too much pressure on the highway from the Qazigund side as the road gets filled with apple-laden trucks too quickly," an official said.

An NHAI official said that restoration work on damaged stretches of the Jammu–Srinagar Highway in Udhampur has been completed.

"Two-way traffic movement for light motor vehicles has been restored. Repairs and blasting along the road have eased congestion on the crucial Jammu–Srinagar corridor," he said, adding that monitoring and maintenance teams are stationed along the highway to ensure smooth operation.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan convened a meeting to review the progress of widening work on Nashri to Banihal stretch of the National Highway-44 (NH-44) project.

The meeting was attended by Project Director NHAI Shubam Yadav; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shokat Hayat Mattoo, and other officers.

The DC held a detailed, site-wise review of the work progress on different segments of the project, including Viaducts, Tunnels, Cut-and-Cover tunnels and approach roads. He directed the NHAI authorities and construction agencies to accelerate the pace of work and ensure completion within stipulated timelines while maintaining the highest standards of engineering quality and safety.

Khan called for ensuring uninterrupted vehicular movement and directed the concerned agencies to clear all bottlenecks, particularly those affecting the free flow of traffic on the existing highway. He instructed NHAI to remove debris, maintain road shoulders and restore double-lane carriageways at critical locations to enhance road safety and passenger convenience.

In view of the recent heavy rainfall, cloudbursts, floods and landslides, the Deputy Commissioner directed the executing agencies to carry out immediate restoration and upgradation works at all affected sites between Nashri and Banihal to prevent further disruption and ensure public safety. (KNO)

Mufti Sets Conditions

party has submitted two important bills in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly — one aimed at ending what she called "bulldozer politics" and another seeking regularisation of daily wagers and casual labourers.

"They should at least pass these two bills of the PDP. Only then will we consider supporting the NC in the Rajya Sabha elections," she added.

Mehbooba emphasised that her party's demands were made in the "public interest" rather than for political bargaining.

"Our conditions are not about politics. They are about people — about jobs and justice. We want the government to act on these before asking for our support," she said.

Her remarks come amid heightened political manoeuvring ahead of the Rajya Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The National Conference has already appealed to other parties — including the PDP, Congress, People's Conference, and independents — to unite and support its candidates to keep the BJP out of the Upper House.

Create Special Jails

block the fugitive's international travel. If we can build this provision into the system, it will help bring back the fugitives," he said.

Giving his suggestions on the actionable outputs to be deliberated during the two-day conference being attended by all the state police chiefs, the home minister said a scientific database on fugitives should be developed and shared with all the states, which should include the type of crime committed by the offenders, present location, network in the country, and the status of repatriation attempts.

He also asked every state to "create a special prison for fugitives, which should fulfil international standards", aimed at blunting the fugitives' defence in foreign courts that their human rights will be violated if imprisoned in India, as the prisons do not meet international standards.

"This is needed because fugitives argue in

foreign courts that prisons in India are not up to the standards, that their human rights will not be protected. While I do not agree with that, if it is an excuse, why give them that chance? Every state capital should have a cell which conforms to international standards in its entirety," Shah said.

The home minister also suggested the creation of a coordination group for narco, terrorism, financial, and cyber criminals in each state police department, supported by the Intelligence Bureau and the CBI.

Every state police should create a special expert cell for extradition matters, he said.

"This is an area of specialised knowledge where you must study treaties of India with other countries, international laws, and expedite the process in coordination with our domestic laws.

"At present, there are a few special cells in state police departments. I urge all the police chiefs to create such special cells as soon as possible. The CBI should also make a dedicated unit on extradition issues to guide the cells of the state police," Shah said.

The home minister also asked the police chiefs to maximise the newly-introduced "trial in absentia" provision, under which fugitives can be tried in India. If convicted, they can appeal in the high courts only through physical presence.

The trial in absentia provision was introduced under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNS), part of the new criminal laws brought in by the Modi government that replaced the 160-year-old British-era laws.

The home minister said there is a need to develop coordination and protocols for synergy between passport-issuing agencies and law enforcement agencies.

He also said that there is a need to establish a special cell in each state police force to convert 'blue' notices into 'red' notices, and that the CBI and the IB should create special units under the multi-agency centre to successfully implement this programme.

Officials said Interpol blue notices are issued to obtain information about the location of a fugitive. Red notices are aimed at detaining them, which can only be done after chargesheets are filed.

In a number of cases, state police receive a blue notice but do not upgrade it to a red notice, even after chargesheets are filed, due to a lack of awareness, they said.

1,614 J&K Policemen

a testimony to the unwavering courage and commitment of the J&K Police."

He added, "The J&K Police has played a pivotal role in fighting the enemies of peace. Our men continue to work with utmost dedication to ensure the safety and security of the people."

The DGP highlighted that the police force has not only been at the forefront of counter-terrorism operations but has also actively engaged in youth outreach and sports initiatives across the Union Territory. "We conduct such programmes so that our connection with the locals remains strong and meaningful," he said.

Referring to initiatives like 'Jashn-e-Dal' and other sporting events organized by the J&K Police, DGP Prabhat said thousands of people, including youth from different districts, participated in these events, which have become platforms for community bonding and talent promotion.

Expressing gratitude to the Union Home Ministry, he said, "I am thankful to the Ministry for sanctioning Rs 100 crore for sporting events and youth engagement programmes. This support will further strengthen our efforts to channel the energy of young people in positive directions."

DGP Prabhat also praised the achievements of J&K policemen who have won medals at national and international events, bringing laurels to both the force and the Union Territory.

He reiterated the department's commitment to fostering a peaceful and progressive society, rooted in mutual trust between the police and the people.

Filling Vacant Posts

...cannot form a basis either for quashing the select list or for directing the official respondents (authorities) to appoint the petitioners as it is the sole prerogative of the employer to fill up a particular number of vacancies as per the requirement of the department," the court said while dismissing an appeal filed by 14 out of the 52 candidates against the CAT's decision in 2023.

"A candidate cannot dictate the employer to fill all the vacancies. Otherwise also, in the response filed by the official respondents, it is stated that the posts are to be filled up on the basis of vacancies available at the relevant point of time." The petitioners had also raised grounds of challenge but the court said that the Tribunal has passed the order impugned in accordance with law. "There is hardly any reason for us to interfere with the same," the court said and dismissed the petition as being "misconceived".

Kashmir Fruit Trees Sprout Out of Season: Not Climate Change, Experts Clarify

Horticulturists Advice Gowers Not To Respond Hastily By Irrigating Or Applying Fertilizers

Ansar Hussain

SRINAGAR: Reports of unseasonal flowering and leaf growth in apple, almond, and other fruit trees across parts of Kashmir have triggered concern among orchardists, who fear the phenomenon may reflect broader climate change

impacts. However, experts have clarified that the early growth is a natural physiological response to plant stress rather than an indication of changing weather patterns. According to horticulture scientists, premature sprouting occurs when trees experience stress from insect attacks, dis-

eases, or leaf damage, followed by favorable conditions such as mild temperatures and sufficient moisture. "This phenomenon often happens when leaves are badly affected by mites, insects, or fungal infections," explained Dr. Tariq Rasool, a noted plant physiologist. "If

the weather turns favorable soon after, some buds meant for the next spring may break dormancy early and start sprouting again within the same season." Dr. Rasool noted that such occurrences have been observed long before climate change became a major discus-

sion. "Even in the mid-1980s, elders expressed concern on seeing almond trees produce new leaves or flowers out of season. The natural mechanism was the same," he said. He advised orchardists not to respond hastily by irrigating or applying fertilizers, as this could encourage further

premature growth and weaken trees before winter dormancy. "The unseasonal growth generally stabilizes on its own once the trees enter their natural rest period during late autumn and winter," he added. Growers in Sopore, Shopian, and Pulwama reported noticing new shoots and flowering

in apple and almond orchards during the first half of October, leading to confusion and anxiety among farmers. Horticulture officials have assured that the department is monitoring the situation and will issue guidelines to prevent improper field practices that might aggravate the issue.

Under PM Modi's Leadership, Challenges Turning into Opportunities: Rajnath Singh

Says 'Operation Sindoor' Exhibited Courage of Soldiers, India's Technological Capabilities

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Stating that Operation Sindoor demonstrated India's growing indigenous defence capability, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said that under PM Modi's leadership India has turned earlier challenges into measurable outcomes. Speaking at the convocation ceremony of Symbiosis Skills and Professional University in Pune, the Defence Minister, said, "The government is committed to building a self-reliant defence manufacturing ecosystem and make India one of the most powerful countries in the world."

While tracing India's journey towards self-reliance in defence, he said that the country had been heavily dependent on other nations for weapons since independence. "Under PM Modi's leadership, we pledged to transform the defence sector because, since independence, we lacked the political will and enabling laws to manufacture in India. That required a change," he said. The Defence Minister said the bravery of Indian soldiers during 'Operation Sindoor' was supported by a significant amount of equipment produced in India. He added that the operation showed both the courage of soldiers and the na-



tion's technological capabilities. Singh credited the private sector for contributing to defence production. He noted that annual production had increased from ₹46,000 crore to ₹1.5 lakh crore over the last decade, with the private sector accounting for around ₹33,000 crore. He said

the government aims to achieve ₹3 lakh crore in defence manufacturing and ₹50,000 crore in defence exports by 2029. Singh told the students that success is not only about acquiring degrees but also about applying knowledge for society. "We are no longer in the era of 'What do you know?' The world now asks, 'What can you do?' Skill is the bridge between learning and doing," he said. On technology and artificial intelligence, Singh told students that AI will not replace humans, but those who use AI effectively will replace those who do not. He said technology should remain a tool

and should not replace human values, ethics, and sensitivity. Singh said India is entering a phase aimed at becoming a developed nation by 2047. He told students that the next 20-25 years will shape both their careers and the country's trajectory. "Let your ambition fuel the country's transformation," he said. During the event, the School of Defence and Aerospace Technology at Symbiosis Skills and Professional University was inaugurated by Singh and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, in the presence of state ministers and the university's Vice-Chancellor—(KNO)

Holiday for 'Urs Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Sahib' on Oct 20

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday said the provincial holiday on account of 'Urs Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Sahib' in Kashmir Province shall now be observed on October 20 (Monday) instead of October 18 (Saturday). According to an order, a copy of which lies in possession with Kashmir Observer, "In partial modification of Government Order No. 2193-JK(GAD) of 2024 dated: 29.12.2024, it is hereby ordered that the provincial holiday (Kashmir Province only) on account of "Urs Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Sahib" shall now be observed on 20.10.2025 (Monday) instead of 18.10.2025 (Saturday)." (Observer News Service)

Bukhari Hails Resumption of Darbar Move Practice

Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Thursday welcomed the government's decision to resume the biannual Darbar Move practice in Jammu and Kashmir. Taking to his X handle, he wrote: "Resuming the traditional biannual Darbar Move practice is truly a commendable decision. This historic practice of moving offices between regions may no longer be essential for ensuring administrative efficiency in today's context, but it continues to hold great social, cultural, and economic significance. I congratulate the government on taking this decision." Urging the government to extend the residency requirement to 50 years, Bukhari added to his tweet, "That said, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my appeal to the Chief Minister, @OmarAbdullah, to take yet another bold step — to set a 50-year residency requirement for domicile eligibility. Since you also hold the revenue portfolio, changing the domicile rules lies entirely within your authority. Extending the residency requirement from the current 15 years to 50 years would be a remarkable contribution by this government". (Observer News Service)

Div Com Hails Veshow Literary Festival, Announces Expansion Plans

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Thursday hailed the organisers of the third edition of the Veshow Literary Festival in Kulgam, describing it as a remarkable celebration of art, literature and culture that has steadily evolved into one of South Kashmir's key intellectual platforms. Congratulating Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan, DDC Chairperson Mohammad Afzal Parray, and the Principal of Government Degree College Kulgam for their efforts, Garg said the event reflected the growing cultural vibrancy of the district. "It is heartening to see such a large turnout, particularly the active participation of female students, which highlights the inclusive spirit of this festival," he said. The Div Com noted that the festival, which began in 2023, has continued to expand every year, drawing authors, poets, and artists from across the Valley. "Several new books were launched today, and distinguished writers interacted with students, enriching the sessions with their insights," he added.

CM Omar Hands Over Regularisation Orders to 863 CPWs

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday handed over regularisation orders to 863 Contingent Paid Workers (CPWs) of the School Education Department from multiple districts of Jammu province.

The occasion also witnessed the formal inauguration of the Vidya Samiksha Kendra under Samagra Shiksha and the launch of a suite of new ICT and analytics platforms aimed at strengthening the education ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

The ceremony was attended by Cabinet Minister for Health, Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education & Social Welfare Sakina Itoo; Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani; Members of Legislative Assembly Pyare Lal and Er. Khurshid Ahmed; Secretary, School Education Department Ram Niwas Sharma; Project Director, Samagra Shiksha Bhawani Rakwal and Director, School Education Jammu Naseem



Choudhary. In his address, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed satisfaction over the fulfilment of a long-pending demand, commending the dedication and patience of CPWs awaiting regularisation. He lauded Minister Sakina Itoo, the School Education Department and the administrative leadership for their coordinated efforts in achieving this milestone. The Chief Minister announced that nearly one thousand infrastructure works are currently underway in the education sector, with approximately ₹450 crore earmarked for civil works under the School Education Department. He stated that by March 2026, all Higher Secondary and High Schools in Jammu and Kashmir would

be equipped with smart classrooms and laboratories, enabling students to compete with their peers nationwide. Reflecting on the government's first year, the Chief Minister said the journey had presented challenges but also immense satisfaction in achieving meaningful reforms. He called upon the newly regularised employees to dedicate themselves to public service, reiterating that "the future of the next generation depends on the quality of education we deliver today." He also felicitated 25 NEET and JEE achievers from the Jammu region, presenting them with certificates and tablets, and encouraged them to continue striving for academic excellence.

Lifting of Curbs Marks Full Return to Normalcy in Ladakh: LG Kavinder Gupta

Observer News Service

LEH: In a significant development signaling complete restoration of peace and normalcy, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta chaired a high-level security review meeting at the LG Secretariat, Leh, to assess the prevailing law and order and overall security scenario across the Union Territory. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Director General of Police Dr. S.D. Singh Jamwal, DIG CRPF P.R. Jambolkar, Deputy Commissioner Leh, Senior Superintendent of Police Leh, Commanding Officer 79 Battalion Shri Sanjay Kumar, Commanding Officer Rajat Jain, and other senior officials. Officials briefed the Lt Governor about the current situation in the UT, noting that peace and normalcy have been fully restored. They informed that educational institutions, public offices, and essential services are functioning smoothly, while public transport and commercial



activities have resumed without disruption. Deputy Commissioner Leh apprised the meeting that all restrictions, including Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), have been formally lifted, marking a complete return to normalcy across Ladakh. Commending the collective efforts of the civil and police administration, security agencies, and the people of Ladakh, the Lt Governor lauded their exemplary cooperation in maintaining peace, harmony, and stability. He said the lifting of curbs reflected the deep trust and confidence that citizens repose in the Union Territory Administration. "The peace and stability we see today is a result of

the coordinated efforts of all stakeholders — security forces, administration, and the people themselves," Gupta said, urging citizens to remain vigilant and united against disruptive elements. Reiterating the Administration's commitment to holistic and inclusive development, the Lt Governor said that Ladakh's future lies in transparent, accountable, and people-centric governance. He emphasized the importance of sustained inter-agency coordination to preserve peace and ensure continued public convenience. "The UT Administration remains firmly committed to ensuring a prosperous, secure, and harmonious Ladakh for all," Gupta affirmed.

Dy CM Vows Transparency, Completion of Pending Projects

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary on Thursday reaffirmed the government's commitment to transparency, accountability, and timely completion of developmental projects, stating that the Omar Abdullah-led administration would present its performance and achievements before the public at the end of its term.

Speaking on the first anniversary of the National Conference government, Choudhary said the administration had been given a five-year mandate by the people of Jammu and Kashmir and would face them with "honesty and results." "The entire cabinet will sit together and answer the people's questions. After five years, our leader Dr Farooq Abdullah and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will jointly present the report card of our government," he said. The Deputy Chief Minister lamented what he termed "selective criticism" of the present government while past regimes went unquestioned. "I feel heartbroken when such questions are



posed to me and my leader. Where were these questions when the LG administration ruled for six years? Why don't you ask them for a white paper?" he said. Highlighting the unfinished infrastructure projects across the Valley, Choudhary said several works initiated before 2018 have remained incomplete for years. "At Hyderabad, a building for which Rs 5 crore was sanctioned in 2016 is still incomplete. Similarly, a community hall in Natipora that began in 2018 with Rs 2 crore remains unfinished. Even bridges like the one in Ganderbal are still hanging," he remarked. He also took a dig at the former BJP-PDP alliance, saying, "Sunil Sharma today speaks as if he represents Raj Bhavan. One day he issues a statement, the next day Mehbooba Mufti echoes it, and then Sajad Lone repeats it. Their alliance is still alive — they all seem to speak in one voice."

World Food Day

What We Eat Today Shapes Our Health Tomorrow, say Doctors

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Health experts have underlined the growing role of food habits in determining an individual's risk of developing chronic diseases such as heart problems, diabetes, obesity, and certain forms of cancer. They said that modern dietary patterns, marked by high consumption of fried, processed, and sugar-laden foods, are directly contributing to the rising burden of lifestyle-related diseases across the country, including Jammu and Kashmir. Doctors and dietitians said that diet is one of the most important factors influencing long-term health outcomes. They said poor dietary choices not only lead to obesity but also increase the likelihood of high blood pressure, cholesterol, insulin resistance, and metabolic disorders. "What we eat every day determines how our body functions. Unhealthy foods disturb metabolism, increase fat accumulation, and trigger inflammation that contributes to heart disease, diabetes, and even some cancers," said Dr Aadil Ahmad, a senior physician

posted in south Kashmir. He added that foods high in refined sugar, trans fats, and sodium, such as bakery items, sugary drinks, instant noodles, and fried snacks, are among the major culprits. "Fried foods are particularly harmful because repeated oil heating produces toxic compounds that damage blood vessels and increase bad cholesterol," he said, adding that excessive intake of fast food and soft drinks among the younger generation is alarming. Nutritionist Dr Nazia Jan said that processed and packaged foods, though convenient, are often loaded with preservatives, artificial flavours, and unhealthy fats. "These foods are low in fibre and essential nutrients but high in calories, which promotes obesity and digestive issues," she said. She further noted that obesity itself is a major risk factor for several diseases. "Excess body fat, especially around the abdomen, increases the risk of type-2 diabetes, fatty liver disease, hypertension, and certain cancers, including breast and colon cancer," she explained.

Government of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL REGIONAL FAMILY PLANNING TRAINING CENTER/ANMT SCHOOL KANGAN GANDERBAL

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE SESSION 2025-26

The applications are invited on the prescribed format for undergoing various Para-Medical Training Courses at ANMT School Kangan for session 2025-26 as Notified by Chairperson State Allied Health Care Council-J&K vide No:-SAHC/Gen/25/1/701-711 Dated:-14/10/2025. The eligible candidates should submit their application forms complete in all respects by or before 28th of October 2025, till 4 P.M to the office of undersigned along with the attested copies of the certificates.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION:
Candidates applying for admission to 12th based Paramedical Diploma Courses must fulfill the following eligibility conditions namely:
A candidate must; be a Domicile of UT of J&K; not have crossed 35 years of age as on 01-01-2025; have passed 10+2 examination from a recognized University or Board with science subjects; be medically fit.

2. The candidates applying for these training courses must attach Photostat copies of the following certificates:
a. Domicile Certificate
b. Date of Birth 10th
c. Marks Certificate 12,h & 10lh.
d. Valid Reserve Category Certificate if any;
3. Selection will be purely made on merit basis i.e marks obtained in 12lh class with PCB Examination.
4. If upon verification any candidate is found ineligible his/her admission shall be cancelled ab-initio.
5. The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified in the information Brochure and Notifications issued by J&K BOPEE / J&K Nursing Council / State Allied and Healthcare Council J&K from time to time.

The details of the Course/Duration/Intake/eligibility for admission are given below as under :

Sr.No	Name of the Course	Duration of the Training Course	Leftover Seats/Vacant	Qualification
01	Medical / Pharma Assistant	24 Months	13	12th with PCB
02	Lab Assistant	24 Months	4	
03	Dental Assistant	24 Months	8	
04	X-Ray Assistant	24 Months	15	
05	Ophthalmic Assistant	24 Months	10	
06	ECG Technician	24 Months	13	
07	Anesthesia Technician	24 Months	12	
08	OTT Technician	24 Months	9	
09	ISM	24 Months	10	

Note:

- The application form can be obtained from office of the undersigned.
- Incomplete application forms will not be accepted in any case.

No: Rfptc/Est/574-577
Dated: 16/10/2025
DIPK-7268-25
DT: 16/10/2025

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Mumbai In Sight Of First Innings Lead Despite Dogra's Historic Ton

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: Playing in his 23rd first-class season, the soon-to-be-41 Paras Dogra played a captain's knock as he hit a classy unbeaten century for Jammu and Kashmir, but title contenders Mumbai are firmly in sight of a first innings lead in another group D match in Srinagar.

After Mumbai ended their first innings on 386 with seamer Yudhvir Singh, who took a five-for (5/96) denying Shams Mulani (91) a chance to score a hundred, Jammu and Kashmir reached 273 for seven at stumps on day two.

Jammu and Kashmir were tottering at 166 for six before Dogra (112 batting) added 68 for the seventh wicket with Abid Mushtaq (40) and 39 for an unbroken eighth wicket stand with Aqib Nabi (15 batting).

Dogra made history by scoring his 32nd Ranji Trophy century, surpassing Ajay Sharma to become the



second-highest centurion in the tournament's history. Wasim Jaffer remains the top centurion with 40 centuries in the Ranji Trophy.

The veteran had little support from the other end, but he managed to keep the scoreboard ticking. He hit 16 boundaries during his time at the crease and will hope to keep up with the momentum on Day 3. Batting at number five, Abid Samad looked in good touch for a while before departing for 44 runs. Batting at eight, Abid Mushtaq scored 40.

J&K trail by 113 runs and on Day 3, Dogra would be looking to give his team the lead, which will put Mumbai under pressure. Having defeated Mumbai in the last edition of the Ranji Trophy, J&K will hope for a similar result.

BRIEF SCORES:

Mumbai 386 (Siddhesh Lad 116, Shams Mulani 91, Yudhvir Singh 5/91). J&K 273/7 (Paras Dogra 112 batting, Tushar Deshpande 2/34).

Sports Minister Visits Pampore, Assesses Facilities At Key Grounds

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Youth Services & Sports Satish Sharma on Thursday visited two key sports grounds at Tanchabagh and Kadalbal in Pampore to gather first-hand assessment of the sports facilities available and review requirements for their upgradation.

During the visit, the Minister interacted with local youth, sportspersons, and representatives of sports bodies who apprised him of various issues related to sports infrastructure, availability of equipment, and organization of regular sports activities in the area.

Responding to the demands and suggestions put forth by the locals and Sports persons, Satish Sharma announced that both Tanchabagh and



Kadalbal grounds will soon be equipped with mass floodlights to enable day and night matches, along with the construction of modern washrooms, changing rooms and players rest areas.

He assured that the Department of Youth Services and Sports will provide all necessary assistance to ensure these facilities are developed in a time-bound manner.

The Minister was accompanied by MLA Pampore, Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi and senior officers from the District Administration and DYSS.

Real Kashmir FC Pulls Out Of AIFF Super Cup Over Visa Delays

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: I-League team Real Kashmir FC have withdrawn from the upcoming Super Cup due to a delay in procuring visas for their foreign players, the club said on Thursday, October 15.

The Slow Leopards have been replaced by Dempo FC for the tournament that is scheduled to begin in Goa from October 25.

The Srinagar-based side had been placed in what has been dubbed the 'Group of Death', alongside Mohun Bagan Super Giant, East Ben-

gal FC, and Chennaiyin FC.

"Due to unavoidable circumstances, Real Kashmir FC has withdrawn from the AIFF Super Cup 2025. Visa delays for our foreign players made it impossible to compete at full strength - a decision beyond our control, but one made with integrity," the club said on its social media handles.

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) tweeted, "Real Kashmir FC have withdrawn from AIFF Super Cup 2025-26, as VISAS for their foreign players could not be secured. They will be replaced by Dempo SC."



MoS Home Affairs Attends Closing Of All India Police Games Judo Cluster

J&K Police Clinch Top Honours in Pencak Silat



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 10th All India Police Games Judo Cluster concluded in Thursday at the Sher-e-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex, Srinagar, in a vibrant ceremony attended by the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, as the Chief Guest.

Organised under the aegis of the All India Police Sports Control Board in collaboration with the J&K Police, the week-long event witnessed the participa-

tion of over 1,600 men and women police personnel representing 38 teams from State Police Forces, Union Territories and Central Armed Police Forces.

In his address, Bandi Sanjay Kumar commended the J&K Police for the excellent conduct and smooth organisation of the event.

He further lauded the emergence of J&K as a vibrant hub of sports and youth engagement. The Minister presented medals and trophies to the winners and congratulated all participants.

Winter Games Assoc Meets Secy JKSC To Discuss Activity Calendar

Members of Winter Games Association of J&K on Thursday had a meeting with J&K Sports Council Secretary Nuzhat Gul. The members discussed a range of issues pertaining to winter sports in the region.

In addition to the 6th edition of Khelo India Winter Games 2026, Gul asked the members to prepare for activities at the national and domestic levels.

The JKSC Secretary also emphasized the importance of exploring winter sports activities throughout J&K, specifically in Sonamarg, Shopian, Baderwah and Kishtwar. To organise these events throughout J&K, members of WGAJK assured Secretary JKSC full support and coordination.

The meeting was attended by DSO JKSC, Javid Ur Rehman, Executive Officer JKSC, Majid Yousuf, President WGAJK, Rauf Trambo and other concerned officials. (Observer News Service)

Comm Secy YSS Reviews Various Projects Under Capex, SASCI

Department of Youth Services and Sports Commissioner Secretary Yasha Mudgal on Thursday chaired a meeting to assess the progress of Capex and SASCI projects.

The meeting was attended by the Director General YSS, Special Secretary, YSS, Director Finance YSS, Deputy Director Planning of the Office of Directorate of YSS, AD Planning YSS, Accounts Officer of the office of DG.YSS, Executive Engineers and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary emphasized on timely completion of SASCI projects and Capex initiatives to strengthen sports infrastructure for the students and youth of Jammu and Kashmir. She also directed the officers to set target of achieving 80% physical and financial progress by December 2025 and 100% expenditure of all projects by March 31, 2026. The Commissioner Secretary emphasised on regular weekly monitoring of all projects at District, Divisional and Directorate level. (Observer News Service)

Kohli, Rohit Sweat It Out During Team's Training In Perth

Senior stars Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma hit the ground running soon after their arrival here and spent a considerable time in the nets during the Indian team's first training session ahead of the ODI series against Australia beginning here on Sunday.

All eyes are on Rohit and Kohli, who last played for India in the Champions Trophy in February-March, and are available only in the 50-over format.

Both the former India captains batted for close to 30 minutes in the nets. The Indian team arrived here in two batches over Wednesday and Thursday for the white-ball tour comprising three ODIs and five T20s, starting October 29. Rohit was also seen having a long chat with head coach Gautam Gambhir after his time in the nets. Both Kohli and Rohit retired from Tests earlier this year and had called time on their India T20 career after winning the World Cup in Barbados last year. (PTI)

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