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J&K BY-POLLS

## Budgam Records 50% Turnout, Nagrota 74%



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Ansar Hussain

Srinagar: The by-elections in Jammu and Kashmir witnessed an impressive turnout on Tuesday, with the Budgam Assembly constituency recording a moderate 50.01 percent voter turnout, while Nagrota registered a robust 74.82 percent polling.

According to figures released by the Election Commission of

India (ECI), voter participation remained strong throughout the day across both constituencies.

"As per data received till 7:30 PM, 27-Budgam Assembly Constituency recorded a turnout of 50.01%, and 77-Nagrota Assembly Constituency saw 74.82% polling," said Joint Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Anil Salgotra.

He added that a total of 178 votes were | **More on P10**

DELHI **RED FORT** BLAST

## Death Toll Rises To 13

» Pulwama Doctor, Faridabad Module Under Scanner

» MHA Hands Over Red Fort Blast Probe to NIA

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The death toll in the blast near Red Fort rose to 13, with four more people succumbing to injuries, police said on Tuesday.

A powerful explosion ripped through a slow-moving car at a traffic signal near the Red Fort metro station on Monday evening. Till last night, nine people were confirmed to have died in the blast and 20 others were injured, officials said.

"The death toll in the incident has risen to 13," a Delhi Police official said.

Delhi Police on Tuesday



registered an FIR under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Explosives Act in connection with the deadly blast. Raids are being conducted

at multiple locations by Delhi Police. The national capital has been placed on high alert with strict vigil being maintained at the airport. | **More on P10**

### Hunt Down Every Culprit Involved: Shah

KO WEB DESK

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday instructed the security agencies to hunt down each and every culprit behind the

Delhi blast that claimed 13 lives. He said everyone involved will face the full wrath of security agencies. Shah said this after chairing two subsequent security review | **More on P10**

### Conspirators Will Not Be Spared: PM Modi

Press Trust Of India

The conspirators behind the Delhi car blast will not be spared as the probe agencies investigating it will get to the bottom of the case to bring those responsible for it to justice, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday. In an address at an event at Changlimethang Stadium to mark the 70th birth anniversary of Bhutan's former king Jigme Singye Wangchuck, Modi said he came to Thimphu with a "heavy heart" in view of the incident in Delhi. The prime minister said throughout Monday night, he was in | **More on P10**

### LG Reviews Security Situation In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday reviewed the security situation and operational preparedness at a high-level meeting here.

"Chaired a high-level security review meeting in Srinagar, earlier today," Sinha said in a post on X.

The meeting comes in the backdrop of a car blast outside the Red Fort Metro station in Delhi and the recent recovery of explosives and arms from a terror module of Jaish-e-Mohammad and Ansar Ghazwatul Hind.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary, Home Department, Chandrakar Bharti. | **More on P10**

J&K Put On High Alert

Observer News Service

A day after a deadly car bomb blast near Delhi's Red Fort claimed thirteen lives, authorities in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday sounded a high alert across the Union Territory, tightening security at vital installations | **More on P10**

### Fatigue, Faith & Frustration Mark Budgam Polls

KO Web Desk

A year after casting their votes in the Assembly elections, residents of Budgam returned to polling booths on Tuesday — this time out of compulsion, not celebration — as the constituency went for by-elections following Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's | **More on P10**

### Development, Change Drive Voters to Polls

Observer News Service

From the bustling centre of Budgam to the interiors of Soibug, voters turned out in good numbers on Tuesday, united by one demand — development and change. Many said their vote was for individuals they trust, not political parties that have repeatedly failed to deliver. 'We Want Leaders Who Stay Connected' At the Block Development Office polling station, | **More on P10**

### GMC Staff, Students In J&K Told To Label Lockers

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Authorities in Kashmir have directed all staff and students of the Government Medical College (GMC) and its associated SMHS Hospital to identify and label their personal lockers following the recent recovery of arms and ammunition from a doctor's locker at GMC Anantnag.

According to officials, a circular issued by the Administrator of Associated Hospitals, Srinagar, on Tuesday instructed faculty members, heads

of departments, paramedical staff, and students to personally identify their lockers and label them with their name, designation, and code.

"The exercise should be completed by November 14, after which an inspection will be carried out to remove surplus or unidentified lockers occupying space in hospital and GMC corridors," the circular stated. It also warned that no claim would be entertained for lockers left unmarked after the deadline.

Further, the order directed that no Last | **More on P10**

### Srinagar Records Season's Coldest Night



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Cold wave conditions continued to intensify across the Kashmir Valley on Tuesday as temperatures dipped further, with Srinagar recording its coldest night of the season at minus 0.4°C, according to the Meteorological Department.

"As expected, the minimum temperature dipped further in the Valley today," a MeT official said. "Srinagar recorded its coldest night of the season at minus 0.4°C. The temperature is likely to drop further in the coming days as cold, dry weather is expected to prevail over the next two weeks."

In popular tourist destinations, the famous ski resort of Gulmarg also recorded a low of minus 0.4°C, while Pahalgam, one of the coldest places in the Valley, shivered at minus 3.4°C.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature of 11.4°C, Katra (base camp of Mata Vaishno Devi) 10.4°C, Batote 4.3°C, and Bhaderwah 1.9°C, the MeT office said.

Meteorologists attributed the prevailing cold wave to clear night skies and icy winds descending from the snow-clad mountains surrounding the Valley.

The harshest phase of winter in Kashmir, known as | **More on P10**

### Bihar Records Highest-ever 69% Turnout In Phase-II

Press Trust Of India

Patna: Bihar on Tuesday witnessed a record-breaking turnout of nearly 69 per cent in the second and final phase of assembly polls, wrapping up a nearly month-long exercise that saw the ruling NDA defend its "sushasan" pitch against the opposition's onslaught, promising "change".

The results, which will be declared on November 14, will decide whether Nitish Kumar, the JD(U) president and the longest serving Chief Minister, secures yet another tenure or his former deputy Tejashwi Yadav, who has likened the 20-year-old regime to a "rickety old car" (khataara), takes the wheel.

-Full Story On Page 5

### Exit Polls Predict NDA Win in Bihar

Exit polls on Tuesday predicted a return of the NDA government in Bihar with a big victory over the Mahagathbandhan and a disappointing show by Prashant Kishor's | **More on P10**

### UK Updates India Travel Advisory After Delhi Blast

Press Trust Of India

London: The United Kingdom has updated its travel advisory for British nationals visiting India following the explosion near Delhi's Red Fort Metro Station on Monday evening that left at least twelve people dead and twenty others injured.

In its latest update, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) urged British nationals in Delhi to remain cautious, follow local authorities' directions, and monitor local news for further developments.

"There has been an explosion at the Red Fort (Lal Qila) Metro Station, New Delhi," the FCDO advisory stated. "If you're in the immediate area, follow the advice of the local authorities and monitor local media," it added.

Officials clarified that the FCDO's country-based advisory is guidance | **More on P10**

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For more details, visit <https://rbikehtahai.rbi.org.in>  
For feedback, write to [rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in](mailto:rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in)

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#### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed that my name has been wrongly written in the school records as SYED ADNAN GEELANI S/O SYED MAJID HUSSAIN, while my correct name is SYED SHAYAN GEELANI. The same needs to be corrected accordingly. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file his/her objection in the office of Welkin School, Sopore, Baramulla within seven (07) days from the publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.  
Name: SYED MAJID HUSSAIN F/O: SYED SHAYAN GEELANI  
R/O: KREERI

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION-IIND, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR

#### TENDER NOTICE

enIT No STD-II / 49 of 2025-26 Dated 06-11-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, e-Tender (In Two Cover System) is hereby invited from A-class electrical contractors/registered firms enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency for "Shifting of load from 33KV Sharifabad-HMT line to 33KV Bemina JVC-PC depot line by way of construction of 33KV line from 33/0.433KV 100KVA Street light substation at lal path lab opposite Ansari Tyota on NH44 National Highway to Receiving station Shalteng and augmentation of 33KV Bemina JVC-line."

SNO	Description of Work	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)	Last date of submission of e-bid
01	Shifting of load from 33KV Sharifabad-HMT line to 33KV Bemina JVC-PC depot line by way of construction of 33KV line from 33/0.433KV 100KVA Street light substation at lal path lab opposite Ansari Tyota on NH44 National Highway to Receiving station Shalteng and augmentation of 33KV Bemina JVC-line.	177600.00	Rs 88.8 Lacs	02-12-2025: 4:30pm

- Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.
- The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid on line up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a> from 10-11-2025: 4:30pm
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	10-11-2025: 4:30pm
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	02-12-2025: 4:30pm
D	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	10-11-2025: 4:30pm
E	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	02-12-2025: 4:30pm
F	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	03-12-2025: 2:30pm
G	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	The office of Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar
I	Cost of e-bid document	Rs 2000.00(Rupees Two Thousand Only)
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 177600.00.00 (Rupees One Lac Seventy-Seven Thousand and Six Hundred Only)

- The bidders need to submit the proof/Cost of e-Bid document as stated above through e-Challan/Treasury Receipt pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar to be credited to M.H-0801-Power payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the e-Challan/Treasury Receipt must be enclosed along with the e-Bids. No demand Draft shall be accepted.
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR / FDR only, pledged to the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.
  - Hard Copy of e-bid (complete) shall have to be submitted to the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar only from the bidder who is declared L1 after opening of financial bids.
  - The date and time of opening of financial bids shall be notified on web site <http://jktenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the qualified bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The financial bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same web site at the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
- The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder representative will be required to be produced.
- The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.
- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being a holiday/closed day for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the same time and place.
- All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be up loaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.
- To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' class III(b) As per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.
- Hard Copy of requisite documents shall be required to be submitted only by the Lowest Tenderer along with original CDR and e-Challan/Treasury Receipt instantly after opening of e-NIT pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
- The Name of the Work/Job along with e-NIT reference should be superscripted in bold letters on the envelope and the Name/Firm should be clearly written on the cover.

The name of the bidder and e-NIT no. shall be clearly written on the cover. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. Any other information regarding e-tendering process can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Sub Transmission Division-II,  
Rajbagh, Srinagar.

DIPK-NB-2439/25  
dated: 11-11-2025

No: STD-II/8317-20/Ts

Dated: 06-11-2025

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S KASHMIR ROUTERS Situated at Saria Bala Near Iqra Masjid

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I, Mr. Abdaal Farooq Bhat S/O: Farooq Ahmad Bhat Address: Aram Wari Raj Bagh Srinagar intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of M/S KASHMIR ROUTERS Situated at Saria Bala Near Iqra Masjid under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas I will submit state subject / Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, pan card / Experience Certificate (Minimum 5 years), Police character certificate, Bank statement (minimum balance 10000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by sub Registrar, printing material (Latter head / Visiting card) Photograph of the unit (indoor and outdoor) and Two passport size photographs to the department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist I Prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.  
/ Adventure Tour Operator Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12) before my case is processed for my registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ Financial institutions/Bank/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration(email id: dtregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7days from the publication of this notice in a leading newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

iko

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS(R&B)DIVISIONAWANTIPORA

Email: rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in

NO: T-1/EEA/6585-90 Dated:11/11/2025  
Extension Notice

- Subject: -
1. Repair and Renovation of AEE Residential Quarter pampore.
  2. UDDDC2526100009-(Repairment of Drain from House of Ajaz Ahmad Sofi to House of Mohammad Shafi Khan at Tanchibagh Pampore near Darul-Uloom Lane No 2).
  3. Restoration of wearing coat on Zoonipora Bridge at pampore.

- Reference: -
1. This office e-NIT NO. 57/EEA/RNB of 2025-26/4237-47 Dated 15-09-2025
  2. This office e-NIT NO. 66 /EEA/RNB of 2025-26/4686-96 Dated 25-09-2025
  3. This office e-NIT NO. FRESH-103/EEA/RNB of 2025-26/6086-96 Dated 31-10-2025

The critical dates for the above noted NITs are hereby extended as under:

1	Bid Submission End Date	15-11-2025 upto 4.00P.M
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	17-11-2025 upto 12.00 P.M

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NIT.

Sd/-  
Technical officer

DIPK-7976/25  
dated: 11-11-2024

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Awantipora.

### OPEN DRUG FREE TAEKWONDO CUP-2025 CONCLUDED



NOV-5: The Open Drug Free Taekwondo Cup-2025 concluded successfully on 4 & 5 November at MTM Experimental School Wussan Tangmarg. The Event was organized by Aryan Academy of Martial Arts, Registered with Jammu & Kashmir State Sports Council and MSME Govt. of India Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises. More than 80 participants from different schools, clubs and also local youth from different areas of Tangmarg area participated in the championship to showcasing exceptional skills, Sportsmanship and discipline during the two days event.

The Chief Guest Dr. Hilal Ahmad Zargar Principal MTM Experimental School, who graced the occasion as Guest of Honour, commended the organizers for promoting Taekwondo at the ground level and also congratulated all participants for their outstanding performance. The Open Drug Free Taekwondo Cup Sponsored by Mr. SYED ALI RAZVI OWNER RCF RETAIL MART Magam, Thank you so much sir for your valuable time and support for us in this difficult situation.

The Championship Concluded with a colorful prize distribution ceremony, during which medals and certificates were awarded to the Winners in different categories. Chairman AAMA Mohd Umar Taili and other Guests and officials of the AAMA Academy expressed their heartfelt gratitude to all the players, officials, coaches, school staff, parents, Volunteers whose efforts made this event a grand success.

bmg

### OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN MADINA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL NOORIPORA-PATTAN (ZONE SINGHPORA, PATTAN).

FEE STRUCTURE FOR ACADEMIC SESSION 2025- 2026,

S.NO.	Class	Monthly Tution Fee	Annual Fee
01	10th Class	920=00	3510=00
02	09th Class	860=00	3510=00
03	08th Class	675=00	2925=00
04	07th Class	610=00	2925=00
05	06th Class	555=00	2925=00
06	05th Class	465=00	1945=00
07	04th Class	430=00	1945=00
08	03rd. Class	405=00	1945=00
09	02nd. Class	395=00	1815=00
10	1st. Class	365=00	1815=00
11	U.K.G.	325=00	480=00
12	L.K.G.	315=00	480=00
13	Nursery	270=00	1200=00

Note: 100% concession in tution fee is given to orphans students and 50% concession to handicapped students and wards of employees.  
fko

Chairman

### OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN MADINA PUBLIC SCHOOL AHMADPORA-PATTAN (ZONE SINGHPORA, PATAN).

FEE STRUCTURE FOR ACADEMIC SESSION 2025- 2026,

S.NO.	Class	Monthly Tution Fee	Annual Fee
01	08th Class	675=00	3035=00
02	07th Class	610=00	3035=00
03	06th Class	555=00	3035=00
04	05th Class	465=00	1945=00
05	04th Class	430=00	1945=00
06	03rd. Class	405=00	1945=00
07	02nd. Class	395=00	1825=00
08	1st. Class	365=00	1825=00
09	U.K.G.	330=00	480=00
10	L.K.G.	320=00	480=00
11	Nursery	280=00	1200=00

Note: 100% concession in tution fee is given to orphans students and 50% concession to handicapped students and wards of employees.  
fko

Chairman

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his adhaar card as Ayda Jan while her correct name is Aidah Qayoom . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection n this regard he/she may file them in the concerned adhaar centre Jammu/Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
Abdul Qayoom Malik  
F/o Aidah Qayoom  
R/o Batapora Tehsil & Disst Shopain

fko

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Nisar Ahmad Mir  
F/o Bareera Nisar  
R/o Pinjoora Shopain

fko

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

My Mother's name has been wrongly written in my school records as Shanaz Naqash while her correct name is Tabasum Ali. 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 office of the Kashmir Harvard Educational Institute within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Naqash Hussain Ali Kath  
S/o Naqash Kifayat Hussain

x



- 1918 - Russia cancels Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
- 1921 - US, France, Japan & British Empire sign a Pacific Treaty
- 1956 - US Supreme Court rules race separation on buses in Alabama unconstitutional
- 1979 - Ronald Reagan in New York announces his candidacy for US President
- 1980 - US spacecraft Voyager 1 sends back 1st close-up pictures of Saturn
- 1982 - Vietnam Veterans Memorial opened in Washington D.C., featuring the names of over 58,000 US soldiers who were killed or missing in the Vietnam War
- 1986 - NASA launches space vehicle S-199
- 1986 - US President Reagan confesses weapon sales to Iran
- 1990 - Saudis ask US for rights to bid on SPR (Strategic Petroleum Reserve) crude
- 1993 - Pakistani minister of Foreign affairs Faruk Laghari elected president
- 1994 - Sweden agrees to join European Union
- 2001 - Doha Round: The World Trade Organization ends a four-day ministerial conference in Doha, Qatar.
- 2001 - War on Terrorism: In the first such act since World War II, US President
- George W. Bush signs an executive order allowing military tribunals against foreigners suspected of connections to terrorist acts or planned acts on the United States.
- 2001 - US President George W. Bush orders that the Strategic Petroleum Reserve be filled to capacity over the next few years
- 2002 - Iraq disarmament crisis: Iraq agrees to the terms of the UN Security Council Resolution 1441.
- 2007 - An explosion hits the south wing of the House of Representatives of the
- Philippines in Quezon City, killing four people, including Congressman Wahab
- Akbar, and wounding six.
- 2017- 7.3 earthquake hits near Halabja, Iraq, on border with Iran, killing over 500 people, with 7,000 injured
- 2017- For the first time Prince Charles lays the wreath to Great Britain's war dead, replacing Queen Elizabeth
- 2019- 550th anniversary of the birth of Guru Nanak - the founder of Sikhism celebrated in India and Pakistan
- 2019- Disney launches its film and television streaming service Disney+
- 2019- Former Bolivian President Evo Morales takes asylum in Mexico
- 2019- Israeli forces kill senior commander of Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant group in the Gaza Strip with Palestinian militants setting off retaliatory rockets at Israel
- 2020- US President-elect Joe Biden announces Ron Klain will be his White House Chief of Staff
- 2021- At least 68 inmates killed in new fighting at Ecuadorian prison, the Litoral Penitentiary, Guayaquil, following earlier violence in September
- 2022 Two vintage aircraft crash in midair at the Wings Over Dallas WWII Airshow, killing all six people
- 2023- Unprecedented heatwave in Brazil affects more than 3,000 towns with Rio de Janeiro reaching 42.5C - very high humidity makes it feel like 58.5C
- 2023 WHO calls for attacks on and around hospitals in Gaza to stop, with newborn babies reportedly dying as a result of power, water and oxygen cuts
- 2024 "Orbital" by British writer Samantha Harvey, set on the International Space Station, wins the 2024 Booker Prize for fiction
- 2024- Former Massachusetts Air National Guard Jack Teixeira is sentenced to 15 years in prison for stealing classified information from the Pentagon and sharing it online
- 2024- President-elect Donald Trump selects entrepreneur Elon Musk and former presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy, to head a newly-created Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)
- 2024- The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, resigns in the wake of a report into a church sex abuser that said he should have notified him to police
- 2024- US State Department confirms over 10,000 North Korea troops have joined Russian forces in the Kursk region to fight Ukraine in a major escalation of the war



## Car Bomb Attack in Pakistan Capital, 12 Killed

Trans Asia News

Islamabad ~ A suicide bomber on Tuesday detonated his explosives near a police vehicle outside a court in Pakistan's capital, killing at least 12 people and wounding 27 others, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said.

Naqvi, who visited the site of the blast, said the attacker wanted to enter the court complex, but on failure, he detonated his explosives near a police vehicle at the gate of the building in the G-11 area of the

has been going on. He said that those sponsoring militants in Pakistan had increased their funding by threefold.

"We are linking today's blast with many factors. Things will be clear in the coming hours. There are several messages of it....," he said. "I don't want to say anything at this point, as often the Indians do (start blaming soon after such incidents). We will come with full evidence and details."

Naqvi said Pakistan is clear that Afghanistan should stop terrorism coming from their



capital at 12.39 pm (local time).

The minister said that 12 people were killed and 27 others injured, including security personnel and a lawyer, in the blast near the Islamabad District Judicial Complex.

No group or individual claimed responsibility for the attack, but such strikes are usually carried out by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistani (TTP).

"Our first priority is to identify the attacker... Whenever the attacker is identified, we will share with the media," Naqvi said as he vowed to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Naqvi said that the process of identifying the victims

soil, "otherwise we will have to take action against them."

Both President Asif Ali Zardari and Defence Minister Khawaja Asif termed the attack a "suicide blast".

Defence Minister Asif said the Afghan Taliban has sent a message through the bombing.

"The rulers of Kabul can stop terrorism in Pakistan, but bringing this war all the way to Islamabad is a message from Kabul, to which - praise be to God - Pakistan has the full strength to respond," he said in a message on X to express his reaction to the attack in Islamabad.

## Delhi's Toxic Air Raises Cancer, Respiratory Alarm

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Delhi's deteriorating air quality has health experts worried over the far-reaching and long-term health consequences of sustained exposure to polluted air. From increased cancer risk to weakening the body's immunity, the impact of air pollution extends far beyond respiratory ailments, they said.

The State of Global Air 2025 report warns that India recorded over two million deaths linked to toxic air in 2023. With PM2.5 concentrations in South Asia among the highest worldwide, experts describe it as a deepening environmental and human crisis.

Environment experts and policy-makers are of the view that India's pollution stems from multiple sources, with residential solid-fuel burning contributing around 30 per cent of the ambient PM2.5, with vehicles, coal-fired power plants, industrial emissions, and agricultural residue burning adding to the load.

In dense cities such as

Delhi, traffic congestion and construction dust magnify exposure, they said.

"Delhi represents the sharp edge of India's air-pollution emergency," said Dr Rakesh K Chawla, the head of the department of respiratory medicine, sleep and interventional pulmonology at Jaipur Golden Hospital in Rohini.

He pointed out that each winter, particulate-matter levels soar to nearly 10 times the WHO safe limit. "After Diwali and crop-residue burning, the city sits under a lid of stagnant cold air that traps toxins."

"This isn't just a seasonal inconvenience; it's a continuous assault on lungs that weakens immunity, worsens asthma, and accelerates chronic lung disease. Clean air must be treated as a basic right, not a luxury dependent on weather or wind," he said.

Dr Chawla added that short-term interventions have failed to deliver real relief. "From odd-even traffic schemes to cloud-seeding experiments, these are reactive, symbolic measures."



## Record 69% Turnout Caps Bihar's High-stakes Polls

Press Trust Of India

Patna: Bihar on Tuesday witnessed a record-breaking turnout of nearly 69 per cent in the second and final phase of polling, wrapping up a nearly month-long exercise that saw the ruling NDA defend its "sushasan" pitch against the opposition's onslaught, promising "change".

The results, which will be declared on November 14, will decide whether Nitish Kumar, the JD(U) president and the longest serving Chief Minister, secures yet another tenure or his former deputy Tejashwi Yadav, who has likened the 20-year-old regime to a "rickety old car" (khataara), takes the wheel.

Briefing reporters, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Vinod Singh Gunjijal said the state recorded 68.79 per cent voter turnout, provisionally, in the second and final phase of the assembly polls.

In both phases, the state registered a voter turnout of 66.90 per cent, provisionally, which is 9.6 percentage points more than the last assembly polls, the CEO added.

In the 2020 assembly polls, the state recorded a voter turnout of 57.29 per cent.

Polling began at a brisk pace, with figures made available by the Election Commis-

sion constantly surpassing the same for the corresponding period on November 6, when 121 seats had witnessed, in the first phase, the "highest ever turnout" of 65.09 per cent by the end of the day.

While Yadav and his allies in the INDIA bloc claim that the high turnout was indicative of a very strong "anti-incumbency" sentiment, NDA leaders like Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the BJP's in charge for the Bihar elections, have been

concentration of Muslims and, unsurprisingly, had all voted for the INDIA bloc in the last polls.

Amid the tug of war between the NDA and the opposition bloc, INDIA, Prashant Kishor, the former political strategist, hopes that his one-year-old Jan Suraj Party will make an impact, with its promise of an "alternative" that promises education and jobs and an end to "distress migration".

Although Kumar, who is a member of the state legislative council, is not

**“In both phases, the state registered a voter turnout of 66.90 per cent, provisionally, which is 9.6 percentage points more than the last assembly polls, the CEO added.**

quick to counter that heavy polling does not necessarily spell change, citing past instances of incumbents retaining power.

Notably, all the districts that have witnessed the highest poll percentage, well in excess of 70 per cent, in the first as well as second phases, are situated north of the Ganges, an area which is densely populated and where the NDA has traditionally performed well.

However, the top three districts, Kishanganj, Katihar, and Purnea, have a high con-

himself contesting the polls, the BJP-led NDA is banking on 'good governance' during the tenure of the JD(U) president to tackle the anti-incumbency factor.

The second phase, in which eight ministers of his cabinet are in the fray, involves high stakes for the ruling NDA, as also the opposition INDIA bloc, which pins its hopes on the incumbency factor, as well as the high concentration of Muslims in many of the poll-bound districts.

## World Leaders Condemn New Delhi Blast

Press Trust Of India

Beijing/Washington- Leaders from across the world, including the US, China, Japan, and Israel, on Tuesday expressed grief and shock over the loss of lives after an explosion in the Indian capital killed at least 12 people and injured several others.

A powerful blast ripped through a slow-moving car at a traffic signal near the Red Fort metro station on Monday evening, killing nine people and injuring 20 others. The death toll rose to 12 on Tuesday, with three more people succumbing to injuries, police said.

Expressing condolences over the deadly explosion, the US said it continues to closely

monitor the situation.

"Our hearts are with those affected by the terrible explosion in New Delhi. We continue to closely monitor the situation. Our sincere condolences to the families who lost their loved ones. Praying for the speedy recovery of those injured," the State Department's Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs said in a post on X Monday.

China expressed shock over the bomb blast in Delhi. "We are shocked by the incident," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told a media briefing in Beijing, replying to a question.

He conveyed condolences to the victims, extended sin-

cere sympathies to the families of the deceased and the injured, and wished the injured a speedy recovery.

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, in a social media post, said she is in "deep sorrow to learn that many precious lives were lost in the explosion".

She expressed her condolences to the victims and their bereaved families, and offered prayers for the swift recovery of the injured.

"Saddened by news of the explosion in Delhi last evening, Sri Lanka stands in solidarity with the people of India. Our thoughts are with all those affected," Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayake said in a social media post.

## False Bomb Alerts Rock Delhi after Red Fort Blast

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Hours after the bomb blast near Red Fort killing 12 people, the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) received five calls about "unclaimed" vehicles and bags, all of which later turned out to be false alarms, an official said on Tuesday.

According to DFS officials, the calls started pouring in soon after news of the explosion spread, reflecting heightened public anxiety across the city.

"The first call was received at 9.15 pm from Bijwasan, reporting an unclaimed bag. We rushed a fire vehicle immediately dispatched to the spot, but nothing suspicious was found," the DFS official said.

He further said that minutes later, at 9.27 pm, another call came from Vasant Vihar about an unclaimed car. Similarly, one fire tender was sent to the location and returned around 10.15

pm after verification.

Another was received at 9.34 pm, in which an alert was made from Sector 13 in Dwarka, followed by a 9.35 pm alert from near Kashmere Gate, both concerning unattended cars.

"The final call of the night came from Signature Bridge, Khajuri Khas, at 10.01 pm, also regarding an unclaimed vehicle. All the reported objects turned out to be harmless. However, each call was attended to with full seriousness in coordination with local police," the official said.

Officials emphasised that the spate of alerts reflected the sense of fear and unease among residents following the Red Fort blast.

People were understandably anxious after the explosion. Teams responded swiftly to ensure there was no cause for alarm elsewhere, the official added.

## Iraq Votes in Parliamentary Polls Amid Boycott



Associated Press

Baghdad : Iraqis headed to the polls on Tuesday to vote in a parliamentary election marked by tight security and a boycott by a major political bloc.

A total of 8,703 polling stations were open across the country for the general election. Members of the security forces and displaced people living in camps cast their ballots in early voting on Sunday.

Turnout was sparse in the early hours of Tuesday at polling stations visited by Associated Press journalists. Initial results were expected on Wednesday.

Only 21.4 million out of a total of 32 million eligible voters updated their information and obtained voter cards ahead of the polling, a decrease from the last parliamentary election in 2021, when about 24 million voters registered.

The election is taking place against the backdrop of major shifts in the region over the past two years — including the wars in Gaza and Lebanon after the Oct. 7, 2023, the Israel-Iran war in June, and the fall of Syrian President Bashar Assad last December.

These developments come as US pressure intensifies on the Iraqi government to curb

the influence of Iran-aligned parties, some of which have candidates participating in Tuesday's vote.

Prime Minister Mohammad Shia al-Sudani, who is running for a second term, arrived at a polling station in Baghdad to cast his vote, along with his mother.

The election "asserts the principle of peaceful transfer of power" and "the people's commitment to this democratic practice," Sudani said.

**Boycott by a major bloc**

The popular Sadrist Movement, led by influential Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, boycotted the polls. Al-Sadr's bloc won the largest number of seats in the 2021 election but later withdrew after failed negotiations over forming a government, amid a standoff with rival Shia parties. He has since boycotted the political system.

At the entrance to Sadr City — a sprawling stronghold of the Sadrist movement on the outskirts of Baghdad — security was noticeably tighter than in other parts of the Iraqi capital. Iraqi special forces and federal police were deployed across the area, with armoured vehicles and Humvees stationed along the main roads, manned by heavily armed soldiers.

## Who's the Woman Doctor Held in Blast Case?

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai: A woman doctor from Lucknow, who was among eight people arrested after the busting of an inter-state terror module, had married a man from Maharashtra, but the couple got divorced in 2015, a police official said here on Tuesday.

Citing initial information, the official said Dr Shaheen Sayeed, also named in Monday's Delhi car blast case, had married a Maharashtra resident named Zafar Hayat.

Their marriage did not work for long and in 2015, the couple parted ways, he said without providing more details like the native place of the woman's former husband in the state or his profession.

After divorce, Sayeed, associated with Al Falah University in Haryana's Faridabad, was staying alone and there is a possibility that she may have been indoctrinated during this period, the official said.

Earlier on the day, the doctor's father

admitted in Lucknow that his daughter had married a man from Maharashtra.

As more details emerge, investigating agencies may expand the scope of the probe and cover the state as well, the official said.

Eight people, including three doctors, were arrested on Monday, and 2,900 kg of explosives seized in Faridabad with the uncovering of a "white collar" terror module involving the Jaish-e-Mohammed and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind, and spanning Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Among those arrested following a 15-day operation was Sayeed, who originally hails from Lucknow.

The doctor was part of the newly formed Jamaat-ul-Mominaat, an organisation launched by banned Jaish-e-Mohammed last month, officials claimed in New Delhi on the basis of preliminary investigations.

Sayeed is alleged to be part of Jaish-e-Mohammed's (JeM) women recruitment wing in India.

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi : The Delhi High Court will hear on Wednesday four appeals seeking disclosure of details related to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's degree.

The appeals have been filed challenging a single judge's order which had set aside a Central Information Commission (CIC) decision directing disclosure of Modi's degree.

A bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Geda will hear the appeals filed by Right to Information activist Neeraj, Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh and advocate Mohd Irshad.

## Delhi HC To Hear Pleas on PM Modi's Degree

**“On August 25, the single judge had set aside the CIC order saying only because Modi was holding a public office, it did not render all his "personal information" to public disclosure.**

On August 25, the single judge had set aside the CIC order saying only because Modi was holding a public office, it did not render all his "personal information" to public disclosure.

It had ruled out any "im-

plicit public interest" in the information sought, and said that the RTI Act was enacted to promote transparency in government functioning and "not to provide fodder for sensationalism".

Following an RTI application by Neeraj, the CIC on December 21, 2016, allowed inspection of records of all students who cleared the BA exam in 1978 — the year Modi also passed it.

The single judge had passed the combined order in six petitions, including the one filed by the Delhi University challenging the CIC by which the varsity was directed to disclose the details related to Modi's bachelor degree.

## Mumbai Trader Loses 53 Lakh in Overnight 'Digital Arrest'

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai: A 60-year-old businessman from South Mumbai was kept under 'digital arrest' overnight by cyber fraudsters, who posed as senior officials from law enforcement agencies and allegedly duped him of Rs 53 lakh, police said on Tuesday.

Fraudsters accused the businessman of involvement in a money laundering case and forced him to remain on a video call for the whole night, saying he had an online bail hearing in a court the next day, and also issued him a fake notice from the Supreme Court, an official said. 'Digital arrest' is a growing form of cyber-crime in which fraudsters pose as law enforcement officials or personnel of government agencies and intimidate victims through audio/video calls. They hold the victims hostage and put pressure on them to pay money.



# ‘Cowardly Act’: Political, Religious Leaders in J&K Condemn Red Fort Blast

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah political, religious and trade leaders on Tuesday strongly condemned the devastating car blast near Delhi's historic Red Fort.

The terror attack, which claimed 13 lives and left many injured, has been termed “a cowardly and inhuman act” aimed at disturbing peace and harmony in the country.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, in a post on X, said: “Extremely pained by the loss of lives in a blast in Delhi. My thoughts are with the bereaved families. I pray that the injured recover soon.”

The Office of Chief Minister J&K, Omar Abdullah, also posted on X: “The Chief Minister has expressed deep shock over the blast in Delhi close to the Red Fort, which has claimed several lives and left many injured. He extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured.”

J&K Leader of Opposition (LoP) and senior BJP leader, Sunil Sharma also expressed grief over the traffic blast. “Deeply saddened over the tragic loss of lives in the car blast incident in New Delhi. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Praying for the speedy recovery of those injured,” Sharma said.

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday condemned the Red Fort blast in Delhi, calling it a cowardly and inhuman act designed to spread



fear among innocent people.

“Words fall short in condemning such a heinous act of terror. These blasts are not only an assault on the lives of innocent citizens but also on the very spirit of humanity and peace,” Abdullah, the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, said in a statement.

“My heart goes out to all those who have lost their loved ones and to those battling injuries in hospitals. In this hour of immense pain, the entire nation stands united in grief and solidarity,” he added.

Adding to the condemnations, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, wrote on X: “Deeply saddened by the tragic car blast in Delhi that has claimed precious lives and injured many. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for the swift recovery of those injured. May Almighty Allah grant strength and patience to all affected by this tragedy.”

The Grand Mufti of Jammu and Kashmir, Mufti Nasirul Islam, also joined the condemnations,

describing the blast as a “shameful act of terrorism,” saying, “The killing of an innocent person is the killing of the entire humanity. People of Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of religion and caste, share the grief of the bereaved families.”

The former Chief Minister of J&K, Mehbooba Mufti, also shared on her X handle: “Deeply shocked and saddened to hear about the tragic car blast in Delhi that has taken eight precious lives and injured so many others. My heart goes out to the families who have lost their loved ones. No words can ease their pain. Praying for the speedy recovery of those injured and hoping the cause of this tragedy is uncovered soon.”

Additionally, the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers cum Dealers Union and the New Kashmir Fruits Association Srinagar described the incident as a “highly deplorable and inhumane act.”

Chairman Bashir Ahmad Basher, who also heads the New Kashmir Fruits Association, extended heartfelt condolences to

the bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

The Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation (KTMF), led by Mohammad Yaseen Khan, expressed profound grief, saying, “We stand in solidarity with the bereaved families in this hour of grief and pray for the speedy recovery of the injured.”

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCC&I) also condemned the attack, calling it a “heinous act of violence” that has caused “immense loss of life and deep anguish.”

In its statement, KCC&I conveyed heartfelt condolences to the victims’ families and prayed for the quick recovery of those injured. It urged the Government of India to “bring the perpetrators to justice and strengthen preventive mechanisms to ensure public safety.” “The business fraternity of Kashmir stands in solidarity with all those affected by this tragedy,” the Chamber said, stressing that “such acts are an assault on peace, stability, and the shared values of humanity.”

In another development, the Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) announced that its jailed founder and MP from Baramulla, Er Rashid, has informed Tihar Jail authorities of his decision to begin a “two-day hunger strike from November 12” to protest the Delhi blast and the growing trend of violence.

AIP Chief Spokesperson Inam Un Nabi quoted from Er Rashid's letter addressed to the DG Prisons, New Delhi, stating that he condemned the attack as “an assault on humanity.” “Er Rashid has expressed concern that even

educated Kashmiris, including doctors, are being pushed towards violence. His hunger strike is a call for introspection and a reminder that we cannot afford to lose more young and educated people,” Inam said.

According to KNO, the President of the Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party, Altaf Bukhari, also wrote on X: “I strongly condemn the horrific blast near the Red Fort in New Delhi, which claimed the lives of several innocent people and left many others gravely injured. This cowardly act of violence is an assault on humanity and a direct attack on the peace and security of our nation.

Violence of this nature—especially in the heart of our nation's capital—deserves the strongest possible condemnation. Those responsible must be swiftly brought to justice and given exemplary punishment. The entire nation must stand united in this moment of grief and resolve, showing zero tolerance for terrorism in any form. Let us send a clear and unwavering message: terrorism will find no refuge, no support, and no sympathy on Indian soil,” wrote Bukhari.

MLA Handwara and President Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference Sajad Lone also wrote on X: “My heartfelt condolences to those who lost their loved ones in the blast in Delhi. May they rest in peace.”

It is important to mention that condemnations continue to pour in from across Jammu and Kashmir, with leaders and organisations calling for unity, justice, and peace as the nation mourns the victims of the Red Fort tragedy.

## NGT Pulls Up J&K Govt Over Forest Violations

Observer News Service

The Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir has tendered an unconditional and unreserved apology before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for failing to file the Action Taken Report (ATR) within the stipulated period in the case concerning alleged environmental violations during the construction of the Handwara–Bangus Road by the Public Works Department (PWD), Handwara Division.

In a written submission, the Chief Secretary stated that he “humbly and unreservedly tenders an unconditional apology for the delay and lapse,” while seeking the Tribunal's indulgence. He assured the NGT that strict compliance with all future directions would be ensured and that due care would be taken to prevent any recurrence.

The apology follows the NGT's earlier directive seeking an affidavit from the Chief Secretary on disciplinary or legal action initiated against officers accused of authorising the road's execution without mandatory environmental and forest clearances.

The matter pertains to the Handwara–Bangus Road, a project that has come under scrutiny after reports suggested that portions of the work were carried out within protected forest areas, allegedly resulting in extensive tree felling and ecological degradation. Environmental activists allege that the construction was undertaken in violation of the Forest Conservation Act and other regulatory norms.

According to KNT, the petitioner, Rasikh Rasool Bhat, informed the Tribunal that the project had been executed without statutory permissions, despite an alternate route already existing, rendering the new alignment both ecologically destructive and procedurally unjustified.

## Northern Army Commander Reviews Anti-Infiltration Grid Along LoC



Northern Army commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma on Tuesday reviewed the anti-infiltration grid and operational preparedness of the forces along the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir.

“Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, visited North Kashmir to review the anti-infiltration grid and assess the operational readiness of formations along the Line of Control,” Army's Northern Command said in a post on X.

According to PTI, the army said that while reviewing the forward areas, Lt Gen Sharma was briefed on a state-of-the-art surveillance system and next-generation technology fortifying border security.

The army commander lauded the troops for exceptional professionalism, operational excellence and combat readiness to confront emerging threats, reaffirming the army's unwavering resolve to defend the nation's frontiers. (Observer News Service)

## Outdoor Saffron Production Hits Historic Low: Growers

Observer News Service

**PAMPORE:** In what has been described as one of the worst years for saffron cultivation in decades, growers across the Pampore belt — the heartland of Kashmir's saffron — say that both outdoor and indoor production have been severely affected due to poor-quality corms and erratic weather conditions.

Saffron farmers told KNO that this year's outdoor yield has been alarmingly low — the lowest in several decades. Compounding their woes, many could not even switch to indoor saffron cultivation, which has emerged in recent years as an alternative to overcome unpredictable climatic patterns.

“We were hopeful that indoor cultivation would help us recover from the losses caused by erratic weather, but unfortunately, there were no quality corms available this season,” said Ghulam Nabi, a saffron grower from Lethpora. “The corms available in the market were of poor quality, and planting them would have meant wasting both money and effort.”

Another grower, Abdul Ahad from Khrew, said that the prolonged dry spell during summer, followed by untimely rains, affected the soil fertility and the overall health of the saffron corms. “Our corms

have lost their vigour. They are getting smaller and weaker every year. Without good-quality corms, both outdoor and indoor cultivation are becoming impossible,” he said.

The farmers also voiced concern over the large-scale selling of saffron corms outside the valley, which they believe has contributed to the shortage and deterioration of quality. “The government has stopped the sale, and there is a need for stricter action to fully stop the sale of corms outside Kashmir. These corms are part of our heritage and economy — their outflow will only accelerate the decline of this industry,” said Manzoor Ahmad, another cultivator from Chandhara.

Experts have repeatedly warned that without timely intervention, the traditional saffron cultivation — already hit by climate change, urban encroachment, and poor irrigation — could face irreversible decline.

Growers are urging the government to establish dedicated corm multiplication centres and research units to improve corm quality and ensure their local availability. “If steps are not taken now, saffron, which once brought global recognition to Kashmir, will soon become just a memory,” said a local saffron association member.

## BUDGAM BYPOLL

## Women Lead, Call For Change In Narbal, Soibug

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** At the polling stations of Government Girls Higher Secondary School Narbal and Government Middle School Check Soibug in Budgam district, a strong voter turnout was recorded, particularly among women.

They said they were casting their ballots not just for a day's verdict, but for their families' future.

Shazia, a voter from

Narbal, while standing in queue at the Higher Secondary School Narbal, told KNO that she voted hoping her family's members could find a job and stay instead of leaving home. “We want power that works, not smart meters that cost more and deliver less,” she said.

Another voter, Ruqaya, said they are tired of being ignored after every election. “We want opportunities, water, electricity and

some relief. Our votes reflect that hope,” she added.

Women at the Government Middle School Check Soibug echoed similar concerns. Mehmooda, another voter, said, “I came out with my family to vote because we believe this time our voices will count and that our vote will mean jobs for our loved ones, lower electricity bills and that basic things will finally get fixed.”

Among the queues were

young female voters who said they came out to vote for change. “We have voted before, but this time we are doing it with real hope for change,” one of them said.

It is worth mentioning that women voters were also seen turning out in good numbers across other parts of Budgam including Om-pura, Main Town, Soibug, Nasrullah Pora and Narbal, where long queues of women were seen patiently waiting to cast their ballots.

## ‘Leaders Remember Budgam Only During Elections’

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In the main town of Budgam, voters at multiple blocks and polling stations voiced strong anger over what they called “seasonal politics.” Residents said leaders and political parties only appear when it is time to seek votes and disappear once the elections are over.

Many voters expressed frustration, saying even the Chief Minister's visit was limited to campaigning. They also said they demanded consistent attention and real development throughout the year.

“Every election we see the same faces returning for campaigns, but once the results are out, they disappear,” said Abdul Majid, a resident of main town Budgam, who

cast his ballot around noon, according to KNO.

He said they need leaders who visit even when there are no elections and when people actually need them.

Locals also questioned the absence of senior politicians from the area in the past. “Since Ruhullah represented this seat, no leader and even the Chief Minister has ever visited us. Now that elections are here, everyone suddenly finds time to campaign,” said Suhail, another resident of Budgam.

He added that even the CM came only for campaigning, not for the people.

Another young voter, Mehran, said, “We need someone who listens to us and addresses our daily issues like power, water and jobs not just speeches during campaigns.”

## Baramulla Student Joins ‘Know Your Leaders’ in Parliament

Observer News Service

**BARAMULLA:** In a proud moment for Jammu and Kashmir, Rawhaan Rafiq Buhroo, a final-year Political Science student from Government Degree College (GDC) Baramulla, represented the Union Territory at the prestigious “Know Your Leaders” programme held in the Parliament's Central Hall. She was the only student from J&K selected to attend and address the gathering.

During the programme, Rawhaan delivered a well-articulated tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 150th birth anniversary, highlighting his pivotal role in shaping India's unity and national integration. Her ad-



dress earned appreciation for its clarity, research depth, and confident delivery.

Hailing from the scenic but socio-politically challenging region of Baramulla, Rawhaan's achievement is being viewed as a significant milestone, symbolising determination, resi-

lience, and academic merit. The “Know Your Leaders” initiative provides selected youth from across the country an opportunity to learn about national icons, understand parliamentary functioning, and participate in commemorative events honouring India's historical figures.

In recognition of her achievement, the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla felicitated Rawhaan during a special ceremony at GDC Baramulla, attended by the Principal, faculty members, and students. The DC congratulated her on behalf of the district administration, describing her accomplishment as an inspiration for the youth of the region.

Principal GDC Baram-

ulla also lauded Rawhaan's hard work, noting that her success reflected strong parental support, mentorship from her teachers, and her own academic dedication.

Rawhaan is a distinguished debater and public speaker, having earlier received several awards for academic excellence, youth leadership, and community engagement. She continues to represent Jammu and Kashmir at national platforms with distinction.

Her journey, educators say, offers a message of hope and aspiration to young girls across remote and rural areas — demonstrating that with education, confidence, and courage, new horizons are always within reach.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir,

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE  
ENGINEER R&B DIVISION KRALPORA

Fresh E tenderingNIT No.54/RnB/Kralpora of 2025-26 Dated: 10-11-2025

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor Jammu & Kashmir(UT), e-tenders are being invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K UT Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	EMD (in Rupees)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Call No	Major Head
1.	Macadamisation of Chechi Mohalla Lone Hari road	14.58 (incl C/o Bitumen and GST)	600/-	29160	4 Days	Bee/Cee/Dee Civil having MOU with registered HMPO	3 <sup>rd</sup> Call	C&T 2025-26
2.	Upgradation of Payer Mohalla Road at Dardsun Bala	14.08 (incl C/o Bitumen and GST)	600/-	28170	4 Days	Bee/Cee/Dee Civil having MOU with registered HMPO	3 <sup>rd</sup> Call	Potholes 2025-26
3.	Upgradation of Road Phirkiyan Main Road to Khan Mohalla	14.50 (incl C/o Bitumen and GST)	600/-	29000	4 Days	Bee/Cee/Dee Civil having MOU with registered HMPO	6 <sup>th</sup> Call	Potholes 2025-26

Position of AAA/ TS: Accorded  
Position of funds: Available  
No: Div-KRLP/3369-83 Date: 10-11-2025

1.

The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) on the dates listed below:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	10.11.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11.11.2025(9:00AM) to 17.11.2025 (6:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	11.11.2025 (9:00AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	17.11.2025 (6:00PM)
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	18.11.2025 (12:00 Noon) In the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora.

Upload/Disclose the bank account number which is linked with the GSTIN along with proof. No payments shall be released by the department to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder.

2.

Bids must be accompanied with Cost of Tender Document in the shape of Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora (tender inviting authority). Treasury Challan must be written boldly and clearly with Name of Work, Name of the Contractor along with Contact No, NIT No and Serial No of Work on NIT(if any).

3.

At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% of the allotted Cost in the form of CDR/FDR at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the allotted cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

Sd/-

Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Kralpora

DIPK-7956-25  
DT: 11/11/2025



KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of  
Kashmir Observer LLP  
**Printed at:** K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex,  
Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam  
**Published from:** 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K  
**Editor-in-Chief :** Sajjad Haider  
**Managing Editor:** Bilal Handoo  
**News Editor:** Farzana Nisar  
**Online Editor:** Syed Hamid  
**Head Layout & Design:** Muntazir Yaseen,  
**Digital Media Head:** Amir Ali Shah  
**Distribution & Advertising:** Firdous Ahmad  
**RNI Registration No:** 69503/98  
**Postal Registration No-**L/159/KO/SK/2014-16  
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KO VIEW

The Event Economy  
of Kashmir

Something is always happening in Kashmir these days. A youth festival here, a startup summit there, and endless talk of innovation and leadership. The lights are bright, the words sound bold, and the energy feels contagious. For a moment, it almost seems like change has arrived.

Still, the ground reality tells another story. Unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir remains among the highest in India. Thousands of educated young people are still searching for stable work. For them, these events often look like brief moments of hope in a long struggle to find direction.

The government is trying to change this story. It is promoting startups, tourism, and digital skills to build a modern economy. These plans sound ambitious and have brought new investment and partnerships.

But many of these efforts feel distant from everyday life. Visiting experts often speak of global trends, while the local challenges, including poor credit access, weak industries, and limited training support, remain unaddressed.

Community events are valuable when they connect people and create space for new ideas. They can inspire confidence and build networks that Kashmir needs.

The concern is that most of these gatherings stop at inspiration. Once the lights go off, the promises fade. Young participants return home with certificates, not opportunities.

What Kashmir needs now is continuity. The energy of these events must feed into skill programs, local enterprises, and mentorship networks that stay active beyond the stage. Youth engagement cannot rely on occasional excitement. It has to grow into consistent support.

Kashmir's young people are ambitious, creative, and eager to work. They want to shape their own future, not wait for one to arrive. Conferences and summits can play a role in that change, but only when they focus on building pathways, not platforms.

Real progress will begin when the conversations in air-conditioned halls turn into action on the ground. The applause is welcome. But what Kashmiri youth need now is a plan that gives their dreams the chance to work.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Turning Ideas into Growth

Confidence, capital, and courage  
can reshape Kashmir's economy.

Irshad Mushtaq

Over the past decade, the Sensex and Nifty have grown around 11 to 12 percent a year, among the best returns worldwide. This rise came from digital innovation, economic reform, and investor confidence. India turned ambition into growth.

Kashmir has stayed outside this momentum. The economy depends on tourism, government jobs, and subsidies. Local investors rarely back startups or small ventures. Young entrepreneurs chase ideas but lack access to funds. Most people still see land and gold as the only safe investments. While India builds wealth through markets, Kashmir's money sits idle.

That can change. Kashmir has educated youth, digital access, and untapped creativity. What it needs is a culture that values enterprise over dependence. A small regional investment hub could connect local innovators and artisans with investors across India. Financial literacy campaigns can help people see business as an opportunity, not a risk.

India's rise shows that reform and confidence create growth. Policies like GST and UPI turned challenges into strength. Kashmir must do the same — simplify processes, encourage startups, and build trust for investors.

When local businesses grow, jobs follow. And when savings flow into enterprise, hope returns.

Kashmir can no longer wait for others to drive its progress. Growth starts with self-belief and action.

The author is a Srinagar-based  
reputed financial advisor.

Budgam After Omar

A single decision by Omar Abdullah has turned Budgam from a National Conference stronghold into a field of fractured loyalties and bruised pride



Dr. Ashraf Zainabi

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Budgam's bypoll is a reminder that political loyalty is not a family heirloom. It must be renewed with every election. A single decision can undo decades of faith. And for a place where politics and emotion have always walked together, that realization feels heavier than any defeat.

Budgam was once the heartbeat of central Kashmir's politics.

It stood by the National Conference through every political storm for nearly half a century.

Beyond a ballot symbol, the red plough was a matter of identity, a promise that Budgam's voice mattered.

But today, that trust feels shaken. What used to be a fortress of loyalty has turned into a battlefield of resentment and disbelief.

The story began with hope.

During the 2024 Assembly elections, Omar Abdullah, now the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, contested from Ganderbal and Budgam. He told voters he would retain whichever seat gave him more votes. That was a long-awaited recognition for Budgam.

People saw it as a commitment from a leader who had rarely looked their way. When Budgam gave him a larger mandate, there was celebration. The town believed its faith had finally been rewarded.

But the joy didn't last.

Omar Abdullah chose to keep Ganderbal and vacate Budgam. The decision felt like a betrayal for many voters. What seemed a strategic political choice from the top became, for Budgam's people, a personal wound.

Conversations in tea stalls and village meetings turned bitter. "We gave him our hearts," one elderly voter said, "and he left us behind."

The fallout has been swift and deep. The bypoll for the vacant seat became a referendum on trust.

For the first time in decades, Budgam's political map looks scattered. The National Conference, once unchallenged here, is now struggling to find its footing. Local workers speak of "hurt

pride." Even party loyalists sound uncertain.

NC's connection to Budgam went beyond politics for generations. It was woven into family histories, marriages, and village stories. Sheikh Abdullah's name was spoken with reverence, as if part of the soil itself. That emotional bond, many fear, has snapped.

The silence of key party figures has deepened the unease. Budgam's own Member of Parlia-

In this confusion lies the election's real story: the clash between memory and change, between inherited loyalty and new accountability.

The younger generation, many first-time voters, sees this moment differently. They talk about transparency, local leadership, and better roads instead of party slogans. They want representation that listens, not legacy politics that assumes support.

For them, the bypoll is less

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ment, elected on an NC ticket, has avoided taking a firm stand in the bypoll campaign. The absence of leadership has left party workers adrift, unsure which way the wind is blowing.

Meanwhile, rivals sense opportunity. The People's Democratic Party (PDP), weakened elsewhere, is trying to rebuild in Budgam. Its leaders have called Omar Abdullah's move a betrayal of the people's mandate.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is making inroads too, focusing on "development and governance" while exploiting the cracks in local loyalties.

And for the first time, independent candidates, including teachers, doctors, and young social activists, are being taken seriously. They speak of dignity, self-respect, and "Budgam's own voice."

Voters are torn. Some believe punishing the NC will further isolate Budgam from mainstream politics. Others argue that silence would mean surrender.

about revenge and more about rewriting a political script that has long ignored them. Whether they succeed will depend on count and courage, two things that have defined Budgam's politics before and may do so again. Whatever the result, the consequences will reach beyond one constituency.

If the NC loses, it could signal the beginning of a slow decline in its traditional bastions. If it wins, it will have to rebuild faith from the ground up.

Budgam's bypoll is a reminder that political loyalty is not a family heirloom. It must be renewed with every election. A single decision can undo decades of faith.

And for a place where politics and emotion have always walked together, that realization feels heavier than any defeat.

The author is a teacher and  
researcher based in Gowhar Pora  
Chadoora, Budgam, Jammu and  
Kashmir.

Letter to Editor

Budgam's Vote Was a Whisper from the Past

The elections in Budgam have ended, leaving behind dust, posters, and a familiar sense of déjà vu.

The rallies that once shook the town's narrow lanes have quieted. Loudspeakers are off, flags are getting down, and the same questions that echoed before voting day now hang heavier in the air: what really changed, and who actually stood for the people?

The contest was fierce. Both the Chief Minister and the former Chief Minister brought their campaigns to Budgam, drawing massive crowds and sharper accusations. National Conference (NC) called the People's Democratic Party (PDP)-BJP alliance the beginning of Jammu and Kashmir's downfall. PDP countered by accusing NC of rewriting history to suit its politics. On stage and in the streets, every speech was framed as a battle between betrayal and redemption.

Now, as the ballot battle has thawed, the mood among voters is mixed. Some see it as a return of an old party that knows the ground. Others

see it as another turn in the same circle of promises and power. "We voted for change last time, and for forgiveness this time," said a shopkeeper in Chadoora. "Maybe next time we'll vote for truth."

In many ways, this election was a replay of 2024. The NC revived its old narrative: the PDP-BJP alliance as the root of Kashmir's troubles. That message had worked a year ago when the party swept 42 seats. This time, it might work just enough to win, though not to inspire. Voters may have responded, but few were convinced that things would be different.

History still shadowed every speech. Omar Abdullah's call to remember the "betrayal" of 2015 resonated with some, but others recalled the compromises that came long before. Many in Budgam discussed how NC's own founder, Sheikh Abdullah, had signed the Kashmir Accord in 1975, which diluted the region's autonomy decades before the BJP entered the picture. Political writers have long noted that even during

Sheikh's imprisonment, he was consulted about constitutional changes to Article 370. The past remains complex, no matter how neatly it is packaged on campaign stages.

The election also reopened memories of Omar Abdullah's own political beginnings, as a Minister in the Vajpayee-led NDA government. For a party that now presents itself as a wall against the BJP, this part of its story sits uneasily with its new narrative. L.K. Advani's memoir even recounts how Farooq Abdullah dropped the autonomy resolution in exchange for Omar's cabinet post. Many in Budgam remembered that too.

The PDP, despite its visible decline, wasn't entirely absent from the conversation. Its leaders defended the 2015 alliance with the BJP as a "political experiment," meant to build a bridge between Delhi and Srinagar. For most voters, that bridge had long collapsed. The "Agenda of Alliance" became shorthand for a political gamble that never paid off.

Through all this, one name that

reappeared in local discussions was Saifuddin Soz, the MP whose single vote toppled the Vajpayee government in 1999, before being expelled by the NC. His story reminded people that taking a stand has a price in Kashmir politics.

The post-election mood in Budgam feels like reflection. People have seen enough alliances made and broken in their name. They have heard words like "betrayal," "autonomy," and "restoration" too many times to believe them at face value. Many voters now speak of a growing fatigue, a sense that political slogans no longer carry meaning without accountability.

Elections in Kashmir, for all their energy, often end where they begin: in the same questions of trust and truth. And for Budgam, this one was no different.

Sincerely,

Raqif Makhdoomi  
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# How a Kashmiri Cup Teaches Us to Slow Down

In a world rushing forward, a Kashmiri educator reflects on how the simplest object, a teacup without a handle, can teach us to reclaim patience, purpose, and the art of living.

Sabahat Fida

It began, quite ironically, with an Instagram reel.

A young woman was talking about how, in China, teacups are made without handles. The design, she said, carries a lesson in patience.

One cannot sip from such a cup when the tea is too hot. One must wait, let it cool, and in that pause, learn stillness.

The cup becomes a vessel not just for tea, but for time.

As I watched, I felt something stir. The image of that cup seemed to echo an older, almost forgotten pulse of life in Kashmir.

We too once drank from handleless cups, our kashur paille: simple, curved, meant to be held and waited with.

Those cups have mostly disappeared from our homes, replaced by factory ceramics and imported glassware.

But in that older vessel lay a philosophy we have let slip away: that life, like tea, must sometimes be allowed to cool before it can be savoured.

This small thought led me deeper into the mystery of time, and how it feels increasingly lost to us.

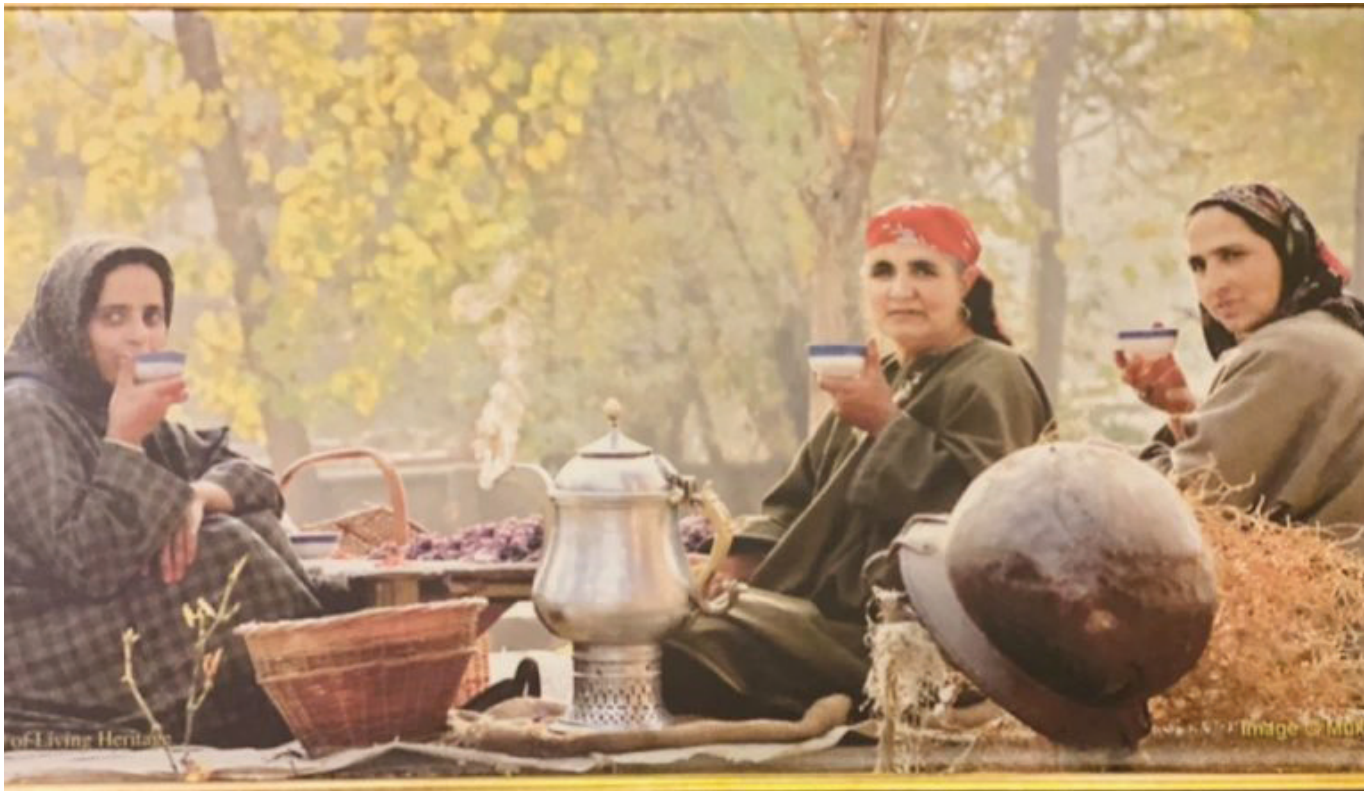
There is always a race against the clock. Deadlines, reminders, check-ins, endless notifications. The hours pass like sand through fingers. My grandparents' lives, on the other hand, seemed filled with stories.

Every dinner with them was a long conversation about neighbours, weather, harvests, weddings, or even the latest quarrel over land. Their days unfolded slowly, and their memories grew thick around them.

When I look at my own life, I realise how



**WHEN I POUR TEA THESE DAYS, I TRY TO DO IT SLOWLY.** I sit with my family and listen to the sound of rain, or the kettle's hiss, or the small stories they tell. The world can keep racing. I want my time to steep.



little I might have to tell my daughter. Everything just passes too quickly for me to live it deeply.

My aunts once managed households of ten, fed children, washed clothes, served elders, and still found time to gossip, spin pashmina, and share stories that lasted through winter nights. Their work was hard, but it was meaningful.

I, meanwhile, measure my hours by alarms and logins.

Our time feels shorter, because we fill them with less substance. A study on the "Perception of Time in Accelerated Cognition" by researcher Youvan (2024) suggests that time feels longer when the mind is rich with varied experiences.

When life is full of vivid events, the brain registers more "moments," and time stretches. And when the day is dull or repetitive, those mental markers vanish, and time collapses. The day ends before we have truly inhabited it.

Perhaps this is why our years feel shorter now. We live in fragments, moving from one distraction to another. Attention itself has become the rarest indulgence.

The word begar carries an old weight in Kashmir. It recalls the Dogra era, when men were taken from their homes to perform unpaid labour for the rulers. They built roads, carried logs, cut stones, never knowing when they would return. The word survives in our speech as shorthand for any toil that feels endless and unrewarded.

Sometimes I feel we are living a new kind of begar.

We work for invisible masters now. Algorithms pull our thoughts, gestures, and desires. Every scroll, like, and "update" is labour disguised as leisure. We sit still, but our minds are whipped into constant movement. Our attention, once our own, has become the new unpaid labour.

By evening, when the phone battery dies, I feel the fatigue of a worker who has spent the day toiling on something shapeless. It's a kind of exhaustion without evidence.

This surrender of attention reminds me of an experiment from the 1970s, John B. Calhoun's "Universe 25."

It was meant to be a paradise for mice: plenty of food, without predators. For a time, the colony flourished. Then, gradually, it collapsed.

The mice stopped mating. Mothers abandoned their young. The males grew listless or violent. And there appeared a strange group called "the Beautiful Ones", mice who spent their days grooming, isolated, unbothered, immaculate. They lived without purpose until the colony died out entirely.

Calhoun called it the "behavioural sink." It was a warning about abundance without struggle, comfort without meaning.



**IN THE END, MAYBE THAT'S WHAT A HANDLELESS CUP**

**REMINDS US:** patience is about being fully present with what's in front of us. Time, after all, is measured not by clocks, but by how deeply we live the moments that pass through our hands.

When purpose disappears, so does life itself.

I often think of that experiment when I walk through Srinagar's new cafés, glowing with soft lights and perfect interiors. People sit with their phones, their faces lit by screens, while their coffees grow cold.

We are the Beautiful Ones now, well-groomed, endlessly scrolling, and detached from the texture of real life. Surrounded by comfort, we have grown restless.

This is not to say that technology or progress are the villains. They are, in a way, the new teacups we drink from: sleek, modern, and efficient.

The question is whether they still allow us to feel the warmth of what we hold.

Maybe the answer lies in reclaiming that lost gesture: pause, hold, and wait. It lies in rediscovering our paille, whether literal or metaphorical.

That cup reminds us that life burns when rushed, and cools beautifully when we wait.

When I pour tea these days, I try to do it slowly. I sit with my family and listen to the sound of rain, or the kettle's hiss, or the small stories they tell. The world can keep racing. I want my time to steep.

In the end, maybe that's what a handleless cup reminds us: patience is about being fully present with what's in front of us.

Time, after all, is measured not by clocks, but by how deeply we live the moments that pass through our hands.

— The author is an educator from Kashmir with a background in Zoology and Philosophy.

## From Waste to Wealth

When the spotlight fades from new projects, the waste they leave behind becomes someone else's gain.

Zeeshan Hassan

I have always been fascinated by what people throw away.

We like to believe that only the core of a thing matters, like machine, furniture, or road itself. The rest, the outer layer that protects it, feels useless once the work is done. In our minds, the covering is just waste.

At home, I sometimes reuse these leftovers. A soft drink bottle becomes a vase. A cardboard box stores old photographs. But this habit is rare.

Many of us still feel awkward using what looks discarded. We have learned to think that reusing is a sign of need. Somewhere along the way, our sense of value got trained to see waste as worthless.

In government offices, this blindness takes on a bigger shape.

Every department spends crores every year on new works. Each project comes wrapped in layers: wooden frames, plastic covers, metallic sheets, ropes, foam, boxes. All these are paid for through public money. When the work finishes, these protective layers get a new label: scrap.

And that is where the story changes.

Scrap in itself may look small. A few pieces of metal here, some planks there. But gather them, and you see value stacking up, truckloads of it.

I have seen heaps of scrap behind government yards, outside electricity divisions, near school



**EVERY TIME I PASS A NEW CONSTRUCTION SITE, I NOW FIND MYSELF SCANNING THE EDGES:** the piles of plastic, the broken frames, and the metallic leftovers. They tell a story about how public wealth slips away, piece by piece, in the name of scrap.

construction sites. Most of it goes unrecorded, unweighed, and often unaccounted for.

This happens behind government walls, out of public sight. The files record how many transformers were installed or how many desks were bought, but they rarely mention what happened to the packing material. The scrap silently moves out: sometimes sold in bits, sometimes taken away by insiders as if it were nothing.

I once met a worker in a power department storehouse who laughed when I asked what they did with leftover copper wire and packing wood. "Sir," he said, "everything has value here, only the files pretend it doesn't."

His words stayed with me. The value of waste depends less on its

substance and more on who notices it.

When audits happen, they focus on big figures: purchase rates, project costs, tender amounts. Nobody asks where did the scrap go? Who took it? How much did it weigh?

In that silence, the clever ones thrive.

This has become an open secret in the valley. From discarded iron rods at construction sites to leftover cable drums from power projects, everything finds its way into private hands.

Some sell it to local scrap dealers, others move it through silent agreements that never reach paper.

We like to believe corruption hides in inflated bills or fake tenders. Sometimes it hides in the simplest things we don't bother to see.

The truth is, our blindness creates the opportunity. We focus on the new road and forget the wooden frames that held its signboards. We admire the shiny transformer and overlook the copper waste that wrapped it.

Those who understand this gap make a business out of it.

Every time I pass a new construction site, I now find myself scanning the edges: the piles of plastic, the broken frames, the metallic leftovers. They tell a story about how public wealth slips away, piece by piece, in the name of scrap.

— The author can be reached at iamzeeshanhassan1@gmail.com



## The Heart of a Kashmiri School

Amid the strain of teaching in Kashmir, one man's compassion shows how empathy can heal even the most tired hearts.

Muntashir Kifayat Hussain

Every morning when I walk into the staffroom of our high school in Narabal, I feel the weight that most teachers in Kashmir carry.

The day begins early and ends late, filled with lessons, questions, and noise.

Teaching here demands patience and a strong heart. By the time school shuts, the chalk dust on our sleeves feels heavier than it should.

In the middle of this daily grind, I found someone who makes work feel lighter. He is a master-grade teacher, my colleague, and a person whose presence changes the air around him.

In my eighteen years of service, I have never met anyone like him.

He can read people's tiredness like an open book. During his free periods, he walks through classrooms to check on others. If he finds a teacher struggling, he steps in without a word.

Sometimes he brings a glass of water. Sometimes he offers to take a class. His small acts of care bring calm to a workplace where teachers often carry their burdens alone.

Once, a colleague fell sick. He took over all her classes for the day. Later he told me, "She is like our sister. At home we care for our sisters. Why not here?"

That one sentence stayed with me. He says our school should feel like a second home, a place where we lift each other up.

His kindness extends to children too. One day, the small son of a teacher playfully scratched his arm. He acted as if he was hurt, letting out a loud cry. When we rushed to him, he laughed and said, "When a lion cub bites, the lion pretends to be hurt to make the cub feel strong."

That simple moment taught me what compassion looks like in real life.

He often quotes poetry and scrip-



**SINCE MEETING HIM, I HAVE TRIED TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE.** I help where I can. I complain less. I find peace in small acts. When the day feels long, I think of him walking through the corridors, checking on others, spreading calm wherever he goes.

ture. He explains that man was created to feel the pain of others because God already has angels to pray to Him. Those lines live in his actions.

One day, I visited his home village. I saw him standing by a drain, cleaning it with a long stick. I was surprised and asked what he was doing. He smiled and said, "I like to be useful, whether in school or at home. It brings me peace."

That single line captured his whole philosophy. Teaching is not only about lessons or exams for him. It is a way of serving, helping, and being human.

In Kashmir's government schools, where teachers often face stress and loneliness, such people are rare.

Many teachers here deal with mental fatigue. Long hours, overcrowded classes, and lack of support make the work hard. In such a place, one caring colleague can change everything.

He often reminds me that life is uncertain, sometimes cruel, sometimes kind, but always too short for envy or anger. "Do good," he says. "That is what stays with you."

Since meeting him, I have tried to follow his example. I help where I can. I complain less. I find peace in small acts. When the day feels long, I think of him walking through the corridors, checking on others, spreading calm wherever he goes.

Every school needs someone like him, a teacher who teaches everyone through the way he lives.

— The author is an educator at the Boys High School Narabal.



# 4 Research-Backed Ways To Beat The Winter Blues In The Colder Months

## The Conversation

As winter approaches and daylight saving time has ended, many people are bracing themselves for shorter days, colder weather and what's often dismissed as the “winter blues.”

But these seasonal shifts are more than a passing inconvenience, and can disrupt people's energy, moods and daily routines.

Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is a condition that heightens depressive symptoms during the fall and winter months, while the “winter blues” refers to a milder, temporary dip in mood.

In Canada, about 15 per cent of the population experience the winter blues, while two to six per cent experience SAD. Although the exact cause of SAD remains unclear, it's thought to be linked to reduced exposure to natural light during the fall and winter, which can disrupt our circadian rhythm.

Lower light levels affect brain chemistry by reducing serotonin — a neurotransmitter that regulates mood, sleep and appetite — while keeping melatonin elevated during daylight hours, leading to sleepiness and fatigue.

The good news is that with intention and evidence-based practices, winter can become a season of meaning, connection and even joy. As a clinical social worker and mental health therapist, here are four approaches that research and my clinical practice suggest can make the winter months more liveable.

### 1. Make time a friend, not an enemy

Winter can make people feel sluggish and unmotivated, and building small but

intentional routines can help.

Research in behavioural psychology shows that structured activities, even simple ones, can boost motivation. Try scheduling weekly rituals like coffee with a friend, a library visit or a favourite TV show to function as anchors when energy dips.

Treat your own time with the same care you give others, and plan moments of quality time with yourself.

Another useful tool is “body doubling” — doing tasks in parallel or synchrony with someone else, either in person or virtually. This might mean watching the same movie from different locations, chatting on the phone while folding laundry or working together in a cafe. Shared routines foster accountability and connection.

Structured social routines are elements of cognitive behavioural therapy, a type of intervention used for those experiencing SAD and winter blues, which have been shown to prevent a depression relapse.

### 2. Remember to go outside

When the temperature drops, it's tempting to stay indoors. But even brief time outside in the cold offers real benefits.

Exposure to natural light, even on overcast days, helps regulate circadian rhythms, improves sleep and stabilises mood. Aim to go outside for at least 10 minutes a day: a brisk walk, skating or simply standing outside can lift heaviness.

For those experiencing depressive symptoms, speak with a doctor about bright light therapy. Clinical studies show bright light therapy is one of the most effective treatments for SAD.

Try to reframe snow as an invitation rather than an obstacle. Activities can range from winter picnics, pine cone scavenger hunts or snow painting to more con-



templative pursuits like birdwatching, photography or snow-shoeing. For adrenaline seekers, winter sports like snowboarding can also provide a thrill.

### 3. Cultivate moments of joy

Joy is often viewed as a trait or capacity some people inherently possess, but it can be cultivated intentionally. Small acts of savouring can gradually rewire the brain toward more positive states.

One way to cultivate joy is by finding activities that invite “flow” — a term researchers use to describe moments when we become fully immersed in an activity and everything else fades away.

Flow happens when challenge and skill are in perfect balance; when an activity is engaging but not so difficult that it overwhelms us. It trains the brain's positive emotion circuits, strengthening pathways linked

to attention, motivation and creativity.

Activities that invite flow differ from person to person, and can range from puzzling or video games to cooking, crocheting, painting or poetry.

Joy is also collective. Shared laughter, body doubling or acts of hospitality remind us that joy grows stronger when practised in community. Even a potluck dinner, movie night or phone call can counter isolation, making joy a renewable resource generated with others.

### 4. Create moments of stillness

Mindfulness and meditation are both flexible practices that can be woven into daily life to reduce stress and depression by improving attention, emotional regulation and reducing rumination.

Meditation is a technique for cultivating calm, such as deep breathing, while

mindfulness is the broader act of staying present — for example, savouring the taste of your morning coffee. Both are proven to enhance focus, regulate emotions and reduce repetitive negative thoughts.

Research shows that as little as 10 minutes a day of pausing — consciously attending to the present — can significantly reduce stress.

Anchoring these moments in familiar routines can help, such as by taking five deep breaths the moment your feet touch the floor in the morning, pausing after a workout or sitting quietly in your car before entering the house.

Apps offering short meditation exercises, sleep stories and reminders can help build this habit as well.

For those living with others, brief daily check-ins, such as asking, “What were your highs and lows today?” encourage reflection and gratitude. Over time, these small rituals of breathing and reflection can help protect against emotional fatigue during the winter.

### Winter as a season of practice

Rather than simply surviving winter, we can approach it as a season to learn, adapt and deepen resilience. Making time your ally, seeking wonder outdoors, cultivating joy as a skill and practising meditation and mindfulness in ways that feel personal are all ways to engage meaningfully with the season.

These strategies won't erase the challenges of shorter days or colder weather, but research suggests they can help mitigate their impact on mood and well-being. By intentionally framing winter as a period of growth, we can change our mindsets to see winter as an opportunity for renewal.

## Study Finds Patients Of Chronic Fatigue May Tend To Have Abnormal Breathing

Press Trust of India

Researchers have found that people with chronic fatigue syndrome tend to experience shortness of breath, which offers a target for treatment and may bring relief from symptoms.

Chronic fatigue syndrome is marked by exhaustion that persists despite rest and cognitive problems, including brain fog and difficulty concentrating.

The researchers from the US' Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai monitored 57 patients diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome while performing physical activity.

Results published in the journal Frontiers in Medicine show dysfunctional breathing can look like a deep sigh while breathing ordinarily, overly rapid breathing or shallow breathing so that lungs are never properly breathing.

A loss in coordination between chest and abdomen could also prevent the varied muscles that help one breathe from working together, they said.

"While we know the symptoms generated by hyperventilation, we remain unsure what symptoms may be worse with dysfunctional breathing," author Dr Donna Mancini from the Icahn School of Medicine said.

"But we are sure patients can have dysfunctional breathing without being aware of it. Dysfunctional breathing can occur in a resting state," Dr Mancini said.



The authors wrote, "Dysfunctional breathing and hyperventilation are common in patients with ME/CFS (chronic fatigue syndrome) and could present a new therapeutic target for these patients."

Heart rate and blood pressure of the participants, which also included 25 healthy ones, were measured along with oxygen saturation of blood, while doing cardiopulmonary exercises over two days.

How fast, hard or effectively the participants breathed to get oxygen and patterns in breathing were observed to differentiate hyperventilation and dysfunctional breathing, the researchers said.

While participants having chronic fatigue were seen to take in the same amount of oxygen as the healthy ones, 71 per cent

were seen to experience breathing problems -- either hyperventilation, dysfunctional breathing, or both.

Both dysfunctional breathing and hyperventilation can cause symptoms similar to chronic fatigue, such as dizziness, difficulty focussing, a shortness of breath and exhaustion, the researchers said.

Combining the two -- nine patients of chronic fatigue showed dysfunctional breathing and hyperventilation. It can also cause people to experience heart palpitations, chest pain, fatigue, and anxiety, they said.

The team suggested that breathing problems could worsen or even directly contribute to post-exertional malaise, in which symptoms of chronic fatigue syndrome get worse following mental or physical exercise.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that the electricity connection bearing Consumer ID: 0204020007692, presently registered in the name of Ghulam Hussain Tinda, is proposed to be transferred in favour of Noora W/o Late Ghulam Hussain Tinda, R/o Chak Sadrabal, Srinagar. Any person having any objection in this regard may file the same before the concerned authorities within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objections shall be entertained.

fko

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA.

### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER NIT No:119/EEA/R&B of 2025-26/6585-95 Dated: 10-11-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M/H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1	Construction of Small Ruminant Hospital Cum Disease Investigation Laboratory at Tral.	(Advertised Cost: Rs176.92 Lacs Inclusive of GST @18% (Base Contract Price= 149.93 Lacs + GST Amount= 26.99Lacs)	2600/-	2% of Adv cost	1 Year	Special Assistance to States / union territories for Capital Investment 2025-26	AAY Class Only having Meti with an Electrical Contractor/ Agency / Firm	DSHK

Position Of AAA: Recorded vide No: 55-DSHK/Plan of 2025 Dated: 25-07-2025  
Position of TS: Sanctioned vide No: CE(R&B)SK/TS/237 of 2025-26 Dated: 08.11.2025.  
Position of funds: Committed.

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 viewed/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	10-11-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	10-11-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	11-11-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	21-11-2025 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	22-11-2025 11:00 AM in the office of the Superintending Engineer PW(R&B) Circle Pulwama Shopian HQ: Pulwama.

- Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN 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. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department )  
(The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- A of the NIT and submit/upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No. , Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora(tender inviting authority).
- All the bidders must upload Earnest money/Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) Circle Pulwama-Shopian (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, otherwise bids shall be rejected).
- The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) Circle Pulwama-Shopian (tender receiving authority) as per rule-171 (1) of GFR 2017. The earnest money/ Bid security @ 2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://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 Awantipora (tender receiving authority).
- The earnest money/ Bid security in favour of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of original Treasury Challan.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
  - 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.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

Sd/- Sd/- Sd/-  
Draftsman Tech. Officer Executive Engineer  
DIPK-7961/25 dated: 11-11-2025 R&B Division Awantipora.

### Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject Application of Abdul Rashid Chachi S/O Alim Din Chachi R/O Bandi Bala Tehsil Kreeri for issuance of ST in favor of Aqib Rashid, Amjad Ahmad , Aadil Rashid Mubashir Rashid And Qurat-Ul-Ain

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the Subject cited above the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC In this connection a report of patwai halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village Bandibal and belongs to the Community having annual Income of Rs 230000 The details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

S No	Name of the family Member	Relation with the Family Head	Age	Occupation	Annual Income
01	Abdul Rashid Chachi	Head	55	Labour	120000/-
02	Zgtoona Begum	Wife	50	H/W	
03	Aaqib Rashid	Son	29	Labour	
04	Amjad Ahmad	Son	26	Student	
05	Aadil Rashid	-	24	-	
06	Mubashir Rashid	Son	22	-	
07	Qurat-ul-Ain	Daughter	18	-	

Therefore, through this Public Notice Objections are being sought from general public, if any person has any objection, he/she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days (Sev'n days) positively from the date the notice has been published. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

fko Naib Tehsildar

### From Office of the Advocate Javid Ahmad Navoo

In the case of  
1. Mehreen Nabi  
2. Tahmeena D/o of Gh Nabi Bhat  
3. Mohsin Nabi S/o Gh Nabi Bhat  
4. Gh Nabi, Bhat S/o Habib Ullah Bhat  
All residents of Alamar colony Pattan Tehsil Pattan.

(Caveator)

V/s  
Public at large

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Appeal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seek in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

fko Sd/advocate

Subject. Grant of registration of the proposed homestay unit under the name & style of M/s. CLOUD BERRY " situated at Aliya Bagh Tailbal Shalimar Srinagar

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Ms. Shameema Ahmad W/o Bashir Ahmad Tethroo R/o Aliya Bagh Tailbal Shalimar. Intends to apply in the Department of tourism for registration of my proposed homestay unit under the name and style " M/s. CLOUD BERRY" situated at Aliya Bagh Tailbal Shalimar Srinagar Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan card, Experience certificate (minimum 05 years), Character certificate (Police department). Bank statement (minimum balance 1000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested sub-registrar, printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting), Photograph of the unit (indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operation.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ financial Institutions/ Bank/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the deputy director tourism Registration (e-mail ID: ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspaper of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained

fko



HK Hyundai Srinagar Unveils All-New Hyundai VENUE



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR-** HK Hyundai Srinagar today unveiled the much-awaited compact SUV, the all-new Hyundai VENUE at their main dealership located at Athwajan Bypass Srinagar, also having its rural sales outlet at Razvi Stop Magam, Budgam. The unveiling ceremony was done by Parvaiz Iqbal, Incharge Marketing, J&K Bank – Kashmir Division in presence of all Directors of HK Group, Puneet Mehta, Area Sales Head, HMIL and other esteemed dignitaries from Hyundai Motor India Limited, Bankers & Media.

Set to redefine the urban mobility landscape, the all-new Hyundai VENUE is driven by style, innovation and the spirit of Tech up. Go beyond. The new compact SUV marks the beginning of a thrilling new chapter in urban mobility, reaffirming Hyundai's commitment to setting new benchmarks. From assertive styling to a tech-rich cabin, the all-new Hyundai VENUE has been crafted for customers who demand more from every drive – more style, more comfort and more innovation. The all-new Hyundai VENUE comes up with two distinct versions, VENUE and VENUE N Line.

Presenting the all-new Hyundai VENUE, Umar Yaqoob Mir, Managing Director, HK Hyundai,

said, "The Hyundai VENUE has been one of the most loved SUVs in J&K and all over India, with over 7 lakh customers choosing it for its perfect blend of design, technology and performance. The all-new Hyundai VENUE price starts from Rs. 7,89,900\* (ex-showroom). With the all-new Hyundai VENUE, HMIL taking this success story even further, redefining bold design and modern premium-ness while integrating advanced technology that resonates with the aspirations of today's new-age customers. The all-new Hyundai VENUE truly embodies vision of 'Tech up Go beyond,' offering a driving experience that's both dynamic and deeply connected to our customers' evolving lifestyles."

Shabir Ahmad Baba, General Manager, HK Hyundai, said "The all-new Hyundai VENUE commands the road with its confident stance, powerful unique language and a striking presence. Design elements such as Twin horn LED DRLs, Quad beam LED headlamps, muscular wheel arch design, dark chrome radiator grille, R16 (D= 405.6 mm) diamond cut alloy wheels, bridge type roof rails along with sculptured character lines and in-glass VENUE emblem have been meticulously designed to elevate its SUV character and street presence.



CS Reviews Progress Of Financial Inclusion & Welfare Schemes Across J&K

Observer News Service

**JAMMU-** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Finance Department to assess the progress made in promoting financial inclusion and extending coverage of key welfare and social security schemes across J&K.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya; MD, J&K Bank; Secretary, IT; Secretary, School Education; DG, Budget; DG, Economics & Statistics; MD, Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (BOCWWB); representatives of other banks besides other senior officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of mobilizing all eligible beneficiaries, particularly those in the unorganized sector for enrolment under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PMSYM) scheme, which provides a guaranteed monthly pension of Rs3,000 to unorganized workers after attain-

ing the age of 60 years.

He directed the concerned district administrations to take proactive measures for achieving universal enrollment by designating local Labour Offices, EPFO and ESIC offices as facilitation centres to create mass awareness and assist in registration under the scheme.

Dulloo further instructed the Finance Department to share comprehensive datasets of eligible beneficiaries, including building and construction workers, MDM workers, street vendors and others, with the banks to expedite their enrollment without delay.

Taking note of the district-wise performance, the Chief Secretary urged officers to adopt a targeted and coordinated approach to bridge the gap between current coverage and the national averages under each of the financial inclusion and welfare schemes. He underscored the need for clear identification of target groups, defining outreach strategies, and assigning specific institutional responsibilities to ensure focused saturation across the UT.



A DELEGATION OF TRADERS FEDERATION BANDIPORA, headed by its President Ali Mohammad Hajam on Tuesday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in Srinagar.

J&K Bank Festive Offer: Car Loans From 7.70% With Zero Margin

Ridhi Verma

**SRINAGAR:** Buying a new car just got a little easier this festive season. J&K Bank has announced special car loan rates starting at 7.70% per annum, making it one of the more attractive offers in the market right now

The scheme, promoted under the banner "Double Delight", offers customers several perks, including nil margins, a 100% waiver on processing charges, a free J&K Bank credit card, and an Amazon voucher worth 1,000. The offer also features reduced GST and other festive concessions for eligible applicants.

Bank officials said the interest rate and final loan terms will depend on the borrower's credit score, repayment capacity, and the model of the car being financed. Borrowers with strong credit profiles stand to enjoy the lowest rates under the scheme.

For comparison, the standard car loan rate outside the festive offer is around 8.85% per annum as of the first quar-



ter of FY 2024–25, according to HDFC Sky data.

"This festive campaign is

FESTIVE OFFER HIGHLIGHTS

- INTEREST RATE: STARTING FROM 7.70% P.A.
- MARGINS: NIL\*
- PROCESSING CHARGES: 100% WAIVED\*
- FREE J&K BANK CREDIT CARD\*
- FREE AMAZON VOUCHER WORTH ₹1,000
- REDUCED GST & EXCLUSIVE BANK OFFERS

designed to bring more smiles to our customers," a senior

J&K Bank representative said. "We're offering zero margins and processing fee waivers so customers can make their car purchase smoother and more rewarding," an official told Kashmir Observer.

J&K Bank has encouraged prospective buyers to visit their nearest branch or log on to [www.jkbankin](http://www.jkbankin) for more details.

Financial experts say the offer is timely, as lenders compete with festive discounts to spur car sales and consumer spending. With zero-margin financing and waived fees, the J&K Bank offer could significantly lower the upfront cost for new car buyers.

Promoting Research, Innovation, And Policy Dialogue

KU Launches Week-long EconFest 2025



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Department of Economics, University of Kashmir (KU), on Tuesday inaugurated EconFest 2025, a week-long academic festival celebrating research, innovation, and policy dialogue in economics and allied disciplines.

Held at the university's main campus from November 11 to 15, the festival aims to foster collaboration among scholars, policymakers, alumni, and students through academic sessions, exhibitions, lectures, and creative engagements.

Inaugurating the event, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nilofer Khan said the festival reflects KU's commitment to creating an academic environment where research informs policy and young minds engage with real-

world economic challenges.

"We are proud to host a platform that not only celebrates economic scholarship but also connects our scholars, alumni, and experts with the developmental priorities of our region and country," Prof. Khan said.

Dean Academic Affairs Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada said initiatives like EconFest strengthen the research culture and interdisciplinary collaboration within the university.

Dean Research Prof. Mohammad Sultan Bhat noted that the event offers a valuable opportunity for students and faculty to explore innovative ideas and policy solutions for sustainable growth.

Dean, School of Business Studies Prof. Mushtaq Darzi underlined the need to link academic research with real

economic issues to promote evidence-based policymaking.

Welcoming the participants, Head of the Department of Economics Prof. Effat Yasmin said EconFest 2025 represents the department's vision to build strong academic networks and inspire young economists to contribute meaningfully to regional and national development.

The festival's highlights include an alumni meet, a high-level panel discussion on the economy of Kashmir, the Annual Economics Lecture by eminent economist Prof. Farzana Afridi (ISI New Delhi), the 9th Annual CEEFEE Research and Policy Workshop, a painting competition on shrinking wetlands, entrepreneurial exhibitions, and capacity-building workshops for young researchers.

Next-Gen GST Reforms Boosted Sales Across Sectors: Sitharaman

Press Trust Of India

**COIMBATORE (TAMIL NADU)-** Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said that the implementation of next generation GST reforms on September 22 has led to a growth in sales across sectors, including automobiles, consumer durables, e-commerce among others.

During an interaction on Next Generation GST reforms at an event organised by the Tamil Nadu Vanigar Sangagalin Peramaippu here, she said her Ministry would continuously work on further simplifying the Goods and Services Tax system.

Sitharaman said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been stressing the simplification of GST norms, rate cuts and product classifications.

"He (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) wanted to ensure that small traders should benefit from GST reforms as it is they who take the products to the rural parts of the country," she said.

"There have been several rounds of discussions and every time the prime minister has been extending all his support for the introduction of the next generation GST reforms," she said.

As per his view, the rates have been reduced and classifications of the products has been simplified, she added.



"Now, there are only two rates -- 5 per cent and 18 per cent (as GST)," she said.

Referring to the 40 per cent GST tax levied on some products, Sitharaman said, "Those products which are described as super luxury products are taxed at 40 per cent. They are also called as SIN goods. For example, tobacco products like cigarettes come under this category."

In her brief address, she said that soon after the next generation GST reforms were introduced on September 22, sales of consumer durables has surged. "For example, sales of Air-conditioners doubled. Similarly, television manufacturers told us that they have seen a 30-35 per cent increase in sales of 43 and 55 inch televisions."

"This conveys that those people who had small television sets at their home opted for bigger ones after the GST reforms were introduced," she said.

Traders engaged in sales via online, particularly e-commerce players, said that they have witnessed a 20 per cent sales jump, she added.

BCAS Makes Secondary Ladder Point Checks Compulsory For All Flights



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI/MUMBAI-** Secondary ladder point checking for all flights has been made compulsory at airports as part of enhanced security measures following the blast in the national capital on Monday.

Full search of aircraft and catering services of aircraft, strict monitoring of non-scheduled flight operations, including air ambulance, random checking of passengers' baggage are among the other security measures put in place by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

"In view of the recent blast in New Delhi and subsequent surcharged security scenario, it is necessary to enhance security measures at all the civil aviation installations like airports, airstrips, airfields, air force stations, helipads, flying schools, aviation training institutes etc.," the BCAS said in an advisory.

The enhanced security measures are to ensure that there are no untoward incidents, it said in the advisory, dated November 10. According to the BCAS, Secondary Ladder Point Checking (SLPC) has been made compulsory for all flights at all

airports.

Generally, it refers to checking passengers and their hand baggage just before boarding a flight. This is in addition to the primary security checks.

Among other steps, the BCAS has said that physical search of cargo consignments should be done as per the guidelines that is sufficient to identify possible presence of prohibited items.

"Due to prevailing security situation in Delhi, security measures at Delhi Airport have been strengthened and the security screening process may take longer than usual," Delhi airport operator DIAL said in a post on X.

IndiGo, in a post on X, said enhanced security measures are in place at all airports.

"We kindly request all customers to arrive early to allow adequate time for entry checks, security screening and check in. As per regulatory requirements, passengers may be required to undergo secondary security checks before boarding," the airline said.

At least 12 people have died due to the explosion in a slow-moving car at a traffic signal near the Red Fort metro station in the national capital on Monday evening.

Chandni Chowk Blast: FCIK Calls For Unity, Vigilance

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) on Tuesday condemned the explosion at Chandni Chowk near Red Fort in New Delhi, which claimed 13 lives and left several others injured. In a statement, the FCIK said it was "deeply shocked and outraged" by the incident, describing it as a "cowardly and inhuman act" aimed at disturbing peace and spreading fear among citizens.

"The entire industrial fraternity of Kashmir strongly condemns this act of terror. Violence in any form stands in absolute contradiction to the values of humanity and peaceful coexistence," the statement said.

Expressing solidarity with the bereaved families, the organisation extended condolences to those who lost their loved ones and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

The FCIK emphasised that peace and stability are vital for the nation's progress and prosperity, and urged the Central and State Governments to work in close coordination to ensure the safety and security of citizens. It also called for greater collaboration among security and intelligence agencies to prevent such incidents in the future. Reaffirming its stand against violence, the FCIK said the country must remain united, vigilant, and resilient in the face of extremism.

India Wants Fair, Equitable, Balanced Trade Deal With US: Goyal

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI-** Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said India wants a fair, equitable, balanced trade deal with the US and it will not compromise on the interests of farmers, fishermen, and the dairy sector.

He said India and the US are negotiating a good proposed bilateral trade agreement.

"We are working for a good trade deal in the interest of India. At the same time, India is not going to compromise the interests of our farmers, fishermen, workers, labour, and our dairy... We are working on a fair equitable and balanced trade deal," he said here at Udyog Samagam 2025 -- a conference of industries and commerce ministers of states.

"We want a fair, equitable and balanced trade deal (with the US). If that happens, it could happen any day, it could happen tomorrow, it may happen next month, it may

happen next year... But as a government, we are preparing for everything," he said.

He also said India is looking for new markets such as Russia for the country's fishery sector, which is facing issues due to the steep tariffs in the US.

India and the US are negotiating a bilateral trade agreement. So far, five rounds of talks have been completed. Both sides have announced to finalise the first tranche of the deal by fall of 2025.

Meanwhile, an official said another round of negotiations may not be necessary. "They (US) have to get back to us. India's negotiations have been the most comprehensive, most detailed, WTO-compliant compared to any other country. May be it took time, but we negotiated very cautiously, keeping in view the interests of our sensitive sectors," the official added.

A team of Indian officials, headed by Commerce Sec-

retary Rajesh Agrawal, was in Washington last month to hold trade talks with their US counterparts. The three-day talks ended on October 17.

Negotiations for the pact are important, as relations between the two countries have been under severe strain since the US President Donald Trump administration imposed a steep 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods. It includes a 25 per cent additional import duty for buying Russian crude oil.

The proposed pact aims to more than double the bilateral trade to USD 500 billion by 2030 from the current USD 191 billion.

The US remained India's largest trading partner for the fourth consecutive year in 2024-25, with bilateral trade valued at USD 131.84 billion (USD 86.5 billion exports). It accounts for about 18 per cent of India's total goods exports, 6.22 per cent in imports, and 10.73 per cent in the country's total merchandise trade.

**INGENIOUS SCHOOL**  
**MALLA BAGH, ELLAHI BAGH SRINAGAR**

مدرسة الجانين سكول  
ملا باغ الہاہی سرائگر

DETAILS OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:						
S No	Member Name	Parentage	Residence	Occupation	Designation/Member Type	Qualification
1	Mir Murtaza Asif Bashir	Bashir Ahmad Mir	Malla Bagh Hazratbal Srinagar	Chairman	Chairman/Other	M.com
2	Mukhtar Ahmad Mir	Abdul Rashid Mir	Madina Colony Malla Bagh Srinagar	Principal	Principal	M.A
3	Muniza Ali	Ali Mohammad Ronga	Shah I Hamdan Colony Zakura	Teacher	HOD/Teacher	M.A
4	Waseem Hassan	Ghulam Hassan Mir	Malla Bagh Hazratbal Srinagar	Professor	Treasure/Other	MPHIL
5	Sameer Ahmad Mir	Ali Mohammad Mir	Malla Bagh Hazratbal Srinagar	Business	Parent Representative	Under Graduate
6	Firdous Ahmad Shah	Nazir Ahmad Shah	Dagapora Anchar Soura	Business	Parent Representative	M.A
7	Mehraj Ud Din Jogi	Ghulam Mohd Jogi	Malla Bagh Hazratbal Srinagar	Teacher	Teacher Representative	M.com

Should any individual have objections regarding the aforementioned matter, they are invited to submit their objections to the Chief Education Officer Srinagar or the Director of School Education Kashmir within seven days of this publication.

Sd/- Principal

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL**  
**GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG, J & K**  
(MAIN CAMPUS DIALGAM, ANANTNAG)  
Phone No. 01932: 227624 e-mail: [principal-gmca@jk.gov.in](mailto:principal-gmca@jk.gov.in)

**EXTENSION NOTICE**  
**Subject: Extension of Last Date for Bid Submission – e-NIT No. 17 GMCA of 2025**  
In light of the amendments incorporated in the tender document, an extension is hereby accorded to the last date of Bid submission of this office e-NIT No:17 GMCA of 2025 Dated:17-10-2025 for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of LAN connectivity for central laboratory, establishment section, Pediatrics Department, Non-Clinical Departments of main campus dialgam and Central library at Govt. Medical College, Anantnag for a further period of 15 days i.e upto 24-11-2025 up to (3:30 PM). Date of Opening of Bids shall be 25-11-2025 (2:00 PM).  
The bids shall now be opened on 25-11-2025 at 02:00 PM  
However, all other terms and Conditions shall remain the same.  
No: GMCA/Pur/238/ 3757-60  
Dated: 11-11-2025  
DIPK-7997-25  
DT: 11/11/2025  
Dean/Principal  
Govt. Medical College, Anantnag.



# Modi To Hoist Saffron Flag Atop Ram Temple On Nov 25

Press Trust Of India

Ayodhya: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hoist a saffron flag atop the 161-foot-high main spire of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on November 25, marking a historic first when all seven spires of the temple will be adorned with saffron flags, temple officials said on Tuesday.

Extensive preparations are underway for the event, with senior state officials and members of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust stationed in Ayodhya.

Officials said that the prime minister's and the chief minister's offices are tracking every development in real time.

The event will be broadcast live across major television channels and digital platforms, while a 200-foot-wide LED



screen will be installed at the Ram Janmabhoomi complex.

Over 30 additional large screens will be set up across the city to allow devotees to witness the ceremony.

Ayodhya is being decorated for the event with saffron flags, floral garlands and vibrant lighting, according to the

officials.

The Tourism and Culture Department will organise a series of cultural programmes from November 21 to 25, featuring Ram Katha recitations, devotional music, classical dance and folk performances by renowned artists.

The Municipal Corporation is

also carrying out a large-scale beautification drive, repairing roads, repainting ghats and planting trees, among other initiatives.

Temple Trust Secretary Champat Rai said in a video message that 1,600 rooms have been arranged for invited guests attending the flag-hoisting ceremony on Vivah Panchami day (November 25) at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple.

Additional accommodation has been set up at Karsevakpuram, Ramsevakpuram and Teerth Kshetra Puram, with bedding and blankets arranged considering the seasonal chill, Rai said.

According to the Trust, entry for the ceremony will open at 8 am and close at 9 am.

Besides PM, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will also attend the event. The programme will conclude by 2 pm, followed by an organised darshan for invited guests. However, regular darshan will not be possible on the flag hoisting day, officials said.

The special saffron flag – 22 feet by 11 feet – is made of durable parachute fabric and silk threads and will be mounted on a 42-foot pole at the 161-foot spire using a 360-degree rotating mechanism, sources said.

The triangular flag features symbols such as the Sun, 'Om' and the Kovidar tree.

Rai said that due to the ongoing temple construction and reduced space in the premises, the number of invitees for the event has been kept limited, with priority given to guests from eastern Uttar Pradesh.

## Sri Sri Urges Peace, Stern Action Against Delhi Blast Culprits

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar on Tuesday said the elements who brainwash the people to carry out acts like the blast near the Red Fort should be isolated and dealt with sternly.

"It is an unfortunate incident. Such elements, who brainwash people to do things like this, should be isolated and dealt with sternly," Shankar told reporters on the sidelines of an event here.

He, however, appealed to the people of the country to maintain peace and stay united.

"We all are one and united, and peace should prevail, and we all should tread the path of progress," he added.

To a question about the three Kashmiri doctors who were

recently arrested and from whom large quantities of arms and ammunition were recovered, the spiritual guru said they have not received the right education.

"They have not got the right education. There is a need for humanitarian education and peace education," he said.

Shankar emphasised that there has been a lot of progress in Jammu and Kashmir over the last few years.

"I have come here after seven years. There has been a lot of progress, and it gives us satisfaction. There is a fear among the people after what happened in Pahalgam. But, around 500 people from across the world have come here; there is peace and calm in Kashmir. The youth are capable enough and want to spread a message of peace," he added.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Budgam Records

polled at special polling booths established for Kashmiri migrants in Jammu, Delhi, and Udhampur.

"Of these, 157 votes were cast at the special stations in Jammu, 11 in Udhampur, and 10 in Delhi," he said.

The Budgam constituency had 1,26,025 registered electors, while 97,980 voters were enrolled in Nagrota. The ECI had set up 173 polling stations in Budgam and 150 in Nagrota to ensure smooth polling.

A total of 27 candidates were in the fray for the two seats, earlier held by the National Conference (NC) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), respectively.

According to field reports, the Budgam contest is expected to be closely fought between NC's Aga Mehmood and PDP's Muntazir Mehdi, while in Nagrota, BJP's Devyani Rana—daughter of late Devinder Singh Rana—is seen to have the upper hand in retaining the seat.

The by-elections were held peacefully with no major incidents reported, officials said.

### Fatigue, Faith

decision to retain the Ganderbal seat.

Many voters called the repeat exercise "unfortunate," saying they had waited for over a year without representation.

"It's unfortunate that we've been kept without a representative for so long. We voted with hope last year, and now we're back again to fix what politics left unfinished," said Ali Muhammad, a voter from Budgam.

Another voter from Nasrullah Pora said voting twice in a year felt like "a punishment." "We voted wholeheartedly last year, expecting our MLA to serve as Chief Minister. But when Omar Abdullah gave up this seat, all hopes were lost," said Ashfaq Hussain.

The by-election saw 17 candidates in the fray for a seat that fell vacant after Omar Abdullah, who had won from both Ganderbal and Budgam in 2024, retained the former. He had then polled 35,804 votes against PDP's Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi, who secured 17,445 votes.

Family Loyalty Shapes Voter Choices

Beyond political loyalties, Tuesday's polling also reflected Budgam's unique religious undercurrents. Many voters admitted their ballot was guided more by faith than party.

"We have spiritual affiliations with the candidate, so voting for him is an obligation," said Adil Hussain, outside a polling station at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Budgam.

This year's by-poll once again pitted two prominent religious figures against each other — NC's Aga Mehmood and PDP's Aga Muntazir Mehdi — both members of districts Aga clan which commands large followings in the region. Aga clan is ideologically aligned but politically divided between various parties.

"In Budgam, it's not NC versus PDP, it's Aga versus Aga — a contest of faith as much as politics," said Imran Ahmad, another voter.

Despite the fatigue and biting cold, polling remained peaceful with a moderate turnout reported across the constituency. Many voters said they hoped this election would finally end Budgam's year-long wait for representation.

"We've voted again in the hope that someone will finally speak for us," said a group of young voters.

The polls are being seen as a litmus test for Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's government and his party, the National Conference (NC). The bypoll was necessitated after Abdullah vacated the seat following his election from the family bastion of Ganderbal as well in last year's assembly polls.

Budgam has been a bastion of the NC with its candidates securing victory from the constituency since 1962, barring once in 1972 when the Congress candidate won from the seat.

NC Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar, Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, won from the Budgam seat in the 2002, 2008 and 2014 assembly polls, before Abdullah emerged victorious from here in 2024.

There were 17 candidates in the fray as Aga Mehmood of the ruling National Conference faces a stiff challenge from the PDP's Aga Muntazir.

Besides these two candidates, other key candidates include the BJP's Syed Mohsin, Awami Ittehad Party's Nazir Ahmad Khan, Aam Aadmi Party's Deeba Khan and independent candidates Jibran Dar and Muntazir Mohiuddin.

The counting of votes is scheduled for November 14. (inputs from agencies)

### Development, Change

located near the Deputy Commissioner's office in Budgam town, groups of young voters were seen discussing their choices outside the

booths.

"We voted for faces, not parties," said Zubair Ali, a young voter. "We are tired of being remembered only during elections. We want leadership that stays connected to the ground," he said, adding that they have seen the same promises repeated for years.

Outside the Government Girls Higher Secondary School polling station, Mohammed Hussain, in his forties, said that people were voting for someone who could "actually deliver on development."

Similar scenes were witnessed at several polling stations across the town, where first-time voters said they cast their ballots hoping to see visible change.

Soibug Votes for Change and Progress

In Soibug, once known for election boycotts, voter participation remained high as residents came out early despite freezing temperatures. At Polling Station 44, Soibug-D, long queues of men and women stood waiting to vote, with many saying this election was about "ending neglect."

"We have voted many times, but this time we want real work on the ground — roads, water, and power," said Abdul Rashid, a resident of Soibug.

"Young people are tired of speeches. We want to see progress — proper electricity, clean water, better roads," said a first-time voter.

'Boycotts Brought Nothing'

For many in Soibug — the ancestral village of Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin — Tuesday's turnout marked a significant shift.

"Boycotting in the past has not benefited us anyway. We've been ignored for 60 years," said Shaheen Ahmad Shah, 36. "We have no playground, no degree college, no proper road connectivity. Even our lanes were macadamised for the first time only after 2019."

Muhammad Shafi Khan, an ex-Panch, said the village still struggles with basic facilities. "Our power supply is unreliable, drainage is broken, and the local PHC hasn't been upgraded since 1965. It lacks equipment and staff," he said.

Khan added that the land of locals continues to be taken in the name of the Hokersar wetland, leaving many frustrated. "We're voting for change and development this time — not for slogans," he said.

Hopes High, Turnout Steady

Polling remained peaceful and well-organised throughout the day. According to eyewitnesses, Budgam witnessed brisk voting in the morning, a brief lull in the afternoon, and renewed crowds in the evening.

The Budgam by-election, contested by 17 candidates, saw development, power supply, and water scarcity emerge as the key concerns among voters.

"Our vote is for change," said a group of young voters at Soibug. "We've been ignored for too long — this time, we're voting for progress."

### Death Toll Rises

railway stations and bus terminals.

Investigators probing the deadly blast have zeroed in on a Pulwama-based doctor suspected to have driven the explosive-laden car that detonated near the historic monument.

Officials said Dr. Umar Nabi, a resident of Lethpora in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, is believed to have died in the explosion. His possible involvement links the blast to a larger terror module busted earlier this week with the recovery of explosives in Faridabad.

On Tuesday, the Jammu and Kashmir Police collected DNA samples from Umar's mother to confirm whether the remains recovered from the blast site belong to him.

"We have taken the DNA sample to match with the parts found at the scene," an official in Srinagar said.

The case has been handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) following a review meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who called the incident a "serious national security concern."

Faridabad Connection and Terror Module

The Red Fort blast came hours after security agencies uncovered a "white-collar" terror network operating across Kashmir, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh, linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGuH).

Eight people, including three doctors, were arrested and 2,900 kilograms of explosives seized from multiple locations. Among them were Dr. Muzammil Ganaie and Dr. Shaheen Sayeed, both associated with Al Falah University in Faridabad.

Investigators said Shaheen headed Jamaat-ul-Mominat, the women's wing of JeM.

Umar Nabi, who had also been connected with Al Falah University, allegedly carried out

the blast fearing arrest after the crackdown on his associates. Officials suspect he transported ammonium nitrate and detonators in a Hyundai i20 car, which exploded near a traffic signal close to the Red Fort Metro Station.

Investigators are not ruling out the possibility of a suicide attack.

Family members in Pulwama described Umar as a quiet and academically inclined man. "He was reserved and focused on his work," said his sister-in-law Muzamil, adding that he last visited home two months ago.

'Car's 11-Hour Trail'

Delhi Police have traced the car's 11-hour journey from Faridabad to Red Fort, pieced together through CCTV footage and toll plaza data.

The car was first seen outside Asian Hospital in Faridabad at 7:30 am on Monday and crossed the Badarpur toll plaza at 8:13 am, marking its entry into Delhi. Around 8:20 am, CCTV captured it passing near the Okhla Industrial Area.

At 3:19 pm, it entered a parking area near the Red Fort complex and remained there for nearly three hours.

"At 6:22 pm, the car was seen leaving the parking area and heading toward the Red Fort. Just 30 minutes later, at 6:52 pm, the powerful explosion occurred," a senior police official said.

The blast ripped through the slow-moving car, scattering body parts, damaging nearby buildings and metro infrastructure, and triggering panic among locals and tourists.

Officials said the car was parked earlier in a nearby lot, possibly to evade scrutiny. CCTV footage from the vicinity shows a masked man driving the vehicle, believed to be Umar.

Wider Crackdown and Security Measures

Investigators said a man named Tariq, also from Pulwama, had given the i20 car to Umar and has since been arrested. Four more people have been detained in Kashmir, with two shifted to Delhi for joint interrogation by NIA, Delhi Police, and central intelligence agencies.

Delhi Police have registered a case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Explosives Act. Raids continued through the night in Delhi's Daryaganj and Paharganj areas to trace possible suspects.

The Red Fort Metro Station has been closed, and the Delhi Traffic Police has issued an advisory urging commuters to avoid the Red Fort area. Vehicle checks have been intensified at all entry points to the capital.

Among the identified victims are Ashok Kumar (34) from Amroha, Uttar Pradesh, and Amar Kataria (35) from Delhi. The other deceased are yet to be identified. Of the 20 injured, twelve are from Delhi and the rest from neighbouring states.

NIA Steps In

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Tuesday handed over the probe into a blast near the Red Fort to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), sources said.

This is a clear indication that the blast, which has so far claimed 13 lives, is being considered by the government as an act of terror, as the NIA is mandated to probe terror cases only.

"The blast case has been handed over to the NIA," a source said. The decision came hours after Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the security situation in the national capital and other parts of the country following the blast. Shah has called another security review meeting on Tuesday afternoon. The home minister has said top investigating agencies are probing the blast and they will go in-depth into the incident. (inputs from PTI)

### Conspirators Will

touch with the probe agencies investigating the blast. Thirteen people were killed on Monday evening after a car exploded near the Red Fort.

Modi said India and Bhutan have shared a deep spiritual and cultural bond for centuries and it was his commitment to participate in this "important occasion".

"But today I come here with a very heavy heart. The horrifying incident that took place in Delhi yesterday evening has left us all deeply distressed. I understand the suffering of the families, who have suffered this loss. The nation stands united with them in grief and support," he said.

"I was in contact all night long with all the agencies and key officials related to the case. Discussions were ongoing, and the pieces of information were being put together," he said in Hindi.

"Our agencies will get to the bottom of this conspiracy. The perpetrators behind it will not be spared," he said.

The prime minister then switched from Hindi to English and declared:

"All those responsible will be brought to justice."

King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck led a prayer in presence of thousands of Bhutanese at the Changlimethang stadium for the victims of the Delhi blast.

### Hunt Down Every

meetings which were held in the wake of the Monday evening blast near Red Fort here.

"Chaired review meetings on the Delhi car blast with the senior officials. Instructed them to hunt down each and every culprit behind this incident. Everyone involved in this act will face the full wrath of our agencies," he wrote on X.

The first meeting was attended by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Director of Intelligence Bureau Tapan Deka, Delhi Police Commissioner Satish Golcha and NIA DG Sadanand Vasant Date.

DGP of Jammu and Kashmir Nalin Prabhat also attend the meeting virtually.

During the meeting, top officials gave detailed presentations on the situation in the aftermath of the blast, sources said.

Almost the same set of officials attended the afternoon security review meeting.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has also handed over the probe into the blast to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

This is a clear indication that the blast, which so far claimed 13 lives, has been considered by the government as an act of terror as the NIA is mandated to probe into the terror cases only.

Shah has said that top investigating agencies were probing the blast, and will go in-depth into the incident.

The blast took place in a slow-moving car at a traffic signal near the Red Fort metro station on Monday evening, killing 13 people, injuring 20 and gutting several vehicles, officials said.

### LG Reviews

Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, Special DGP S J M Gillani, ADGP CID Nitish Kumar and IGP Kashmir Zone V K Birdi.

### J&K Put On

and public places.

An official said all districts have been directed to maintain "maximum alertness," particularly in border regions, main cities, and sensitive areas. Security has been strengthened along highways, railway stations, religious sites, and major public gatherings, including at the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in Katra.

"Security checks have been intensified on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, where every vehicle is being screened thoroughly. In Pulwama, Special Operations Group (SOG) teams have been carrying out door-to-door searches since morning," the official said.

Extensive Checks Across Valley

According to a police spokesperson, temporary checkpoints have been established at key points across Anantnag, Pulwama, Kulgam, Baramulla, Ganderbal, and Shopian, where vehicles and pedestrians are being thoroughly frisked.

"Several vehicles were seized for lacking valid documents during these checks," the spokesperson said, adding that while such measures are part of routine preventive drills, they have been intensified in view of the Delhi incident.

In Handwara, Qalamabad, Kralgund, and Vilgam, police have set up additional checkpoints at entry points and market routes to monitor the movement of suspicious persons and vehicles.

Security officials said surveillance and area domination have been increased to ensure public safety and prevent any attempt by militants to disturb law and order.

Crackdown and Raids Continue

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Police, assisted by national agencies, have detained around 1,500 individuals across the Valley in what officials described as a "pre-emptive crackdown" on terror support networks.

The operations target suspected underground workers, sympathisers, and associates of terror outfits. Police have conducted coordinated raids, cordon-and-search operations, and inspections of SIM card vendors in north, south, and central Kashmir.

Search teams have also examined digital devices and communication data to track potential terror links.

Enhanced Vigil Across Region

Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir have been placed on high alert, with increased night patrols, random checks, and surveillance of religious and tourist sites.

"Enhanced security is aimed at maintaining public safety and ensuring that no subversive

activity is carried out in the region," a senior police officer said.

Authorities have urged the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious movement or unattended objects to the nearest security post.

### GMC Staff, Students

Pay Certificate (LPC), No Objection Certificate (NOC), or service book shall be issued to any employee upon transfer unless their designated locker has been duly handed over.

A similar circular was also issued by the Medical Superintendent of GMC Anantnag, directing all heads of departments to identify lockers and almirahs in their respective units and label them with the names of the concerned staff. Any unclaimed locker or storage unit, the circular said, must be reported immediately.

The move follows the November 6 arrest of a doctor from Anantnag after arms and ammunition were recovered from his locker. The accused, identified as Dr. Adil Ahmad, was also alleged to have been involved in putting up posters in support of the banned terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed in Srinagar.

According to Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Vyom Bindal, the accused, a resident of Anantnag, had previously been working at a private hospital in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, before being taken into custody by Srinagar Police on Thursday in connection with the case.

### Srinagar Records

Chillai Kalan, begins on December 21 and lasts till January 30. During this 40-day period, temperatures often dip well below freezing, causing water taps to freeze, roads to turn slippery, and dense fog to disrupt daily life.

### UK Updates India

and not a travel ban, aimed at helping travellers make "informed decisions." However, ignoring the advice could impact travel insurance validity, the office warned.

The broader advisory for India remains unchanged, continuing to discourage travel within 10 km of the India-Pakistan border — except at the Wagah crossing — and reiterating warnings against all travel to Kashmir and Manipur due to security concerns.

The blast, which occurred in a Hyundai i20 car near the Red Fort Metro Station around 6:52 pm on Monday, initially killed nine people, with the death toll rising to twelve on Tuesday after three more succumbed to injuries.

Delhi remains on high alert, with police invoking the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) as investigations continue. Forensic teams and intelligence agencies are probing possible terror links to the explosion.

### Exit Polls Predict

Jan Suraj in its debut outing.

The Bihar polls were conducted in two phases on November 6 and 11, and the results will be announced on November 14.

While the Matriz Exit Poll forecast the NDA likely getting between 147-167 seats, the Mahagathbandhan 70-90, and the Jan Suraj between 0-2 seats, Dainik Bhaskar predicted 145-160 seats for the NDA and 73-91 for the Mahagathbandhan.

Two pollsters -- Axis My India and Today's Chanakya -- will release their exit polls on Wednesday.

While the People's Insight predicted 133-148 seats for the NDA, 87-102 for the Mahagathbandhan, and 0-2 for Jan Suraj, the People's Pulse gave 133-159 seats to the NDA, 75-101 to the Mahagathbandhan, and 0-5 to Prashant Kishore's party.

The JVC forecast 135-150 seats for the NDA and 88-103 for the Mahagathbandhan. The Polstrat predicted 133-148 seats for the NDA and 87-102 for the Mahagathbandhan.

While the Chanakya Strategies gave the NDA 130-138 seats, 100-108, and zero to Jan Suraj, pollster P-Marq predicted the NDA to win 142-162 seats, the Mahagathbandhan 80-98 and Jan Suraj 1-4.

The majority mark in the 243-member Assembly is 122.

Exit poll projections are made by election survey agencies based on interviews of voters as they come out after casting their votes. These may vary widely from the actual results.

While the NDA, comprising the BJP, JD(U) and IJP (Ram Vilas) as the major alliance partners, is looking to return to power in Bihar, the opposition INDIA bloc, which has the RJD, the Congress and the Left parties as the main constituents, is looking to form the government with RJD's Tejashwi Yadav as its chief ministerial face.



# Qamran Iqbal Powers J&K To First-Ever Ranji Win Over Delhi

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi cricket hit a new low on Tuesday after a spirited J&K thrashed them by seven wickets for their first-ever Ranji Trophy victory over the formidable opposition that was powered by opener Qamran Iqbal's superb hundred here.

After four games, Delhi coached by Sarandeep Singh, are sixth among eight teams in Group D with seven points and it will take a miracle to qualify for the knockouts with only four points from three home games.

Questionable selections, poor strategies, absence of smart captaincy and a state unit in which teams have suffered due to factionalism and infighting has brought about the team's downfall.

Since 1960, Delhi and J&K have met 43 times and 37 of those games have ended in outright wins for the seven-time champions.

Chasing a target of 179 for victory, J&K needed 124 runs on the final day with opener Iqbal (133 not out off 147 balls) at the crease with night-watchman Vanshaj



Sharma (8 off 55 balls).

What looked like a difficult pitch suddenly became placid as Iqbal took it upon himself to use his long levers and big stride to negate any turn off the surface.

The roughs and indents were created on both sides of the

track and Delhi's spinners Manan Bhardwaj and Hrithik Shokeen didn't attack the stumps as much, trying to bowl too fast which also didn't get them any purchase.

Towards the end, Iqbal was hitting one-handed slog swept

sixes and lofted boundaries. Even 40-year-old skipper Paras Dogra, the former doyen of Himachal Pradesh cricket, played his part with a first innings hundred.

In his 22nd first class season, Dogra only second to Mumbai stalwart Wasim Jaffer in terms of

runs in Ranji Trophy, scored tons against both Mumbai and Delhi this season.

For Delhi, retaining Sarandeep as the head coach after a disastrous last season due to alleged pressures from a strong DDCA lobby has only ensured that there was no consistency in selection.

Skipper Ayush Badoni is scoring some attractive half-centuries but no team in domestic cricket is in awe of him.

Arpit Rana, a top scorer in DPL, has been found wanting against quality seam bowling as Auqib Nabi with his seaming deliveries exposed his poor technique.

After this defeat, DDCA president Rohan Jaitley is expected to crack the whip.

Mumbai's win over Himachal Pradesh by an innings and 120 runs saw them move to the top of the table with 17 points, followed by J&K at the second with 14 points.

## BRIEF SCORES:

Delhi 211 and 277 J&K 310 and (target 179) 179/3 (Qamran Iqbal 133 not out).

## Al-Haider Tourney Ends With Bijbehara Royals Crowned Champions



Dabirah Hassan

**CHANDRIGAM:** Al-Haider Cricket Tournament, organised by Khanqah-i-Hydari Aishmuqam, concluded on Tuesday with an exciting final between Blackcaps Chandrigam and Bijbehara Royals. Bijbehara Royals won by 53 runs to claim the title.

The closing ceremony

was attended by renowned Kashmiri cricketer Parvez Rasool as the chief guest. Dr. Muhammad Sameer Siddiqui, patron of Khanqah-i-Hydari Aishmuqam, supervised the event.

Parvez Rasool praised the initiative and said he was happy to witness community-driven sports efforts.

"I feel delighted that

Khanqah-i-Hydari has taken this good step. More importantly, this tournament was free of cost, and to bring positive change, these initiatives must be taken. I will always be available for such initiatives," he said.

Dr. Muhammad Sameer Siddiqui emphasized the broader role of sports in society and noted that religious institutions should contribute beyond their traditional functions.

"Religious institutions must not be confined to religious activities only; co-curricular activities must also be encouraged. Drug abuse has reached its peak, and such initiatives can help us counter it. Sports play an important role in our lives," he said.

## 2 Kashmiri SnowShoe Athletes Selected To Represent India In Italy

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Two senior SnowShoe athletes from Kashmir Valley, Gulzar Ahmad Khan and Muzamil Hussain Mir, have been shortlisted to represent India at the prestigious International SnowShoe Race "Ciaspolada 2026" to be held in Trentino, Italy, on January 3-4, 2026.

The duo will be part of a 17-member Indian contingent participating in the 52nd edition of Ciaspolada, widely regarded as the world's biggest and oldest SnowShoe running event.

The SnowShoe Federation of India (SSFI) has formally communicated the selection of Gulzar and Muzamil — hailing from Budgam and



Srinagar, respectively — to J&K SnowShoe Association President Tariq Ghani.

"The athletes have been selected based on their past performances, with the objective of blending youth with experience at this prestigious international event, which serves as a valuable exposure platform for our upcoming athletes," the letter said.

Gulzar Ahmad Khan, a

veteran athlete from Budgam, has represented India at multiple international snowshoe championships, including in Italy and Japan. Muzamil Hussain Mir, one of J&K's leading endurance runners from Srinagar, has been a standout performer in both national and international circuits. He clinched a bronze medal for India at the World SnowShoe Championship 2020 in Japan.

## J&K Kabaddi Association Announces List Of Qualified Referees & Umpires

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association has announced the results of the Referees/Umpires "Level-I" Examination conducted recently in Srinagar. General Secretary JKAKA Dr. Kuldeep Kumar Gupta informed that a total of 88 officials, including senior Kabaddi players, PETs, PEMs and lecturers from various districts, appeared in the examination. The evaluation was carried out by experts and qualified referees from the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI).

Among the 88 participants, 19 candidates secured 'A' Grade, 55 achieved 'B' Grade & 14 received 'C' Grade. Dr. Gupta further added that the association will conduct the "Level-II"

Examination in 2026 for those who qualified Level-I.

The successful officials are now eligible for the All India Referees Examination to be organized by AKFI & can officiate in Inter-School, Inter-College, Youth Services & Sports, Police, Local, District & UT Level Competitions.

## QUALIFIED REFEREES/ UMPIRES:

Drishti Pawan, Mir Alam, Firdous Rather, Arshid Rather, Ram Kumar, Nahida Nabi, Anita, Gorav Kumar Dubey, Majid Khan, Nazarat Hussain, Tanveer Ahmad, Mohd. Ashraf, Balbir Singh, Sunita, Bilal Baghat, Mohd Yousuf, Danish Ahmad, Bilqies Jan, Eas Ahmad, Faheem Ahmad, Fayaz Ahmad, Firdous Ahmad, Akif Ahmad, Shah Gohar, Gurbir Singh, Harmeet Singh, Hilal Ahmad, Waseem

Malik, Mohd Imran, Imran Ahmad, Inam, Mohd Iqbal, Ishfaq Ahmad, Javid Ahmad, Mushtaq Ahmad, Junaid Ahmad, Riyaz Ali, Jahangir Ahmad, Shakir Ahmad, Kajal Devi, Khaleel Ahmad, Kiran, Sanjeev Kumar, Khushal, Mahesh, Altaf Ahmad, Manmeet Kour, Murifat, Muzamil, Mushtaq, Naveen, Aijaz Ahmad, Parveez Ahmad, Mohd Qayoom, Rambir Rameez, Ab Raheem, Ruby Sharma, Sajid Khan, Sajid Rafiq, Sandeep, Shabir Ahmad, Shahid Khan, Shahnaz Ahmad, Shahzad, Shalu, Showkat Ahmad, Sikandar Lal, Shahid Shabir, Sunny, Ankush, Tariq Ahmad, Shanaza Akhter, Vikas, Vikas Kumar, Vishal, Zahid, Zahid Ahmad, Amandeep Singh, Liyakat Ali, Umer Rashid, Hashim Ali, Farooq Dar, Daniyal Shafi, Bandana, Mohan Lal, Monshi and Gh Rasool.

## District Pulwama Athletics C'ship Concludes At Sports Stadium

Observer News Service

**PULWAMA:** The District Pulwama Athletics Championship 2025-26, organised by the District Pulwama Athletics Association in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council under the banner of the J&K Athletics Association, concluded on Monday with a medal distribution ceremony at the Sports Stadium Pulwama.

The two-day championship, held from November 7 to 8, witnessed participation of more than 100 athletes across various age categories including Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior groups.

Bashir Ahmad Bhat,



Manager of Sports Stadium Pulwama, graced the closing ceremony as the Chief Guest, while International Baseball Player Shah Sameer attended as the Guest of Honour.

Both dignitaries felicitated the winners and runners-up with medals and certificates, appreciating the participants for their

outstanding performances & sportsmanship.

Owais Ahmad Dar, Secretary of the District Pulwama Athletics Association, was also present on the occasion. The event concluded on a positive note, promoting athletic spirit & encouraging youth participation in sports across the district.

## Historic Pole & Podium For Atiqa Mir In F1-Backed COTFA Series

Press Trust of India

**ABU DHABI:** Indian racing prodigy Atiqa Mir stormed to a historic pole position before finishing third on the podium in the opening round of the Formula 1 Academy backed COTFA UAE karting series here.

The 10-year-old is the first Indian to be supported by Formula 1. Already part of the Champions of the Future Academy (COTFA) international series, Atiqa last month was picked by Formula 1 Academy for the two-round COTFA UAE championship.

With more eyeballs on this championship, there was additional pressure to deliver and Srinagar-born Atiqa did not disappoint.

She clinched the pole position, becoming the first-ever female in the world to achieve this feat in COTFA mini class before adding a Heat win to a successful weekend.



She capped off a memorable week by finishing third in the final.

Atiqa was coming into the weekend after a stellar October when she secured multiple

podiums across championships including a race win at the RMC Championship.

"It was a great weekend for me speed wise, I got pole in qualifying. I wanted the win in the final but came away with 3rd, I will learn from this weekend and try and improve," said the fast learning racer from Jammu and Kashmir.

The COTFA series is run on equal equipment and engines to ensure a level playing field for all drivers, empowering the real talent to shine through.

Asif Mir, Atiqa's father and India's first National Karting Champion, felt it was a mixed weekend despite the pole and podium.

"A bittersweet weekend. I thought we had the pace and track position to win. A bit disappointed but also mindful that if we are disappointed by 3rd in such a big race then we must be doing something right. Atiqa performed well all weekend and raced hard," he said.

## IPL Auction To Be Held In Abu Dhabi, Says BCCI Official

The Indian Premier League auction will be held in Abu Dhabi mid December, a BCCI official told PTI on Tuesday.

It will be the third time in a row that the auction will be held overseas, following Dubai (2023) and Jeddah (2024). It is likely to be held on December 15 or 16.

"Abu Dhabi has been locked in as the auction venue," the official said.

It would be a mini auction following the mega auction in Saudi Arabia last year. (PTI)

## ICC Might Consider Reviving ODI Super League: Report

The ICC might also consider reviving the Super League concept in ODIs, which was scrapped after the 2023 World Cup.

It was conceptualised in 2020 to give more context to the ODI format, but the 13-team system did not progress as expected.

Many members who attended the ICC meeting felt that the 50-over format is not near extinction but can survive if provided a proper structure to it.

"The reaction and reach of ICC ODI events tell that there is still a place for 50-over cricket. Just that we need to give some context to it, and ensure that top teams and players are involved in it.

"Perhaps, a deeper discussion is needed on topics such as number of teams, proper window for matches etc," he noted. (PTI)

## Gill Spends Long Session At Nets Ahead Of South Africa Test

Transitioning from shorter formats to the rigours of red-ball cricket takes time, and India captain Shubman Gill spent close to an hour and a half at the nets, fine-tuning his technique ahead of the opening Test against South Africa, starting here on Friday.

The Proteas arrive high on confidence, having secured a hard-earned 1-1 draw in Pakistan last month in challenging conditions.

Gill, who struck a fifty and an unbeaten century in the two home Tests against the West Indies last month, has been searching for runs in white-ball cricket.

He managed just one score above fifty -- a 46 at Carrara Oval -- from eight innings across the ODIs and T20Is in Australia.

Now back to leading the Test side, Gill batted with determination at nets and looked keen to regain rhythm after a lean white-ball run.

Before the nets, head coach Gautam Gambhir and assistant coach Sitanshu Kotak were seen having a long chat with him near the High Court end, possibly discussing his approach.

Gill later joined his teammates for slip-fielding drills before padding up alongside Yashasvi Jaiswal for an intense net session. (PTI)

## Accepted Captaincy After Rizwan Said He Would Step Down: Shaheen

In an interesting revelation, Pakistan's ODI captain Shaheen Shah Afridi has claimed that he only accepted the captaincy after his predecessor Mohammad Rizwan said he would step down.

"I took this responsibility from the Pakistan Cricket Board after discussing the matter with Rizwan," Shaheen told the media on Monday. "Rizwan was the only person I had a discussion with and I asked him how he felt about me accepting the captaincy."

"Rizwan decided himself he would make way for me and that is how things worked out," said Shaheen, who was also appointed national T20 skipper in 2023 but was dismissed after just one series in New Zealand.

Shaheen had taken over as the T20I skipper after Babar Azam resigned following Pakistan's poor run in the Cricket World Cup 2023.

Shaheen said Rizwan had assured him of full support. He added that as captain he would back Babar and Rizwan as they were key players in the side with lots of experience.

"I have no ego and I talk to everyone for advice, even our former captains. I don't look at things that happened in the past," he said. (PTI)

## Ronaldo Expects His 6th WC At Age 41 Next Year To Be His Last

Cristiano Ronaldo said on Tuesday he expects his record sixth World Cup next year at age 41 will be his last.

"Definitely, yes, because I will be 41 years old," Ronaldo told CNN anchor Becky Anderson in a live video link from Portugal's training camp to a tour-ism conference in Saudi Arabia.

Ronaldo clarified that when he says he will retire from soccer "soon" that should mean "probably one, two years."

Portugal should seal qualification in the coming days for the World Cup that will be co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico. The team needs just two points from its final qualifying group games at Ireland on Thursday and hosting last-placed Armenia on Sunday.

Ronaldo's five goals in four qualifying games have extended his men's world record to 143 for a national team.

"I feel very good in this moment. I score goals, I still feel quick and sharp, I'm enjoying my game in the national team," he said.

"I have many records. I'm really proud. So let's enjoy the moment, live the moment." (AP)





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## CONGRATULATIONS! FROM J&K BANK OFFICERS OF SRINAGAR DISTRICT.

We extend our sincerest felicitations and warm wishes to the newly elected office bearers of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Officers' Association-Kashmir (JKBOA-K) who were voted into power through the electoral process held on 08th November, 2025 with highest ever margin in history:



**Mr. Zubair Rasool Mir**  
President



**Mr. Ishtiyag Ahmad**  
Senior Vice President



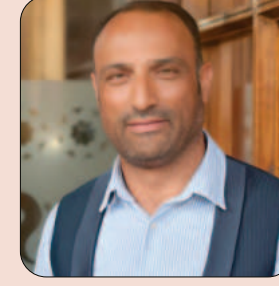
**Mr. Saqib showkat**  
Vice President



**Mr. John Mohammad**  
General Secretary



**Mr. Muneer Ahmad Ganai**  
Assistant  
General Secretary



**Mr. Imtiyaz Punjabi**  
Organising secretary



**Mr. Manzoor Masoodi**  
Secretary 1



**Mrs. Shaista Amin Baqal**  
Secretary 2



**Mr. Mohammad Iqbal Bazaz**  
Treasurer



**Mr. Mohammad Shariq Shah**  
Assistant Treasurer

Wishing the President: **Mr. Zubair Rasool Mir** and his team a successful tenure dedicated to the welfare and progress of the members

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28<sup>th</sup> year OF PUBLICATION

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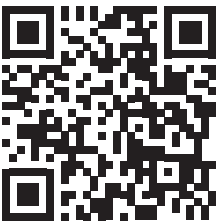
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