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Doctor, Wife Detained In CIK Raids

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) on Tuesday detained a doctor and his wife for their alleged involvement in unlawful activities.

In a statement, a CIK spokesperson said, "The Counter Intelligence Kashmir today conducted coordinated search operations at four locations across Srinagar, Kulgam and Anantnag districts."

However, the officials said the searches are not linked to the "white collar" terror module or

the Delhi blast case.

"During the operation, two accused: Shahzada Akhtar, wife of Dr Umer Farooq Bhat of Bugam Kulgam and presently residing at Shireen Bagh Srinagar, with her husband Dr Umer Farooq Bhat, who is presently working in Super Speciality of SMHS Hospital.. Srinagar were detained," he said, adding, "The CIK teams seized multiple digital devices and incriminating material having direct relevance to the investigation."

The recoveries include five mobile phones, five SIM cards, one tablet | [More on P6](#)



Children play on a slide as autumn leaves blanket the ground at Chinar Bagh in Srinagar. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

Cloudflare Outage Disrupts Major Platforms

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: A widespread internet outage struck several global digital platforms on Tuesday, leaving millions of users unable to access services like X, OpenAI's ChatGPT, Perplexity AI, Google Cloud, and Canva.

Kashmir Observer was also affected, as its services briefly went down during the disruption.

Popular gaming titles League of Legends and Valorant were also impacted.

The disruption has been traced back to a critical network failure at Cloudflare, a web infrastructure company that powers a significant portion of the internet.

"Cloudflare is experiencing an internal service degradation. Some services may be intermittently impacted. We are focused on restoring service. We will update as we are able to remediate. More updates to follow shortly," Cloudflare's system status | [More on P6](#)

Jasir Bilal Sent To 10-Day NIA Custody

KO Web Desk

Delhi court on Tuesday sent Jasir Bilal Wani of Qazigund, to 10 days' NIA custody, in connection with the Red Fort car blast that claimed 15 lives. Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna allowed the NIA's plea seeking custodial interrogation of the accused who has been described as | [More on P6](#)

Jammu Hospitals Conduct Locker Checks

The administration of Government Medical College and Sri Maharaja Gulab Singh (SMGS) hospitals on Tuesday checked the lockers | [More on P6](#)

ARRESTED FEMALE INVOLVED in radicalizing local women, affiliation with banned Dukhtar-e-Millat under investigation

Transfers Of Undertrials Jailed Outside UT HC Reserves Order on Mufti's PIL Maintainability

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Tuesday reserved its verdict on maintainability of a Public Interest Litigation filed by PDP President and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, seeking the repatriation of all undertrials from Jammu and Kashmir who are currently lodged in

jails across different states and Union Territories.

A division bench of Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal reserved the verdict even as it questioned Mehbooba's counsel Aditya Gupta about the maintainability of the petition under public interest.

The Bench came down heavily on the petitioner for giving publicity to the | [More on P6](#)

Man Gets 6-Yr Jail In 2021 Shopian Encounter Case

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A special NIA and UAPA court for Kulgam and Shopian has sentenced Towseef Ahmed Thokar of Khawajapora Reban, Zainapora, to six years' imprisonment after finding him guilty in the 2021 Imam Sahab encounter case. The case was initially registered under FIR No. 25 of 2021 at Police Station Imam Sahab.

The court held Towseef guilty of offences under

Sections 16, 18 and 20 of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), Section 307 of the IPC, and Sections 7 and 27 of the Arms Act. Sentencing was scheduled for November 17, after which the punishment was formally announced.

The case relates to an encounter on May 5, 2021, in Imam Sahab, where three militants — Danish Ahmed Mir, Zahid Bashir and Umar Hassan Bhat — were killed. Towseef was detained from | [More on P6](#)

No Whitewashing Of Terrorism: EAM Jaishankar At SCO Summit

Press Trust Of India

Moscow: India on Tuesday said that the world must display "zero tolerance" towards terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, asserting that there can be no justification, no looking away and "no whitewashing".

"As India has demonstrated, we have the right to defend our people against terrorism, and will exercise it," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in his address at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting here.



Jaishankar said India believes that the SCO must "adapt to the changing global landscape, develop an expanded agenda, and reform its working methods". "We will contribute positively and fully to these

objectives," he said.

The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017.

In July 2023, Iran became the new permanent member of the SCO at an India-hosted virtual summit of the grouping.

"We must never forget that the SCO was founded to combat the three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism. These threats have become even more | [More on P6](#)

EAM Meets Putin As PM Modi Hosts Top Kremlin Aide

KO Web Desk

In a day marked by high-level India-Russia diplomatic engagement ahead of President Vladimir Putin's expected visit to

New Delhi next month, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met the Russian leader in Moscow even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with one of the Kremlin's | [More on P6](#)

Govt Warns Channels Against Sensitive, Inciteful Content

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Tuesday issued an advisory to all private television channels, cautioning them against telecasting visuals or content that could aid, abet, or promote unlawful activities.

The advisory comes after certain TV channels aired material related to the recent blast near Delhi's Red Fort, including videos showing methods of making explosive devices. The explosion, which occurred last week, left several people dead.

"It has come to the notice



of this Ministry that some news channels have been broadcasting content related to alleged persons involved in the Red Fort blasts, justifying their acts of violence, as well as information videos of how to make explosive material," the advisory said.

The Ministry warned that such broadcasts may inadvertently | [More on P6](#)

Don't View Every Kashmiri Muslim With Suspicion: CM

Calls For Transparent Inquiry Into Nowgam PS Blast

Assures Job For Deceased Tailor's Kin

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday advocated stringent punishment for all those involved in the "white collar" terror module and Delhi blast case, but urged that innocent civilians should not be harmed.

"I raised the issue yesterday at the North Zone Chief Minister's conference as well. Union Home Minister was there, Union Home Secretary, CMs of north zone, governors,



LGs, were there.

"I appealed to them to not see every citizen of J&K, especially every Kashmiri Muslim, with suspicion," the CM told

reporters after visiting a hospital here to inquire about those injured in the accidental blast in the Nowgam police station on Friday. | [More on P6](#)

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2

‘High BP Cases In Children, Teens Doubled In Last 20 Years’

Prevalence of hypertension or high blood pressure among children and teenagers has nearly doubled in the last two decades, from 3.2 per cent in 2000 to over six per cent in 2020, according to a global analysis published in The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health journal.

Left unaddressed, hypertension can lead to cardiovascular and kidney disease.

Estimates also suggest that nearly a fifth of the world's children and adolescents with obesity have hypertension -- about eight times the prevalence among those having a healthy weight (2.4 per cent), researchers including those from the UK's University of Edinburgh said.

The findings suggest obesity is a substantial driver of the increase in childhood hypertension. Obesity tends to cause other issues, such as insulin resistance and changes in blood vessels, which can make it harder to maintain a healthy blood pressure.

Further, eight per cent of children and teenagers around the world may be having pre-hypertension, which is a warning sign of hypertension, the study found.

"The nearly twofold increase in childhood high blood pressure over 20 years should raise alarm bells for healthcare providers and caregivers,"



said study author Igor Rudan, director of the centre for global health research at The Usher Institute, University of Edinburgh (UK).

"But the good news is that we can take steps now, such as improving screening and prevention efforts, to help control high blood pressure in children and reduce the risks of additional health complications in the future," Rudan said.

The meta-analysis looked at data from 96 previously published studies, involving more than 443,000 children and across 21 countries.

"Between 2000 and 2020, the prevalence of childhood hypertension nearly doubled, increasing from 3.40 per cent to 6.53 per cent in boys and from

3.02 per cent to 5.82 per cent in girls," the authors wrote.

The study also found that more than nine per cent of children and adolescents the world over may have masked hypertension -- which is high blood pressure that only shows up in out-of-office tests and therefore could be undetected during regular checkups.

How blood pressure is measured can affect prevalence estimates, the researchers said.

For example, when confirmed by a healthcare provider at a minimum of three in-office visits, the global prevalence of hypertension was estimated at 4.3 per cent of children and adolescents. However, when the researchers also included out-of-office assessments

such as home blood pressure monitoring, the prevalence of sustained hypertension climbed to about 6.7 per cent. "Childhood high blood pressure is more common than previously thought, and relying solely on traditional in-office blood pressure readings likely underestimates the true prevalence or leads to misdiagnosis of hypertension in children and adolescents," said study author Peige Song of the Zhejiang University School of Medicine in China.

"Early detection and (an) improved access to prevention and treatment options are more critical than ever to identify children experiencing or at-risk for hypertension. Addressing childhood hypertension now is vital to prevent future health complications as children transition to adulthood," Song said.

Pre-hypertension is especially prevalent during teenage, with prevalence reaching around 11.8 per cent, compared to about seven per cent in younger children, the researchers found.

Blood pressure also tends to increase sharply during early adolescence, peaking around age 14, especially among boys, they said.

The pattern emphasises the importance of regular blood pressure screening during critical years, the team added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Posha Begum
W/o Mohammad Akbar Malla
R/o Hanjiwera Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Bilal Ahmad Teli
F/o Ayan Ahmad Teli
R/o Zeran Warpora

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Nisar Ahmad Najar
F/o Ibrahim Nisar
R/o Hardushoora

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Ali Mohammad Mir
F/o Shaista Ali

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Nazir Ahmad Dar
F/O Suhail Ahmad Dar
R/O Bamurada Khag

FKO

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the name & Style "M/S Wood line heaven situated at Jawahar Nagar srinagar

Public Notice

Whereas I Sheeba jan Kitab W/o Nisaar Ahmad Kitab Ro Nowshera srinagar, intends to apply in the office of the prescribed authority of Directorate of Tourism kashmir for Registration of my proposed Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the name and style "M/S Wood line heaven situated at Jawahar Nagar srinagar under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit Landownership Certificate from Concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner concerned, Rent/Lease Deed/Partnership Deed/issued by concerned Sub-Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as Home stay), Character Certificate of the applicant from the concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration, Public Notice inviting objections , if any in print media, list of family members Name, Age, and Photograph self attested by owner, Photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bed rooms and bathrooms), Inspection report by the Committee (The recommendation of the inspection Committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view, the type of accommodation and amenity, adhar card. Now before my case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority. The matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of Prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the valley. Objection received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be proceeded under rules as per merit.

fko

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the name & Style "M/S ROYAL SHAHJE STAY Situated at Mammar Ganderbal

Public Notice

Whereas I Zahoor Ahmad Shah S/o Ahmad Ullah Shah R o .syed Colony BuchPora srinagar, intends to apply in the office of the prescribed authority of Directorate of Tourism kashmir for Registration of my proposed Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the name and style "M/S ROYAL SHAHJE STAY Situated at Mammar Ganderbal under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit Landownership Certificate from Concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner concerned, Rent/Lease Deed/Partnership Deed/issued by concerned Sub-Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as Home stay), Character Certificate of the applicant from the concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration, Public Notice inviting objections , if any in print media, list of family members Name, Age, and Photograph self attested by owner, Photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bed rooms and bathrooms), Inspection report by the Committee (The recommendation of the inspection Committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view, the type of accommodation and amenity, adhar card. Now before my case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority. The matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of Prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the valley. Objection received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be proceeded under rules as per merit.

fko

NOTICE

I have changed my ward's name from (old name) Ziya Mehraj to (new name) Ziya Mehraj Mir. I have also changed the mother's name from (old mother's name) Iqra to (new mother's name) Iqra Mehraj Mir. In future, my ward will be known as Ziya Mehraj Mir, and the mother will be known as Iqra Mehraj Mir, for all official and legal purposes.

If anybody has any objection, he/she may contact the concerned office within 7 days of this notice. After 7 days, no objection will be accepted.

Media line addt

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Parentage in my Service records Bearing PIDARP No.872750, Rank SI has been wrongly entered as SH. BAIG NATH while my correct Parentage is SH. BEEJ NATH. Now I want the same to be corrected if anybody has any objection in this regard He/ She may file his /her objection in the Office of the IRP 17th BN APC Mattan /PHQ Serinagar Jammu, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Kali Dass
S/O Sh. Beej Nath
R/O Jawaharnagar Udhampur

JNA7780878931

PUBLIC NOTICE

I wajahat s/o Lal Hussain Sheikh r/o 12, Iqra Lane Lane 15, Firdousabad, Batamaloo, srinagar kashmir 1900091. want to update my father's name in the driving license JK1620230000423 from Lal Hussain to Lal Hussain Sheikh, if anybody has any objection he or she may contact with the ARTO/ RTO office Srinagar within one week from the issuance of this notice,afterwards, no objection will be entertained.

ajko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Name in my Service records Bearing PIDARP No.881772, Rank ASI has been wrongly entered as MOHD AYOUB MIR while my correct Name MOHD AYOUB MIR. Now I want the same to be corrected if anybody has any objection in this regard He/ She may file his /her objection in the Office of the IRP 17th BN APC Mattan /PHQ Serinagar Jammu, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohd Ayoub Mir
S/O Sh. Gh. Mohd Mir
R/O Sadoora Anantnag

JNA7780878931

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

TENDER NOTICE

eNIT No STD-II / 53 of 2025-26 Dated 14-11-2025

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 "Providing and laying of 33 KV 630 mm Sq Cable single core cable at Kaisemullah crossing for ensuring safe clearance between 132kv Budgam Noubugh and 33kv Noubugh Charisharief line."

S NO	Description of Work	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)	Last date of submission of e-bid
01	Providing and laying of 33 KV 630 mm Sq Cable single core cable at Kaisemullah crossing for ensuring safe clearance between 132kv Budgam Noubugh and 33kv Noubugh Charisharief line.	Rs 19892.00	Rs 9.94 Lacs	10-12-2025; 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 http://jktenders.gov.in from 18-11-2025; 4:30pm
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	18-11-2025; 4:30pm
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	10-12-2025; 4:30pm
D	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	18-11-2025; 4:30pm
E	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	10-12-2025; 4:30pm
F	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	11-12-2025; 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 500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred Only)
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 19892.00 (Rupees Nineteen Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Two 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 LI 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.

No: STD-II/8532-34/1s
DIPK-NB-2506/25
Dated: 18-11-2025

Govt. Of Jammu & Kashmir (U.T) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION VAILOO

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No.88/7290-99 of R&B/Vailoo/2025-2026/e-tendering DATED:17/11/2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory J&K e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Approved Amount (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T./Doc. in form of Treasury challen / Receipt (in Rs.)	Earnest Money y(2% of Adv.Cost) (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Project Intending Department	Class of Contractor	Major Head of account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Construction of Approaches to Pindobal bridge	77.364	1600	154728	180 Days	PWD	AAY Class	UT Capex Budget

Position of AA: Accorded
Position of TS: Accorded

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	17.11.2025	
2.	Period of Downloading of bidder documents.	From 17.11.2025 To 04.30 pm	
3.	Bid submission Start Date	From 17.11.2025 To 04.30 pm	
4.	Bid Submission End Date	To 24.11.2025 04.00 pm	
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	25.11.2025 at 10.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Vailoo	

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD in favor of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Vailoo (Tender inviting Authority) (NIT No. and Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt (If the Nit comprises of only one item, Name of work/Item No is not mandatory) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Vailoo (Tender receiving Authority). (The Date of EMD(CDR/FDR) should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and the validity at the time of opening of bids shall be for a period of 45 days beyond bid validity of 120 days)
- The 1st Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of allotted cost as performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR within 07 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of defective liability period of the work.
- The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security.
- Only those contractors are eligible for taking part in the bidding process whose contractor registration card is enrolled online on the JKPWDOMS portal and the Proof of that needs to be uploaded with this bid mandatorily.
- The Advertised cost is inclusive of GST@18%. The bidder has to quote the rate exclusive of GST.
- Security Deposit shall be deposited by the contractor within 10 days of issuance of LOI, failing which the concerned tender.
- The contractor shall initiate the work within 10 days of entering into the agreement, failing which the undersigned shall terminate the contract and issue a fresh tender after imposing penalties viz forfeit security/LD as per T&C of the Bid document and recommend contractor for blacklisting.
- The work shall be completed by the concerned contractor as per the timeline stipulated in the bid document/agreement, failing which action shall be initiated against contractor by forfeiting EMD and shall be recommended for blacklisting.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division vailoo (tender receiving authority).
- 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 withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes 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.

DIPK-8210/25
dated: 18-11-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD(R&B) Division Vailoo



Court Convicts Man in Rs 7.20 Lakh Cheque Bounce Case

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A Srinagar court has convicted a man in a cheque bounce case and sentenced him to six months of simple imprisonment besides imposing a fine of Rs 7.20 lakh along with six percent annual interest. The order was passed by the Court of the 4th Additional Munsiff and Judicial Magistrate First Class Srinagar in a complaint filed under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.

The case was initiated by complainant Ishfaq Rashid, who stated that he had provided financial assistance of Rs 7.20 lakh to accused Showkat Ahmad Zargar of Dargpora Tulumulla for business purposes. The accused allegedly failed to return the amount de-

spite repeated reminders and later issued a cheque to settle the liability.

According to the court record, the cheque bearing No. 387870 was presented on June 12, 2023, at J&K Bank N S Road Srinagar but was returned unpaid for insufficient funds. A demand notice was issued to the accused on July 3, 2023, which he received but did not respond to or comply with.

During the proceedings, the accused admitted to issuing the cheque, writing the amount on it and owing Rs 7.20 lakh to the complainant. The court held that these admissions attracted statutory presumptions under Sections 118 and 139 of the NI Act and that the accused had failed to rebut them through credible evidence.

18-Year-Old Regains Life After SKIMS Spine Surgery

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a remarkable medical feat, doctors at the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) have successfully performed a marathon 11-hour surgery to remove a rare holocord intramedullary spinal cord tumour in an 18-year-old girl, one of the most complex spinal surgeries ever performed in the region.

The entire procedure was carried out free of

cost, a statement issued to Kashmir Observer.

The surgery involved a 17-level laminoplasty followed by the delicate removal of a tumour from within the spinal cord (intramedullary), a technically demanding procedure rarely attempted even in leading neurosurgical centres.

The operation was led by Dr. Abrar Ahad Wani, Professor & Head of Unit, Department of Neurosurgery, along with his dedicated surgical team.



People throng Shalimar Garden as Chinars set the landscape aflame with colour. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Stories of Resilience, Innovation Shine at NIT TEDx Conference

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Tuesday hosted the 5th edition of TEDxNITSrinagar under the theme “Conclusions that Create Change,” bringing together an extraordinary lineup of speakers who shared powerful, transformative life journeys with students.

Organised by the Department of Training and Placements (T&P), the conference drew participation from eminent personalities across governance, sports, cinema, entrepreneurship, social work and the arts.

The event was graced by Incharge Director Prof. Roohie Naaz Mir, Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman, Head T&P Prof. Aijaz Ahmad Mir, Dr. Sheikh Shahid Saleem, faculty members and other dignitaries.

In her message, Prof. Roohie Naaz said TEDx events offer students “valuable opportunities for

learning, personal growth and exposure to diverse ideas,” while appreciating the T&P Department for institutionalising TEDx as an important platform at NIT Srinagar.

Head T&P, Prof. Aijaz Ahmad Mir, said sustained efforts over the years have helped TEDx become an integral part of the institute’s academic calendar. “Motivation plays a crucial role in igniting self-determination and self-belief among students,” he said, adding that interactions with achievers fuel students’ confidence and aspirations.

The conference featured roster of speakers, including IAS officer Jagdeep Singh, professional MMA fighter Owais Yaqoob, acclaimed actor Mir Sarwar, filmmaker Dr. Sonali Gupta, global business leader and investor Khalid Wani, veteran actor Mushtaaque Ali Ahmad Khan, and social worker Javed Ahmad.

Also present were young climate activist Licypriya, Dr. Sumithra Prasad, Founder of the DO-RAI Foundation, and celebrated

singer Mehmeet Syed.

Their talks on resilience, creativity, leadership and public service resonated deeply with students, reflecting both Kashmir’s evolving aspirations and global challenges.

Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman praised the organisers for creating a space where students can connect with achievers from diverse backgrounds. “Such platforms expose our youth to fresh perspectives, encourage innovation and strengthen their academic and personal confidence,” he said. He reaffirmed NIT Srinagar’s commitment to nurturing creativity, curiosity and critical thinking among students.

Earlier, Ms. Hiral from Fortinet delivered an insightful session on the rapidly changing cybersecurity landscape. She highlighted the rising sophistication of cyber threats and urged students to explore the growing opportunities in the field.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: exen-mechospmgr@jk.gov.in)

Subject:- 1. Annual rate contract on account of refilling of Fire extinguishers installed at 500 Bedded Govt. Children Hospital, Bemina, Srinagar for year 2025-26.
2. Refilling of various fire extinguishers at Govt. LD Hospital, Srinagar
Ref :1. This office NIT No: MHDS/TS /2025-26/98/e-tendering Dt 12.11.2025

EXTENSION

In view of No response, the Critical dates of above subject work(s) tendered vide above referred e-NIT are extended as follows: -

S. No	Description	Date and Time
1.	Last Date of Bid Submission	24.11.2025 (13:00 hrs)
2.	Date of Bid Opening	24.11.2025 (15:00 hrs)

All other Terms and Conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical & Hospitals Division,
Srinagar.

No: M&HDS/TS/6168-71
DIPK-8229/25
Dated: 18.11.2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer, Water Works Division Srinagar HQ:-Kothibagh Srinagar

Phone No.: 0194-2477207, email:- xen-wwwsgr@jk.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short Term E-NIT. No. 31/WWD/Sgr/Civil of 2025-26 Dated 18.11.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K e-tenders are invited from Registered/Approved and valid Civil Class of Contractors/Agencies/Firms registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments and whose registrations are renewed for current financial year for the following works on 'Item Rate Basis in Two Cover System':

S. No	Name of Work	Estd. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Tender Doc. Fee (in Rs.)	Head of Account	T.O.C	Class of Contractor	Tender Call
1	Facelifiting of 2.25 MGD New & 1.50 MGD Army Units of Doodhganga WTP	6.53	13,060/-	300/-	DC Garrison	20 Days	D/C	1st

Position of AAA:-Accorded Position of Funds:- Available with Competent Authority
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (If any), Book of quantities (B.O.Q). Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: www.jktendersgov.in As per schedule of dates given below

01	Date of publishing of Tender Notice	18.11.2025
02	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 19.11.2025 10:00 A.M. To 27.11.2025 04:00 P.M.
03	Bid Submission Start Date	19.11.2025 10:00 A.M.
04	Bid submission End Date	27.11.2025 Upto 04:00 P.M.
06	Date and time of opening of Bids (Online)	28.11.2025 at 2:00 P.M. in the office of the Executive Engineer Water Works Division Srinagar

No:-WW/Sgr/CC/5069-81
DIPK-8232/25
Dated: 18.11.2025

Executive Engineer
Water Works Division Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE


I, Gulam Qudir Bhatt, S/o Ab Rehman Bhat, R/o Taper Wari Pora, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that my name in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6095-3180-6277 has been inadvertently recorded as "Gh Qadir Bhat", while my correct name is "Gulam Qudir Bhatt. Now I have applied for the correction of the same . If anybody has any objection regarding this correction, he/she may contact the concerned authorities within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my name / father's name and (DOB) Date of birth in my Aadher Card bearing Aadhar No:- 3834 2105 9012 has been wrongly mentioned as Nisser Ahmad Bhat S/O. Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Bhat DOB 02.03.1982 instead of Naseer Ahmad Bhat. S/O. Gh Mohi Ud Din Bhat Mir .DOB.14.12.1977 .as per school record . Now I am applying for its Correction as per school certificate . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period. Naseer Ahmad Bhat S/O. Gh Mohi Ud Din Bhat R/O :- Langate . Tehsil :- Langate . Distt : Kupwara . Post office Langate Pin Code 193302 .

FKO



The Jammu & Kashmir Bank
Zonal Office Pulwama

PREMISES REQUIRED

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank invites offers from Owners of premises **on Out right purchase/lease basis** for housing its Branch at Arihal Pulwama, as per the details given below:

S. No	Name of the Premises	Location	Carpet Area in sq. ft (approx.)
01	B/O Arihal Pulwama	Locality : Main market Arihal Pulwama Tehsil: Pulwama, District: Pulwama	1200-1500 sq. ft

Further details, requirements, terms and conditions, Technical Bids and Financial Bids proforma relating to the same can be obtained in person from **Zonal Office Pulwama** during working hours and also can be downloaded from Bank's website <https://jkb.bank.in> from **18-11-2025** under the link **“EOI & Tender / Notification”** in the **“explore more”** Tab. The interested parties/persons owning the premises and having a clear title over the property should submit their offers in format prescribed by Bank by or before **08-12-2025 (05:00 PM IST)** at **Zonal Office Pulwama**. Bank reserves the right to cancel/reject any/all offer(s) without assigning any reason thereof.

Ref: JKB/ZOPULL/Est/25-10
Dated: 17.11.2025
Zonal Office Pulwama

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928; E : info@jkbmail.com; W : <https://jkb.bank.in>

DIPK-NB-2509/25 dated: 18-11-2025

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

KO VIEW

A New Silence
in Kashmir

Kashmir has always leaned on community for strength. People gathered over warm meals, traded stories in living rooms, supported each other in difficult times and created space for comfort. This season feels different.

Weddings stay crowded, funerals draw lines of people and markets stay active. But the mood inside these gatherings tells a different truth.

Conversations fade, people arrive late and leave early, and faces look tired even in celebration.

A social freeze is visibly settling over the valley. It shows up in homes, courtyards and public spaces. Years of stress feed it. Families deal with rising medical bills, winter expenses and coaching fees. Young people carry pressure from studies, long commutes and uncertain work.

These strains show up in everyday life. People talk in short bursts, stay distant and lose energy quickly.

Friends who once met every weekend now meet only when schedules align. Neighbours who shared long tea breaks now settle for a polite nod. Phone calls that carried long conversations shrink into short messages. Even family gatherings feel heavier, as if everyone is present but half-absent in thought.

Counsellors say many people they meet speak of “social exhaustion” as their biggest concern. They feel drained by screens, constant updates and a sense of uncertainty. Family events feel heavier than before, and many look for a reason to step out early.

This new fatigue shapes how Kashmir connects. Money pressure adds to it. Weddings feel harder for families who juggle costs. Guests sense this strain and find it difficult to celebrate.

The same pattern appears at funerals. People show up out of duty, speak little and leave with a heavy heart.

This freeze in social life carries long-term risks. A community loses strength when people reach out less. Children grow up in homes where adults speak little. Elders feel alone even inside full rooms. Young people drift away from festivals and family traditions.

Kashmir needs a gentle renewal. It can begin with longer conversations, shared meals, small circles of support, and spaces where people feel free to speak.

These moments rebuild trust and remind people that community lifts instead of weighing them down.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Mind the Details

A simple update in your Demat account can save your family from long queues, legal knots, and years of uncertainty.

Irshad Mushtaq

A growing number of young people in Kashmir are investing in ETFs, REITs, shares and mutual funds. It signals a shift in how families here think about savings. A Demat account sits at the centre of this shift. Still, many investors overlook one of its most basic safeguards: the nominee. Families often run from one office to another when a loved one passes away. Property papers, bank accounts and insurance claims take months to settle. Investments held in a Demat account follow the same path unless a nominee is already named. A nominee makes the transfer smooth and protects the family from conflict. It also gives clear direction to institutions that need proof before they release assets.

Many accounts in Kashmir remain incomplete. Some lack updated bank details, which blocks dividend transfers. When dividends remain unclaimed for eight years, they move to the Investor Education and Protection Fund, and the recovery process can stretch for months. A simple check of your 16-digit bank account number can prevent this loss.

Mutual fund investors face similar gaps. People who use RTAs often forget to update nominations for each folio. Every folio needs a clear nominee, or the family will need to produce multiple documents during transfer. It turns a difficult moment into a heavier burden.

A Demat account grows stronger with small acts of attention. Review your nominee every few years. Update your bank information. Ask your advisor to scan your folios.

These steps may look routine, but they carry real weight.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

The Case of Empty Desks

Attendance is Kashmir’s first education challenge, and it demands more empathy than enforcement.

Bashir Ahmad Dar

Low attendance in schools often looks like a simple case of missing students. A teacher marks the register, counts the empty seats, and moves on with the lesson.

The National Education Policy 2020 does not fix a specific attendance bar for students to sit in exams. It leaves the number open, and does something more important.

It asks schools and families to understand why a child stays home in the first place.

This shift matters for Kashmir, where thin attendance has shaped the lives of students for decades.

Notably, attendance across India falls short of what a healthy learning system needs. Studies show a worrying pattern.

In many rural districts, between 4.73 and 17.84 percent of students in primary and upper primary classes stay absent almost every day.

Another nationwide review found that attendance has been stuck around 72 percent for years even though enrolment touches 98 percent.

Delhi offers its own sharp picture. In the 2022-23 school year, more than 3.48 lakh students in government schools were tagged “chronically absent.” A year later, the count rose to more than 6.6 lakh.

Kashmir has its own story inside these numbers.

Attendance thins for reasons tied to life at home, distance from school, and the way classrooms function.

The result is the same everywhere: lost learning, weaker confidence, and habits that travel into adulthood.

Poverty often keeps children out of school. In many parts of the valley, kids take on adult responsibilities earlier than expected. Families running orchards, farms, shops, or small businesses rely heavily on their youngest members.

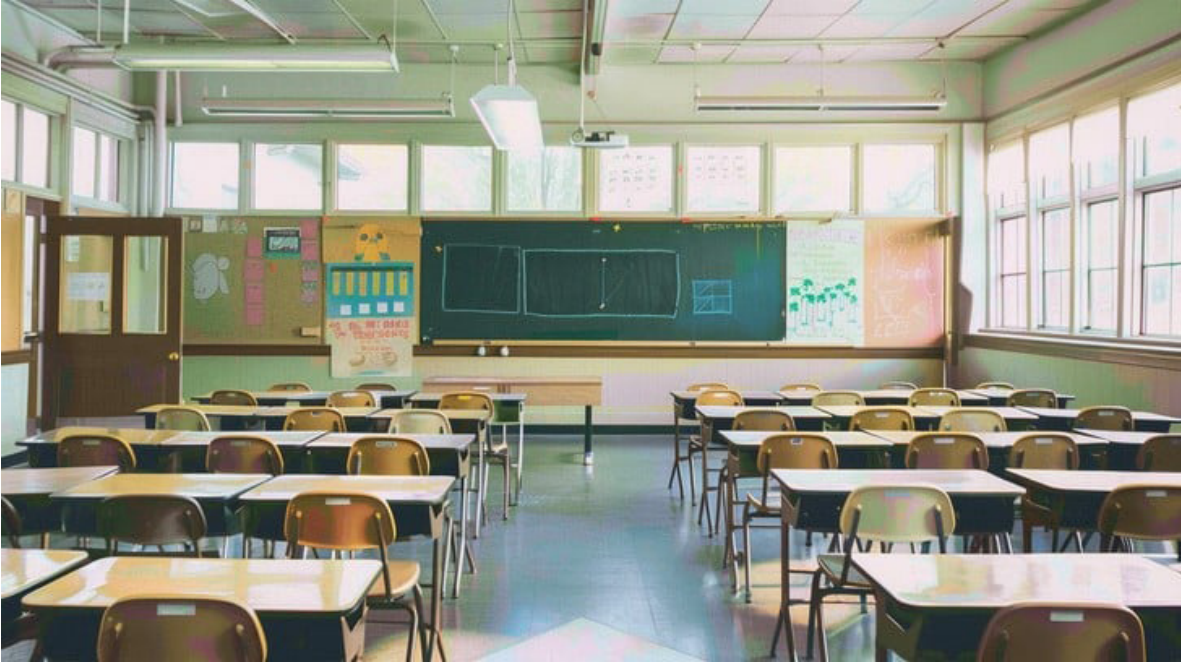
A child might help sort fruit, tend to livestock, or cover for a parent working long hours. A daughter may stay home to care for younger siblings, while a son might take seasonal work to support the family.

Each day missed may seem small at the time, but over months, those absences pile up into a gap that becomes hard to recover.

Some students do not come from difficult homes. Their struggle begins in their company.

Teenage life brings confusion, stress, and a search for belonging. A group that treats school as an inconvenience can shape a student's choices. Wandering markets, skipping classes, or scrolling through phones in parks look harmless. These habits form a loop that keeps children at the edge of school life instead of at its center.

Parents and teachers often see



Kashmir classrooms can turn this around. The valley has a long tradition of valuing learning. Families invest in tutors, celebrate exam results, and take pride in educated children. Low attendance disrupts this culture from within. Fixing it means giving every child a school that feels safe, meaningful, and human. And that type of school keeps its seats full.

the signs late.

A teenager needs guidance, attention, and a sense of purpose. Without these, school feels far away from their world.

The classroom itself can also

push students out. NEP 2020 links low attendance with low-quality teaching and irrelevant content. Kashmiri children know this reality well.

A room with broken windows, a toilet without water, or a teacher who teaches with fear instead of trust weakens the bond between a child and the school.

A lurking cane, a harsh tone, or a lesson delivered without care tells the child they do not belong here. Learning, in such spaces, becomes a burden.

Girls face an added layer of concern.

In several far-flung areas, schools run without a single female teacher. Parents hesitate to send their daughters across long distances when they feel the environment is unsafe or insensitive.

This hesitation grows in hilly hamlets where most students are girls and support systems are thin.

A simple step, posting a trained female teacher, can change the trajectory of dozens of lives.

Kashmir cannot ignore this when it aspires to build an educated generation of daughters.

Child psychology plays a crucial role in all of this.

A teacher who understands a child's fears, hopes, and limits can change attendance more effectively than any rule. The American psychologist B.F. Skinner once said, “Give me a child, and I will shape him into anything.”

This line carries weight in classrooms where teachers engage with children as individuals instead of rows of roll numbers.

A trained teacher plans lessons that feel reachable. He makes space for questions, and sees the child before the syllabus. Attendance follows naturally.

In some communities of Jammu and Kashmir, attendance dips every summer for cultural reasons as well.

Gujjar and Bakerwal families move to high meadows, taking

their herds along. Children join the migration because the animals need care. They miss weeks of schooling during the most active academic months. This is a long-rooted tradition.

Any solution must respect their way of life while offering flexible learning support.

Addressing low attendance requires steady work. Parents must hear clearly why every missed day matters. Monthly parent-teacher meetings, already part of the school system, offer a space for these conversations.

Teachers can go further by speaking to families about a child's progress with honesty and warmth. A child shows up for a teacher who sees them, remembers their struggles, and checks on them when they fall behind.

Communication inside the school also matters. A friendly teacher-student relationship encourages children to talk about what holds them back: fear of a subject, bullying, family pressure, or simple confusion.

Schools can set up complaint corners where students drop notes when they cannot speak openly. A committee of teachers, students, and parents can review these concerns and close the loop in a fair way.

When children feel heard, attendance rises on its own.

Kashmir classrooms can turn this around. The valley has a long tradition of valuing learning. Families invest in tutors, celebrate exam results, and take pride in educated children.

Low attendance disrupts this culture from within.

Fixing it means giving every child a school that feels safe, meaningful, and human.

And that type of school keeps its seats full.

The author is a teacher by profession and can be reached at darbashir1234321@gmail.com.



Letter to Editor

The Pee Problem Kashmir Treats as Normal

Clean public washrooms are hard to find in the valley, and that may be why many people choose to wait a little longer. Students sit through classes in discomfort. Workers in orchards and shops delay restroom breaks. Travellers hold it in during traffic jams and long queues. The habit looks harmless, though the body responds differently.

The bladder only stores urine for a short time. When people ignore the urge again and again, the system strains. Doctors across Kashmir see rising cases of urinary tract infections, bladder issues, and kidney complications. Young women, office goers, students, and elderly men with prostate problems form the largest group of patients. Many say the trouble began because they delayed urinating during work hours or travel.

A full bladder is a warm space. Urine that sits too long gives bacteria more time to grow. This is why urinary infections are common among

women, though men face similar risks. A single infection can disturb daily life through fever and burning sensations. Repeated infections force people to skip work or college and make frequent hospital visits.

These patterns play out in clinics across Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla, Sopore, and Kupwara.

The bladder is a strong muscle that works well when treated with care. Stretching it beyond capacity weakens it over time. People who hold urine often eventually struggle to empty the bladder fully. They experience frequent urges, leakage, or discomfort even after using the bathroom. It affects confidence, sleep, and routine activities.

The kidneys, which work silently to remove waste from the blood, depend on a healthy bladder. When the bladder stays too full, pressure can push urine back toward the kidneys. This can harm kidney tissue. Kashmir already sees a high burden of kidney stones and other renal diseases. Holding urine is one of the

small but important factors behind this rise.

Pain is another clear sign. People working long shifts in fields, offices, or shops often report lower abdominal cramps or back pain. Many do not link this pain to a full bladder. The strain builds slowly and appears as aches that come and go. These become part of daily life until a doctor points out the root cause.

Older men in Kashmir deal with an added challenge. Prostate enlargement is common after a certain age. Delaying urination puts more pressure on the bladder and reduces the flow. Many elderly men speak of discomfort during winter months or during long prayers when they try to wait longer.

A simple habit can prevent these problems. Empty the bladder every three to four hours or whenever the urge appears. Drink enough water through the day. Reduce caffeine and fizzy drinks. Strengthen pelvic muscles through basic exercises. These steps may look small, though

they protect long-term health and improve comfort.

Many men ask whether sitting or standing is better for urination. Young and healthy men can choose either position. Men with weak flow or prostate issues benefit from sitting because it helps the bladder empty completely. Women empty the bladder best in a sitting or squatting position.

Bladder health rarely finds space in our public conversations. People talk about blood pressure, sugar, diet, and fitness. Urinary health stays unnoticed, even though it affects daily comfort and long-term well-being.

A full bladder is a message from the body. Responding on time is a simple act of care that protects health, improves focus, and strengthens quality of life.

Sincerely,

Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad Wani
iftikhar.ahmad9@yahoo.com

Winter on the Highway

Snow, monkeys, and a rooftop scare made this Srinagar-to-Jammu journey unforgettable.

Syed Majid Gilani

January light filtered weakly through the frost as we packed our Alto 800 for the journey to Jammu.

My wife suggested we drive ourselves, promising comfort I was not entirely sure we would find.

Four passengers, two children, and my mother made the car feel smaller than it was.

Arshad, six, bounced with excitement, asking about monkeys. Sarah followed, quieter, her wide eyes fixed on the road ahead.

Their laughter turned the cramped cabin into a warm space, a shield against the chill outside.

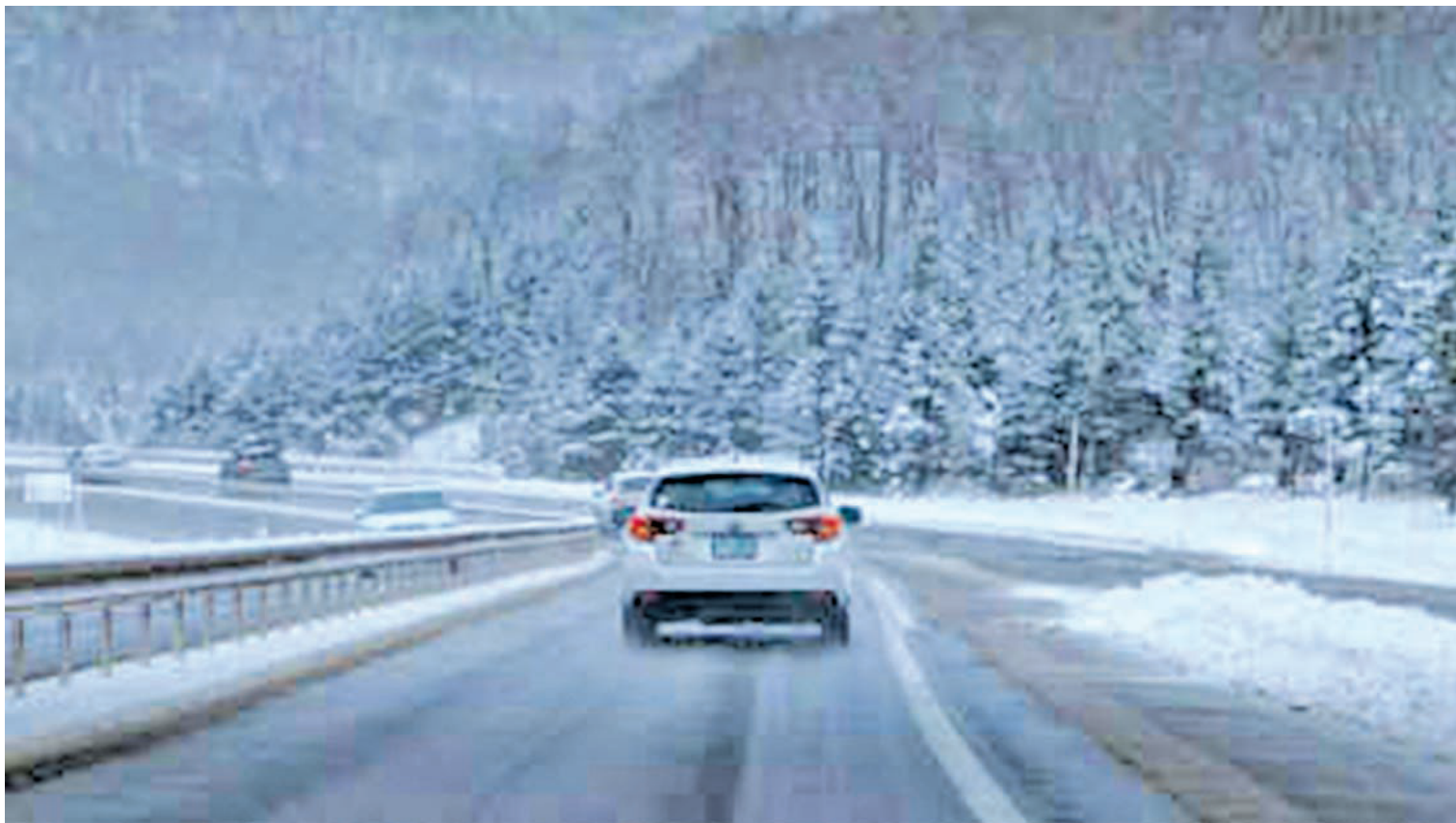
The Srinagar-Jammu highway is both beauty and test. Mountains lean over gorges, hairpin turns demand attention, and winter fog can steal visibility without warning.

I had never driven this stretch. The thought pressed on me, small and insistent. Sarah sensed it and asked if we would reach safely.

I held her hand and said, "Inshallah, beta, we will," feeling both the weight and the fragility of that promise.

By seven, the car was loaded. The rooftop carrier sagged under blankets, clothes, and our small comforts, tied tightly with ropes I had checked twice. Inside, a flask of steaming noon chai offered warmth. I had inspected brakes, tires, and oil. Everything seemed ready, but the load above me whispered caution.

We passed the Lower Munda



Check Post. Colleagues waved, asking about our trip. I pointed out the office where I had worked, the government quarters where I had stayed briefly. Memories hovered like smoke, vanishing as the car moved forward.

The Jawahar Tunnel swallowed

us and spat us out into Jammu province, sunlight falling on the hills in bright patches.

At Ramban, we stopped on a strip of roadside greenery. We unrolled our parathas and sipped chai from our kettle. Arshad and Sarah chased monkeys, tossing biscuits that vanished in quick, clever hands.

Every waterfall begged for a photograph. The children laughed with abandon. The mountains rose around us, solid and indifferent, reminding me how small and transient our presence felt.

Near Nashri, the calm broke.

"Papa... Papa! Our rooftop... it's

fallen!" Arshad screamed.

My heart stopped. I braked, leaped out, and saw the carrier lying sideways across the highway. Clothes and blankets remained tied, but the metal frame had failed.

A misstep, a wobble, and a second too late could have thrown everything into the ravine.

A group of Kashmiri truck drivers, eating lunch nearby, rushed over to help. They lifted the carrier, tightened the bolts, and rearranged the luggage. One suggested keeping some bags inside and tying the rest firmly on top.

With steady hands and calm voices,

they offered a kindness that felt almost like a small miracle.

The smallest hero was Arshad. "Papa, I saw it wobble!"

His warning saved us. In his voice, alertness mingled with innocence. That moment revealed how a child's clear eye can guard a family, and how calm attention carries more weight than fear.

We continued slowly. Udhampur offered paneer pakoras and tea, and the children recovered their laughter.

By mid-afternoon, Jammu unfolded before us. Sunlight warmed our faces. Bazaars and streets buzzed with life. Arshad spotted

more monkeys. Sarah insisted on photographs at every corner. Every moment became memory, a small miracle stitched into the ordinary.

That winter journey stays with me. The mountains thrilled us, the tea kept us warm, and the near disaster tested our courage. Strangers stepped in to help, and their kind-



EVERY FAMILY TRIP HAS HIDDEN CHALLENGES, AND PAYING ATTENTION, staying alert, and a little luck can turn them into stories worth sharing. I remember the fear, the relief, and the joy as part of that road from Srinagar to Jammu.

ness made the day unforgettable.

Every family trip has hidden challenges, and paying attention, staying alert, and a little luck can turn them into stories worth sharing.

I remember the fear, the relief, and the joy as part of that road from Srinagar to Jammu.

— The author is a government officer and storyteller from Kashmir. He can be reached at syedmajid6676@gmail.com



THAT WINTER JOURNEY STAYS WITH ME. The mountains thrilled us, the tea kept us warm, and the near disaster tested our courage. Strangers stepped in to help, and their kindness made the day unforgettable.

Hope in the Hills

From just five girls to dozens, one educator changed attitudes and built a thriving school in South Kashmir.



Dr. Mushtaq Rather

POSHNARI, Anantnag — High on a hill in South Kashmir's Shangus region, the government middle school here buzzes with a life that once seemed impossible.

In 2009, only five girls attended classes here. Drop-outs were common. Families, struggling with poverty and illiteracy, often saw school as an optional burden.

Riyaz Ahmad Sheikh arrived that year.

A young teacher with resolve, he began walking through homes, talking to parents, and listening.

He asked why children, especially girls, were missing school.

Slowly, he built trust. And slowly, families began to see that education could matter.

Today, the school has 67 girls enrolled.

Riyaz's efforts have shifted the village's attitude toward learning.

The young educator's approach extends beyond textbooks. He treats a school as a shared project, one that de-

RIYAZ AHMAD SHEIKH'S WORK HAS SHOWN THAT A SCHOOL CAN BE A HUB OF COMMUNITY, creativity, and character-building. He has proved that even in a remote village, one teacher can open doors to new possibilities, inspire young dreams, and change the course of many futures.

pends on teachers, parents, administrators, and local authorities.

He forged links with the Chief Education Office, Rural Development, Tourism, Public Health Engineering, and

the Deputy Commissioner's office to bring resources.

Former Deputy Commissioner K.K. Sidha installed projectors, a public address system, and digital teaching aids. The current DC, Dr. Syed Fakhruddin Hamid, added smart TVs, new pavements, and upgraded classrooms.

Riyaz's work balances grassroots outreach with institutional support, a rare combination in government schools.

In 2023, he received the National Teacher Award from President Droupadi Murmu and spoke in New Delhi with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan about the school's transformation.

Walking through the campus, it is clear why the school feels different.

Walls and floors are alive with lessons. Numbers, letters, science diagrams, and cultural motifs are painted across every surface, a concept known as Building as a Learning Aid.

Children learn as they move through the school, absorbing lessons without

sitting in a traditional classroom.

The open library invites students to browse and read. Shelves carry literature, science books, and storytelling guides.

A corner dedicated to science lets students explore experiments and ideas on their own. In the mathematics corner, children handle three-dimensional models and charts, turning abstract numbers into playful puzzles.

Two other spaces reflect Riyaz's holistic approach.

The Heritage Corner showcases local crafts and traditions, giving students a sense of identity. The Hygiene Corner teaches self-care, stocked with soap, toothpaste, and lotions.

A small Honesty Box reinforces integrity: students deposit items that do not belong to them, practicing honesty daily.

The young Kashmiri teacher's work offers a model for rural education in India. The school has become a place where children learn skills, values, and self-respect. But challenges remain.

Rising enrollment demands additional classrooms, more teachers, and modern learning tools. The educator's vision risks being constrained by resources.

The success of PM Shri Government Middle School Poshnari depends on keeping its infrastructure strong and up to date.

So far, Riyaz Ahmad Sheikh's work has shown that a school can be a hub of community, creativity, and character-building.

He has proved that even in a remote village, one teacher can open doors to new possibilities, inspire young dreams, and change the course of many futures.

— The author is an educator and columnist based in Mattan, Anantnag.

Smart Tech Arrives

Hospitals, farms, and industries in Jammu & Kashmir are adopting AI and robotics to improve efficiency and outcomes.



Ansar Hussain

Faizan Mohammad leans over a screen in his Srinagar office, watching sensors track water quality in trout farms while another monitor logs occupancy and service metrics for a local hotel.

This is not a glimpse of some distant future, but a hands-on example of how technology can tackle real problems today.

Faizan is pushing AI and robotics into sectors that have long faced pressure from rising demand, limited resources, and challenging terrain. Kashmir's hospitals provide a clear example.

SKIMS, SMHS, and district hospitals struggle with increasing patient loads. Doctors and nurses face long hours, repeated tasks, and high-stakes decisions.

Faizan's approach introduces robotic assistants, AI-driven triage systems, and automated monitoring tools. These systems help staff focus on critical decisions, reduce errors, and cut waiting times for patients who often travel for hours to reach care.

Rehabilitation and elderly support are also evolving. Robotic exoskeletons and AI-assisted therapy devices provide customized therapy for stroke survivors and trauma patients.



WITH HOSPITALS, FARMS, HOTELS, AND FACTORIES ALREADY SEEING RESULTS, Faizan Mohammad is proving that meaningful progress can begin with solutions made for the people who live here.

Intelligent monitoring systems at home give elderly residents independence while ensuring safety. Agriculture, a pillar of Kashmir's economy, is adapting fast.

Drones survey crops, soil sensors provide real-time insights, and automated irrigation systems reduce waste.

Saffron growers, trout farmers, and orchard owners now use data to make precise decisions, limiting losses and improving productivity in a region where weather and terrain can challenge traditional

practices. Tourism and hospitality are seeing immediate benefits.

AI-powered booking engines, automated concierge systems, and service robots help hotels operate more efficiently during peak seasons. Guests receive faster, more personalized service while staff can focus on meaningful interactions.

Industry and infrastructure are also changing. AI-guided production lines, predictive maintenance, and intelligent safety systems reduce downtime and improve output.

Local businesses operate with greater efficiency and safety, making them more competitive in a fast-moving economy.

Faizan's work has earned recognition from political and administrative circles. But for him, recognition matters less than impact.

"Technology works best when it responds to local needs," he says. "Kashmir has talent and resilience. AI and robotics can strengthen both."

With hospitals, farms, hotels, and factories already seeing results, Faizan Mohammad is proving that meaningful progress can begin with solutions made for the people who live here.

— The author is a Multimedia Journalist at Kashmir Observer.

Iran Suspends Visa-free Entry For Indians; Here's Why

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Iran has suspended visa-free entry for Indian nationals starting November 22, 2025, after a spike in human trafficking, fake job rackets and kidnapping incidents involving Indians who were lured to the country under the guise of employment or onward travel to third nations. The move marks a major rollback of a facility Iran had introduced in February 2024 to boost tourism.

The decision comes amid mounting concerns from both Tehran and New Delhi over organised criminal networks mis-using the visa waiver to traffic Indians—many of whom ended up abducted for ransom.

What triggered the suspension According to both the Iranian



Embassy in New Delhi and India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), dozens of Indian nationals were duped by un-authorised agents who prom-ised lucrative jobs or assured them that Iran would merely be a "transit point" en route to Europe, Australia or Central Asia. Instead, many victims were kidnapped by trafficking syn-dicates and held in illegal

detention, and families were asked to pay ransom, sometimes running into millions of rupees. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal recently confirmed that several Indians were "lured on false promises" and then "kid-napped upon arrival in Iran", prompting urgent diplomatic interventions. Iran's formal announcement The Iranian Embassy, in an

official post on X, said:

"The one-way tourist visa cancellation regulations for Indian nationals have been sus-pended as of 22nd November 2025. From this date, Indian na-tionals with ordinary passports will be required to obtain a visa to enter or transit through Iran."

The suspension covers both entry and transit, meaning trav-ellers can no longer even fly via Tehran without a valid visa.

India issues a strong advisory Following the announcement, the Indian government issued a detailed travel advisory, warn-ing citizens against:

agents offering visa-free travel to Iran, job offers without ver-ified contracts, and promises of onward transit to third countries through Iranian airports.

The MEA said its attention had been drawn to multiple recent

kidnappings, adding that some families were forced to pay large ransoms to secure the release of their relatives.

The advisory stressed that Iran's visa-free access was only meant for tourism, restrict-ed to 15 days once every six months, and never permitted employment.

Airlines told to tighten checks Airlines operating flights to Iran have now been instructed to strictly verify visa compliance before boarding. Passengers who fail to show valid visas risk being denied boarding, detention upon arrival, or immediate deportation at their own expense.

Recent cases spark bilateral concern

A series of high-profile traf-ficking cases, particularly in-volving youth from Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh, set

off alarm bells for authorities. In one instance, three Indian youths attempting an illegal route toward Australia were kid-napped soon after reaching Iran. They were rescued only after urgent diplomatic intervention.

Officials say the trafficking networks operate through a chain of illegal agents in India, middlemen in the Gulf, and criminal syndicates inside Iran.

Tourism hopes derailed Iran introduced the visa waiver in 2024 to encourage Indian tourists to visit historic destinations such as Isfahan, Shiraz, Qom and Mashhad, and to attract budget travellers using the country as a transit hub for Central Asia.

But the facility's misuse for il-legal migration and trafficking forced authorities to shut it down. What travellers need to know

now Effective November 22, 2025: Visa-free entry for Indians stands suspended.

A valid visa is mandatory for both entry and transit. Employment-related trav-el must undergo stringent verification.

Travellers must avoid unau-thorised or unregistered recruit-ment agents.

The MEA concluded with a firm warning:

"All Indian nationals intend-ing to visit Iran are strongly advised to remain vigilant and avoid agents offering visa-free travel or onward transit to third countries via Iran."

With the suspension in place, authorities on both sides hope to curb trafficking networks and prevent further exploitation of Indian citizens abroad.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Doctor, Wife

device, and additional digital and documen-tary evidence and literature."

"Interestingly, Dr. Umer Farooq, who is a government employee, was found indulging in online unlawful activities, misusing his official position and social legitimacy to engage in be-havior detrimental to public order and national security. Subsequently, during the course of the investigation, it has also emerged that the detained individuals were misusing their po-sitions and social standing to mask unlawful activities," the spokesman said, adding, "The female suspect, Shahzada Akhtar, in particular, is alleged to have been involved in radicalizing local women through curated online and of-fline engagements, pushing divisive narratives, and influencing vulnerable groups under the pretext of community interaction.

Her affiliation with banned terrorist organi-zation 'Dukhtaran-e-Milat', is currently under investigation. This dimension of the case high-lights a concerning trend of the exploitation of social roles and professional facades to ad-vance disruptive agendas."

"All recovered devices are undergoing de-tailed forensic analysis, which is expected to unravel a broader digital network linked to organized propaganda efforts. Early leads in-dicate the possibility of a wider ecosystem of collaborators and sympathizers, whose activi-ties were aimed at amplifying extremist con-tent and manipulating public perception," he added.

The spokesman said; "Searches were con-ducted on the warrants issued by the Hon'ble Designated Court under the NIA Act, Srinagar, in connection with FIR No. 05/2025 under Sections 196, 152, 351(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 13 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Police Station CIK."

"These searches are part of an ongoing crack-down against social media abusers operating in connivance with handlers across the border, who have been deliberately engaged in fur-thering terrorist, secessionist, and separatist agendas. By leveraging their professional status and societal standing, the involved individuals were allegedly using social media platforms to spread disinformation, radicalize youth, in-cite violence and disturb public order, posing a serious threat to the peace and sovereignty of the Union of India," he said, adding, "This operation sends a clear and unambiguous mes-sage: No individual, irrespective of position or profession, will be allowed to weaponize social or digital influence to aid terrorism or disturb public order."

"The CIK remains resolute in its mission to dismantle the terror ecosystem, including its operators, facilitators, sympathizers, promot-ers, and propagators. The crackdown contin-ues, and more actions are expected as the in-vestigation unfolds," the spokesman said.

Jaasir Bilal Sent

an "active co-conspirator" of suicide bomber Umar Nabi.

Mediapersons were barred from entering the court premises, which virtually turned the proceedings "in camera".

A heavy deployment of police and the Rapid Action Force was made in the court premises. On standby were several personnel in anti-riot gear.

A resident of Qazigund in Anantnag, Jasir was arrested in Srinagar on Monday for al-legedly providing technical support for carrying out terror attacks by modifying drones and at-tempting to make rockets ahead of the bomb blast, the agency said in a statement.

In a statement on Monday, the NIA termed Wani an active co-conspirator behind the at-tack, who worked closely with the terrorist, Umar un Nabi, to plan the "terror carnage."

On Monday, the court remanded Amir Rashid Ali, a key accused in the case, to NIA custody for 10 days.

The agency had told the court that Amir al-legedly arranged a safe house and provided lo-gistical support to Nabi.

Jammu Hospitals

belonging to staff, students and doctors. An official said that the lockers were checked as part of a drill amid tight security arrange-ments. "Keys were sought from the holders. Lockers will be checked and re-allotted," the official added.

Last week authorities conducted a locker checking exercise at the Government Medical College and SMHS Hospital, Srinagar, to iden-tify and label the personal lockers. The circular to conduct the checking was issued by the Administrator, Associated Hospitals, Srinagar, after an AK rifle was recovered from the locker of a doctor in Anantnag.

Pertinently, a few doctors were found involved in a major terror module and the

subsequent car blast near the Red Fort in Delhi on November 10, and the recovery of arms and ammunition, including an AK rifle, from the locker of a doctor at GMC Anantnag on November 8.

Notably, the investigations and the DNA test had revealed that a doctor from South Kashmir's Pulwama district Dr Umar Mohammad carried out a suicide attack near Red Fort on November 10 by blowing off the i20. In the blast more than ten people were killed.

A few days before the blast, J&K, Haryana and UP Police had recovered a major cache of explosives, nearly 2,900 kg during a raid in Faridabad. Initially two Kashmiri-origin doc-tors were detained from Al Falah University in connection with that operation. "Dr Umar was associated with those arrested and may have gone ahead with the attack fearing imminent arrest," an official had said.

On November 14, the National Medical Commission (NMC) removed four doctors from the Indian Medical Register (IMR) and National Medical Register (NMR) with immediate effect following their involvement in a case registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The doctors removed includes Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad (Reg. No. 14680/2017), Dr. Adeel Ahmad Rather (Reg. No. 15892/2019), Dr. Muzamil Shakeel (Reg. No. 15130/2018), and Dr. Shaheen Saeed (Reg. No. 45961/2022).

The Jammu & Kashmir Medical Council had already cancelled the registrations of Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Rather, and Dr. Shakeel based on evidence shared by investigating agencies.

Dr. Saeed, registered with the Uttar Pradesh Medical Council, was removed through a sepa-rate NMC order. The removal followed FIR No. 162/2025, lodged at Nowgam Police Station in Srinagar on October 19, under multiple sec-tions of the UAPA, including provisions relat-ing to unlawful activities, terrorist acts, raising funds, recruitment, and harbouring.

The NMC said the conduct of the doctors was "prima facie inconsistent with the standards of ethical propriety, integrity and public trust" required under the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002.

The order states that the four individuals "shall cease to practice medicine or hold any medical appointment till further orders". All State Medical Councils have been instructed to enforce the directive.

Cloudflare Outage

site showed, identifying the problem as a "global network issue" causing widespread API and dashboard failures.

Outage tracking website Downdetector saw a massive spike in reports, logging over 10,000 complaints for various service disruptions before the site itself struggled to load – iron-ically, also becoming a victim of the Cloudflare outage.

As screens went blank, users flocked to the few surviving platforms, such as Reddit and Threads, to vent their frustration and crack jokes about the "internet meltdown".

"My entire staff portal and sites are using Cloudflare, so everything is down," a netizen said, while another took a dig at how the out-age happened just after maintenance.

"Cloudflare being down, and almost all of my most visited websites and mobile banking also being down with them, means that it's prob-ably not smart for these companies to put all of their cybersecurity eggs in one basket," an-other user quipped.

Cloudflare CTO Dane Knecht took to social media to address the widespread outage that disrupted services across the internet.

Cloudflare, which describes itself as "one of the world's largest networks", acknowledged the disruption and issued an apology.

Knecht said, "I won't mince words: earlier today we failed our customers and the broader Internet when a problem in @Cloudflare net-work impacted large amounts of traffic that rely on us. The sites, businesses, and organiza-tions that rely on Cloudflare depend on us be-ing available and I apologize for the impact that we caused." (With inputs from PTI)

No Whitewashing

serious in the years that have passed," he said.

"It is imperative that the world displays zero tolerance towards terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. There can be no justification, no looking away and no whitewashing," the EAM said.

Jaishnkar also emphasised on the prevailing economic situation globally and the impor-tance of fostering greater cultural ties in the influential bloc.

"We assess the global economic situation to be particularly uncertain and volatile currently.

Supply side risks have been aggravated by de-mand side complexities. There is consequently an urgent requirement to de-risk and diversify. This is best done by as many of us, forging the widest possible economic links," he said.

For that to happen, it is essential that this process be "fair, transparent and equitable," the EAM said.

"India's endeavours to conclude free trade agreements with many of us here are relevant," Jaishankar said.

And, India's long-standing ties with SCO members makes it particularly pertinent, he added.

"As a civilisational state, India strongly believes that people-to-people exchanges lie at the core of any genuine relationship. Facilitating greater interaction between our in-tellectuals, artists, sports people, and cultural icons will pave the way for greater understand-ing across the SCO," the external affairs minis-ter said.

He said there is a growing record of co-laborative activities with regard to cultural exchanges.

The exposition of sacred Buddhist relics in many of the countries which are SCO members is a "notable example," he said.

India is also willing to extend its consid-erable experience of heritage conservation in Southeast Asia to Central Asia, Jaishankar said.

The theme of the session covered trade, eco-nomic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation. Emphasising on humanitarian cooperation, the EAM also said this is important in an "era of climate change, pandemics and conflicts".

EAM Meets Putin

top aides in the Indian capital.

In Moscow, Jaishankar called on President Putin along with other heads of delegation at-tending the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Heads of State Council meeting. The in-teraction, held at the Kremlin, included Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Iranian Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref, and the prime ministers of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and SCO Secretary General Nurlan Yermekbayev were also present.

"Called on President Putin along with other Heads of SCO Delegations this afternoon," Jaishankar posted on social media, as he con-tinued a series of bilateral and multilateral en-gagements on the sidelines of the summit.

Jaishankar also held detailed talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Monday as both sides prepare for the 23rd India-Russia annual summit. President Putin is expected to visit India around December 5 for wide-ranging discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The External Affairs Minister additionally met Mongolia's Prime Minister Gombojavyn Zandanshatar and Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, discussing regional de-velopments and bilateral cooperation.

Meanwhile in New Delhi, Prime Minister Modi met Nikolai Patrushev, Chairman of the Maritime Board of the Russian Federation and a close aide to President Putin. Their talks fo-cused on deepening maritime cooperation, with discussions covering connectivity, ship-building, skill development and opportunities in the blue economy.

Modi conveyed his warm greetings to President Putin and reaffirmed India's readi-ness to host him next month, underscoring the continuity and strength of the India-Russia strategic partnership.

No Major Snowfall

in Jammu and Kashmir till December 5th.

Kashmir experienced a further drop in night temperatures on Tuesday, with Pahalgam emerging as the coldest location in the Union Territory at minus 2.8 degrees Celsius. According to the India Meteorological Department, the temperature in the south Kashmir resort settled 0.7 degrees below normal, marking the sharp-est dip of the season so far.

Kupwara and Srinagar also recorded sub-zero temperatures, with both stations reg-istering lows of minus 1.8 degrees Celsius. Meteorologists said the readings reflect a sig-nificant departure from normal night tempera-tures for this time of the year.

Gulmarg reported a minimum of 2.0 degrees, slightly above the usual range but still within cold weather conditions prevailing across the region.

Daytime temperatures, however, remained comparatively milder. Srinagar recorded a maximum of 16.3 degrees, marginally above normal, while Kupwara reached 18.0 degrees, nearly three degrees higher than average for November.

Gulmarg logged the lowest daytime

maximum in the Valley at 12.4 degrees. Kashmir experienced a further drop in night tempera-tures on Tuesday, with Pahalgam emerging as the coldest location in the Union Territory at minus 2.8 degrees Celsius. According to the India Meteorological Department, the tempera-ture in the south Kashmir resort settled 0.7 degrees below normal, marking the sharpest dip of the season so far.

Don't View Every

Last week, Omar said that those behind the Delhi blast should be given the strictest punishment, but emphasised that the entire population of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be branded as sympathisers of terrorism.

A blast in an explosives-laden car, which was being driven by Dr Umar Nabi, who hailed from south Kashmir's Pulwama, near the Red Fort in Delhi killed 15 people and injured several others on November 10.

Omar said while those involved in the mod-ule, especially in the Delhi blast, be arrested and given stringent punishment, "innocent people, who have no connection with it and have always raised their voice against violence, should not be brought into this ambit".

The chief minister expressed hope that the Centre will pay heed to what he said.

Referring to the Nowgam blast, the CM said it is unfortunate that many people lost their precious lives and several others were injured.

"The investigations are on to ascertain the cause and why it happened. I hope people will get answers, because it should not happen. Such a huge quantity of explosives was brought here, in which conditions was it transported and stored, and how was it being dealt with, we will gradually get answers to all these ques-tions, but I express my sympathies and condo-lences to all those families who lost their kin," he said.

Omar said he is grateful to the hospital for reaching out to the injured immediately after the blast.

"They did not wait for a phone call... saw the blast through their window, took out their am-bulances, and reached the spot before anyone else, and took the injured from there. Many of the injured are in their hospital, four are in ICU, I hope all of them get well and go home," he added.

Asked about providing compensation to the families of the victims, the chief minister sad the government has already announced ex-gratia from the CM's relief fund.

"For the structural damage, I have talked to the MLAs, a case is being prepared and whatev-er we can give according to the procedure, we will, and the rest, because the blast took place in the police station, it is hoped that these house owners should get relief from the funds available with the Home Department and with the LG," he said.

Asked if the government will provide a job to the family of the tailor, Mohammad Shafi Parray, who lost his life in the blast, Omar said his kin should get the job.

"There used to be SRO (Statutory Rules and Orders) for such cases, now its name has been changed, but the scheme is the same. A govern-ment job is provided as compensation to the families of those killed in such incidents. I will tell the government officers to process the case for the tailor's family and as soon as it comes to us, we will approve it," the CM added.

Nine people -- five personnel from the police department and four civilians -- were killed, and 32 others sustained injuries in an acciden-tal blast in Nowgam police station.

During his visit to the hospital, the Chief Minister reviewed the medical condition of the injured and interacted with the doctors and attendants.

Calling for the best possible treatment, he said, "Every injured individual must receive the utmost care. Their wellbeing is our immediate priority."

Earlier, Omar visited the families of Aijaz Afzal Mir at HMT Zainakote, Mohammad Amin Mir at Bemina, and Showkat Ahmad Bhat at Qamarwari ' all members of FSL team, Suhail Ahmad Rather at Natipora (revenue depart-ment chowkidar), and Mohammad Shafi Paray at Wanabal (tailor).

The CM expressed his deep sorrow over the irreparable loss and prayed for the departed souls to rest in peace in heaven. He also prayed for strength and forbearance for the families to bear the loss.

Expressing profound grief, the CM said the tragic incident has taken away dedicated indi-viduals who were serving the people with sin-cerity and courage.

"Their loss is a loss for all of Jammu and Kashmir," Omar said.

He assured the families that the Government stands firmly with them, adding, "We will en-sure every possible support to the bereaved

families in this hour of unimaginable pain."

He assured the families of assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Govt Warns

encourage or incite violence, disturb public order, and pose risks to national security. It directed all channels to exercise the "highest level of discretion and sensitivity" while cover-ing sensitive incidents.

It cited sections of the Cable Television Network Rules which state that no programme should contain anything obscene, defamatory, deliberately false, or suggestive innuendos and half-truths; be likely to encourage or incite violence, contain anything against the main-tenance of law and order, or promote anti-national attitudes; or contain anything that affects the integrity of the nation.

The Ministry reiterated that all channels must avoid airing visuals that could, directly or indirectly, facilitate or encourage unlawful activities.

HC Reserves Order

petition even before it was filed before the court.

Earlier, T. M. Shamsi, Deputy Solicitor General of India (DSGI), argued that Mehbooba has no locus standi as she was not an aggrieved per-son and none of her rights have been violated. Moreover, he submitted that she represents a political party and has filed the petition as rep-resentative of a political party to secure politi-cal benefits. He submitted that the petition has not been filed with a bonafide public interest but with a political interest which is depreci-ated by Apex Court as well as high courts.

Counsel representing Home Department of JK also submitted that Mehbooba being is a po-litical leader has filed the plea for "votes". The counsel said that she has filed the plea with mala fide motives.

In her plea, Mehbooba, who was present in court, says that "being a political activist and a former Chief Minister, a lot of family members of undertrials have been requesting to take up the issue with the Government."

"We urged the government on the issue of return of the undertrial prisoners who are lodged in jails outside J&K be brought to jails in J&K, but no action has been taken by the gov-ernment as a result of which, the petitioner, in public interest has preferred the present peti-tion," the petition said.

"I humbly seek immediate intervention of this Hon'ble Court by writ of Mandamus, seeking immediate repatriation and direct re-spondents to transfer forthwith all undertrial prisoners belonging to J&K who are presently lodged in prisons outside the Union Territory to the jails within J&K," she stated.

Mehbooba said the court should also be in-formed by the jail authorities about written reasons demonstrating "unavoidable, com-pelling necessity, to keep them outside the jails. In such exceptional cases, she said, there should be quarterly judicial review.

Mehbooba has urged the court to ensure family and counsel access protocol by "fram-ing and enforcing an access protocol ensuring minimum weekly family interviews in person, unrestricted privileged lawyer-client inter-views subject to reasonable regulations, and no denial on cost/escort pretexts".

She pleaded that the Legal Services Authorities "should monitor compliance and file quarterly reports".

The petition also seeks physical production of repatriated under-trials and fixing time-lines for evidence recording and preventing adjournments attributable to custody logistics.

Man Gets 6-Yr Jail

the encounter site, and weapons were alleg-edly recovered from his possession.

The investigation was led by DySP Mohd Ashrif Lissery, who was then posted as DySP Operations Imam Sahab and is currently serv-ing as SDPO Magam. The court recorded appre-ciation for both the investigating team and the prosecution, noting that the evidence placed on record withstood judicial scrutiny.

Special Judge Parvaiz Iqbal, while delivering the verdict, said the growing threat of militan-cy required a firm judicial approach, without compromising constitutional safeguards or the accused's right to a fair trial.

The court concluded that the prosecu-tion proved all charges beyond reasonable doubt, establishing Towseef's involvement in attempted murder, unlawful possession of arms, committing and conspiring to commit a militant act, and being a member of a banned organisation.

The verdict was pronounced in open court in the virtual presence of the accused, prosecu-tion and defence counsel. A free copy of the judgment was provided to the convict.

Unvented Gas Heaters Can Be Deadly, Doctors Warn

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Health professionals in Kashmir have issued a strong advisory against the use of unvented gas heaters in closed and poorly ventilated rooms, cautioning that such devices can lead to severe health complications and even death due to carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Speaking to KNO, Dr Zahoor Wani, a senior doctor at the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHKS), said that unvented heaters burn fuel inside the room without a chimney or outlet for harmful gases. This results in the gradual accumulation of toxic substances—particularly carbon monoxide.

“Unvented gas heaters release combustion byproducts directly into the room. When

carbon monoxide builds up beyond a certain level, individuals are at high risk of CO poisoning, especially while sleeping,” he explained. He stressed that the safest solution is to avoid these heaters altogether and opt for vented models that channel emissions outside the home.

Dr Wani warned that if residents continue using unvented heaters, they must avoid operating them in bedrooms, bathrooms, or any confined area. “Such heaters should only be used in spaces with sufficient airflow. Using them at night in closed rooms is extremely dangerous,” he said.

The doctor described carbon monoxide as particularly dangerous because it gives no warning signs. “You cannot smell it, see it, or taste it. It renders a person helpless without them realising it,” he said. “Most vic-



tims lose consciousness quietly during sleep, making it especially deadly.”

He noted that children, el-

UNVENTED GAS HEATERS RELEASE COMBUSTION BYPRODUCTS DIRECTLY INTO THE ROOM. When carbon monoxide builds up beyond a certain level, individuals are at high risk of CO poisoning, especially while sleeping.”

derly individuals, pregnant women, and people with chronic illnesses are more susceptible to poisoning even at

lower concentrations.

Another medical expert, Dr Shahid Khan, highlighted the physical indicators and early symptoms of suffocation and CO exposure. “People may experience headaches, dizziness, nausea, and confusion in the initial stages. If exposure continues, it can lead to fainting and eventually death,” he said.

Dr Khan added that in cases of severe suffocation, medical examinations may reveal petechial haemorrhages—tiny red or purple spots in the eyes, face, and lungs—indicating oxygen deprivation. “As the victim struggles to breathe, foamy mucus can accumulate in the airways,” he noted.

Other symptoms he listed include difficulty breathing, slow heart rate, hoarseness, sore throat, disorientation, nosebleeds, and visual disturbances.

After Recent Surge, Dengue Cases Show Steady Decline

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: After weeks of rising dengue infections across Jammu and Kashmir, health authorities have reported the first signs of decline. However, with 3,248 confirmed cases recorded so far, officials have cautioned that the situation still demands strict preventive efforts from the public.

According to official data accessed, the Jammu division remains at the forefront of the outbreak, reporting 1,384 cases, followed by Kathua with 862, Samba with 459, and Udhampur with 172. Smaller but notable numbers have emerged from Reasi (70), Rajouri (69), Poonch (28), Doda (74), Ramban (43) and Kishtwar (15).

In Kashmir, 31 cases have been confirmed, while 41 infections were detected in individuals from outside the UT.

Health officials told KNO that 26,980 dengue tests have been conducted across Jammu and Kashmir to date. “Only 49 patients required hospital admission, and 46 have been discharged, which is a positive sign,” an official said, adding that one J&K resident died at DMC Ludhiana due to complications linked to the infection.

Experts reiterated that dengue remains a preventable but potentially serious disease, stressing that no specialised vaccine or antiviral medication is currently available in India.

“The only effective way to break the transmission chain is to ensure mosquitoes do not breed. Stagnant water anywhere, even in small amounts, becomes a breeding ground,” an official said.

Medical professionals explained

that the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito thrives in everyday household objects. “Even a little clean water collected in pots, tyres, buckets, lids, bottles or tubs is enough for mosquitoes to multiply,” they said.

They advised people to use mosquito repellents regularly, wear long-sleeved clothing, keep water tanks and containers tightly sealed, and install window screens or mosquito nets even during daytime hours when dengue mosquitoes are most active.

“These mosquitoes bite mostly early in the morning and late in the afternoon, so precautions during these hours are particularly important,” they said.

Doctors said people should seek immediate medical attention if they notice danger signs, such as persistent vomiting, abdominal pain, bleeding from the nose or gums, blood in vomit or stools, extreme fatigue, or unexplained restlessness, all of which may indicate severe dengue.

Notably, dengue was almost unheard of in the region a decade ago, with just two infections reported in 2009 and zero cases in 2010.

With the disease still circulating, officials have once again urged the public to maintain strict preventive measures. “People should regularly inspect their homes, shops, and surroundings. Eliminating stagnant water is the most powerful tool we have against dengue,” they said.

The authorities said that collective efforts from neighbourhoods, community groups, institutions, and local bodies will be crucial in bringing down the case numbers further—(KNO)

NGT Presses J&K Officials on Delayed Poonch Waste Removal

A 90,000-MT waste mound near the Poonch River prompts the NGT to seek flood records and progress details.



Syed Sammar Mehdi

SRINAGAR: A stretch near the Sher-e-Kashmir Bridge in Poonch holds nearly 90,000 metric tons of legacy waste. The mound has grown over the years and stands only a short distance from the river.

On Tuesday, the National Green Tribunal reviewed the case and asked officials for firmer answers on how soon the site will be cleared and whether the planned bio-mining facility sits inside the floodplain.

The CEO of Municipal Council Poonch, Khalil Ahmad Bandy, joined the hearing through video conference. He said the tender for bio-mining has drawn

seven bidders, and that a technical evaluation is under way and will take one week. The lowest bidder, Bandy briefed NGT, will be identified in two weeks and the work will be awarded.

The case was heard by the Principal Bench led by Justice Prakash Srivastava, with Expert Member Dr. Senthil Veil present.

The bench asked the CEO if the proposed bio-mining site, located about 130 metres from the riverbank, falls in the floodplain. He could not confirm this.

The Tribunal directed him to check old flood records and file an affidavit within four weeks explaining the status of the land and the progress made.

The J&K Pollution Control Com-

mittee also presented its update. Its counsel said that ₹25 lakh of the ₹161 crore environmental compensation has been recovered: “Recovery of the remaining dues has started through attachment and auction.”

The Tribunal asked for a progress report within four weeks. The next hearing is scheduled for January 6. The petitioner, Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat, recently met district officials and raised concerns about the waste lying so close to the river.

He said the administration assured him that the clean-up will move fast. He believes Poonch can see a visible change in the coming months if this commitment continues.

J&K Power Demand May Surge 50% in a Decade



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: While the power sector continues to function with ‘decades old infrastructure’, Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness growth in power demand by nearly 50 percent in a decade.

According to the official documents available, authorities have projected that Jammu and Kashmir will likely have an extra power demand by 49.42 percent by the year 2034-35.

The official further clarified that the peak demand will be more than the average growth saying that the region may likely witness an increase in power demand by 6 percent each year from 2025-26 to 2034-2035.

Stating the year wise growth rate in power demand, authorities have said that in the year Jammu and Kashmir will likely have a five percent extra demand in the year 2025-26 followed by four percent in the year 2026-27, four percent in 2027-28, three percent in 2028-29.

It also said that in the year 2029-30, the region may experience growth

rate in power demand by five percent followed by four percent in 2030-31, four percent in 2031-32, three percent in 2032-33, five percent in 2033-34 and four percent in the year 2034-35 respectively.

“Peak and Energy Demand for the UT of J&K and Ladakh has been taken as per the projections provided by the UT department. The Demand estimation by J&K was higher than projected by 20th Electric Power Survey of India (EPS). Therefore, the studies have been carried out using projections given by the J&K UT department,” it reads.

According to KNO, the documents further reveal that the future demand profile for the year 2034-35 has been projected using the demand profile of J&K for the year 2022-23 as the base profile. “The actual solar generation profiles and CUFs have been taken as provided by J&K.”

It also said that according to the data provided by J&K, an additional 392 MW of Coal (Shakti Scheme), 620 MW of solar and 1206 MW of hydro is planned till 2030.

MEHFIL Project Launched in Budgam to Boost Rural Livelihoods

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Citizens Foundation, in collaboration with HDFC Bank Parivartan, on Wednesday launched the MEHFIL (Mountain Entrepreneurship through Hospitality, Food, Inclusion and Livelihood) project in Budgam, marking a significant push toward strengthening rural livelihoods and sustainable development in the region.

The inauguration began with the traditional lighting of a diya, followed by the burning of isbandh in an isbandh soz, a customary practice believed to invoke blessings and protection. Guests



were welcomed with traditional shawls and bouquets, adding a cultural warmth to the ceremony.

The event was attended by Block Development Officer Nagam, Tafheem Firdous Shah, Tehsildar Chadoora; and HDFC Bank Parivartan Cluster Head Shadab, among others.

Speaking at the launch, Ganesh Reddy, Chief Executive Officer of The Citizens Foundation and Secretary of the United Nations Global Compact Network India, said

the initiative aims to empower rural families through clean energy solutions, skill development and entrepreneurship. “MEHFIL embraces both tradition and technology to create long-term, dignified opportunities,” he said.

BDO Tafheem Firdous Shah termed the project a timely initiative to support income generation in rural areas, while the Tehsildar Chadoora underscored the importance of solar-based infrastructure for mobility and safety, particularly during harsh winters. HDFC Bank’s Shadab reaffirmed the organisation’s focus on community-led growth and

sustainable development.

Under the MEHFIL project, selected villages in Budgam and Leh will receive solar street lights, solar dryers, embroidery units, poly-houses, and support systems for traditional bakeries and homestay ventures—initiatives expected to uplift local livelihoods and promote self-reliance. The launch concluded with community members voicing strong support and optimism for the programme’s long-term impact.

Dardpora Lolab Residents Forced to Drink Contaminated Water

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Despite the government’s repeated assurances of providing safe drinking water across Jammu and Kashmir, the remote hamlet of Dardpora Lolab in north Kashmir continues to grapple with acute water scarcity and contaminated supplies, placing its vulnerable population—including the elderly and children—at serious health risk.

Local residents told KNO that, despite the establishment of a vital water supply project under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), their village remains deprived of clean water. “We have approached the concerned offices on multiple occasions, but our grievances continue to fall on deaf ears,” the inhabitants lamented.

According to the villagers, the little water that does reach them is so dirty and muddy that “even animals would refuse to drink it.” They also revealed that the main water tank in the area is left uncovered, allowing monkeys and other animals to drink from it, further contaminating the water that is later supplied to homes. This, residents say, has led to a rise in waterborne illnesses in the community.

The residents of Dardpora Lolab and nearby hamlets have urgently appealed to authorities for intervention. They claim that while water

from the JJM project has been supplied to distant areas, their own locality was neglected. Instead, water is channelled to them via a pipe running through an open drain, past a small, uncovered bank, leaving it exposed to contamination by rats, monkeys, and other animals.

“We have provided video evidence of these appalling conditions, but no action has been taken so far,” the locals said, adding that the area has been without potable water for the last two months. While some farmers from outside the area manage to bring water for irrigation, residents themselves remain deprived of clean drinking water.

Repeated complaints to the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and even written submissions over the past four months have yielded no results, with officials citing the need for higher approval before taking any action. “Officials keep making excuses and refuse to take responsibility,” the residents alleged.

Now, the villagers are urging senior government officials to visit the area, verify their claims firsthand, and end their ordeal. “If our complaints are unfounded, we will accept responsibility—but if they are true, our misery must come to an end,” the residents said, renewing their call for the immediate provision of clean water to Dardpora Lolab.

Educated Youth Getting Radicalised Alarming: Bukhari

Apni Party President Altaf Bukhari on Tuesday voiced serious concern over the growing trend of educated youth being drawn towards radicalisation and terror-related activities, calling it an “alarming development” that warrants urgent and honest introspection.

“Authorities must investigate why even well-educated youth are being influenced to join terrorist activities,” Bukhari said while addressing a press conference in Srinagar, as per KNO.

He said this trend poses a serious challenge and requires a comprehensive evaluation by all stakeholders.

Bukhari reiterated his party’s firm opposition to all forms of violence, saying that those found guilty must face the law, but also cautioned that “innocent individuals should not be harassed in the name of counterterrorism measures.”

Expressing sorrow over the ‘accidental blast at Nowgam Police Station’ near Srinagar, the Apni Party chief urged the government to provide proper compensation to the families of the deceased and to those whose homes and properties were damaged in the explosion.

“We convey our heartfelt sympathies to the families who lost their loved ones in the Nowgam incident. The victims whose properties were affected must be adequately compensated,” he said.

Reading a detailed resolution passed in the party’s day-long working committee meeting held at the party office in Srinagar, the Apni Party president said the party expressed deep concern over the recent Delhi car blast and the alleged involvement of well-educated individuals in the incident. Terming the attack “highly condemnable,” the party demanded the toughest possible punishment for those responsible while urging the central government to explore and address the root causes of “white-collar radicalisation.” (Observer News Service)

KU's e-Gov Portal Back Online After 270 Days

Srinagar: Days after highlighting the prolonged shutdown of the University of Kashmir’s e-Governance portal, dubbed by students as “Digital Hell”, the portal has finally been restored, bringing an end to nearly “nine months (around 270 days)” of frustration and offline workarounds.

Students confirmed to KNO that the portal (<https://egov.uok.edu.in/eConduct/>) was now accessible publicly, marking the first time since early February that services such as registration, admit card downloads and fee payments could be done online. “It is finally working! We had lost hope after months of inconvenience,” said a relieved B.Tech student.

Last week, it was reported that the University’s e-Gov portal, intended to streamline access to vital academic services had remained locked behind the University’s internal Intranet, forcing thousands of students to physically visit college IT cells for routine tasks.

The report, which triggered a wave of student reactions across social media, appears to have prompted quick action from the University’s IT division. As of Tuesday evening, students confirmed that the website was functioning smoothly, although some minor lags were reported during logins. (Observer News Service)

Jammu Police to Launch Portal for Tenant Verification

Police in Jammu will soon launch a dedicated web portal to streamline tenant verification and reduce the need for people to visit police stations, a senior official said on Tuesday.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jammu, Joginder Singh, said the current manual system requires every tenant and landlord to physically visit the police station, which often causes inconvenience. “We are working to remove this physical contact. A user-friendly tenant verification portal is being developed and will be launched soon,” Singh said.

He said that once active, neither the tenant nor the landlord will need to come to the police station. “Verification forms can be submitted online, and the police will carry out the verification.”

The SSP also said that verification of employees by shopkeepers and employers is mandatory under the orders of the Deputy Commissioner.

“Every shopkeeper or employer must ensure verification of their workers. This is compulsory,” he said. He clarified that the verification drive is a routine, year-round process, not something triggered by any recent incident.

“Verification continues throughout the year, under which we routinely check and verify individuals,” he said. (PTI)

Bike-lifting Racket Busted in Jammu

Police has busted a major two-wheeler theft racket and recovered 40 stolen motorcycles and scooters worth over Rs 35 lakh from various parts of the city, officials said.

According to Jammu Senior Superintendent of Police Joginder Singh, Gandhi Nagar police station achieved the breakthrough under Operation AVTAR, leading to the arrest of three members of the gang.

Acting on multiple public complaints regarding vehicle thefts, police registered three cases at Gandhi Nagar police station and launched an investigation. A special team was constituted, which used technical surveillance and CCTV footage analysis to trace the accused, Singh said.

According to PTI, the arrested persons have been identified as Harpreet Singh, Gurdarshan Singh and Himanshu Nanda, the SSP said.

During interrogation, the trio confessed to several thefts in Gandhi Nagar, Trikuta Nagar and other areas of South Jammu. Their disclosures led to the recovery of 40 stolen two-wheelers worth around Rs 35 lakh, he said. (Observer News Service)

Another Weekend, Another Pole For Kashmiri F1 Racer Atiqah Mir

Press Trust of India

ABU DHABI: Formula 1 Academy-backed Indian racer Atiqah Mir showed scorching speed for her second pole position in as many weeks before picking up a Heat win in Round 2 of the RMC UAE Karting Championship here. After a pole and podium finish in the Formula 1-backed COTFA series last week, Atiqah switched seamlessly into a different equipment to set blistering pace at the Al Forsan Circuit. She is the first Indian to be supported by Formula 1. In the Official Practice sessions, Atiqah topped three out of the four sessions and clocked the fastest time of the day in a highly competitive field of international drivers. She was the only female. Atiqah, who turned 11 last week, carried that form into qualifying, clinching pole position in the dying minutes of the



session with a sizzling time of 60.686 seconds. Representing Akcel GP, she led from the front in the Heat race for a deserving victory. She lost the lead briefly on Lap 1 before regaining it soon after and pulling away from the field of 18

drivers. In the pre-final race, Atiqah suffered a big crash while fighting for the lead on the last lap, injuring her elbow. Her determination and fighting spirit came to the fore when she drove the final lap with the

injury and a broken kart. After making up five places on the opening lap, Atiqah's kart developed a technical problem, forcing an early retirement. "What could have been a dominant weekend ended back in the pits. But that is racing, we

are racing so close to each other at such high speeds that crashes are bound to happen. "I got a hard hit on my elbow and it is bruised quite badly. I wanted to fight and get back to the front in the final but it wasn't meant to be as my panel broke and due to that I couldn't drive," said Atiqah. Her father and former Formula Asia Vice Champion Asif Mir said luck was not on her daughter's side this weekend but at the same time, called the collision part of racing. "A dominant show by her, a slight touch with another kart changed her entire weekend. She deserved a better result but that is how it goes sometimes in sport. She is driving at a high level week in and week out in different karting championships. "She has to switch engines, tyres almost every weekend and she is able to adjust well," said Asif.

Inter District UT Level Badminton C'ship Begins In Srinagar



Younis Paray

SRINAGAR: The Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K-organised Inter District UT Level Badminton Championship 2025-26 for boys and girls of all age groups. The competitions are being held at the Indoor Sports Complex, Wazirbagh here and will continue until December 5. The opening day featured matches of the Under-14 boys category, with participants representing all districts of J&K. The event was inaugurated by Joint Director, Youth Services & Sports Kashmir, Mohammad Rashid Kohli, in the presence of DYSSO Sri-

nagar Ghulam Hassan Lone and other officials. The championship commenced with a pledge under the nationwide campaign "Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan." Around 100 young boys representing various districts of J&K are participating in this tournament. Addressing the gathering, Kohli praised the dedication of the young participants, their teachers, coaches, and the technical officials for preparing the athletes for such competitive platforms. He encouraged the participants to play with aim and objective, and to strive for achieving excellence at the highest levels.

J&K On Brink Of Another Massive Win In Ranji Trophy 2025-26

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K senior men's cricket team is on the cusp of yet another impressive win in the 2025-26 Ranji Trophy Elite Group D. The Paras Gupta-led side set a target of 472 to Hyderabad at GGM Science College Hostel Ground in Jammu on Tuesday. At stumps on Day 3, Hyderabad was stranded at 169 for 7, requiring 303 more runs to win on final day. J&K was led by left-arm spinner Abid Mushtaq on Day 3, taking four important wickets to leave the visitors struggling. Off-spinner Sahil Lotra took two wickets,

while pace sensation Aqib Nabi picked up one. Earlier on Day 3, Abdul Samad (125), Kanahya Wadhawan (95), Qamaran Iqbal (50) and Vivrant Sharma (45) helped J&K post 422/10 in 100.5 overs. J&K had put up 170/10 in its first innings after bowling out Hyderabad for 121. On Day 4, J&K will need only three wickets to challenge Elite Group D leaders Mumbai, who have played four games for two wins and two draws for 16 points. J&K, meanwhile, have won two and drawn and lost once each to take 13 points thus far.



UT Level Girls Athletic Meet 2025 Concludes At Kashmir University



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Inter-District UT Level Athletic Meet 2025, organised by the Department of Youth Services & Sports J&K and hosted by the District Youth Services & Sports Office Srinagar, concluded at the University of Kashmir. All districts of Jammu and Kashmir participated, with a strong turnout of 350 young athletes competing in the U-14 and U-17 girls' categories. Young athletes showcased exceptional skills, techniques, and enthusiasm in various track and field events, including running, jumping, and throwing, held at the university's

athletic tracks. Jammu District emerged as the overall champion in the U-17 age group, while Ganderbal District secured the top position in the U-14 age group. Jammu athletes collectively bagged 23 medals across different events. Nishita Sharma, a Class 11 student from Jammu, was declared the Best Athlete, winning four gold medals in various running events. The award ceremony was attended by Nodal Officer Shabir Ahmad Mir, Overall Incharge Barkat Ali Mir, Overall Incharge Activities Fayaz Ahmad Mir, and technical staff and escort teachers from DYSSO Srinagar.

J&K, Haryana & SSCB Shine At Senior National Fencing C'ship

J&K, Haryana and SSCB secured gold medals in team events at the 36th Senior National Fencing Championship here on Tuesday. In the final of the men's sabre team category, J&K beat Maharashtra 45-38 to clinch the gold, while SSCB and Uttar Pradesh bagged bronze medals. Earlier in the semi-finals, J&K overcame SSCB 45-44, while Maharashtra thrashed Uttar Pradesh 45-29. In the final of the women's epee team category, Haryana defeated Maharashtra 45-24 to bag top honours, while Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh bagged bronze medals. In the semi-finals, Haryana outwitted Gujarat 45-33, while Maharashtra edged out Madhya Pradesh 45-42. In men's foil team, SSCB trounced Haryana 45-26 in the final to win the gold, while Tamil Nadu and Punjab secured bronze medals. In the semi-finals, SSCB defeated Tamil Nadu 42-29, while Haryana outclassed Punjab 45-37. (PTI)

England's Mark Wood Back Bowling In Practice For The Ashes

Mark Wood is back bowling at pace against his England teammates in practice. Cameron Green is primed and ready to return to bowling for Australia in test cricket. The Ashes series starts Friday, and every twist and turn this week has implications for selection in the first test of the 2025-26 edition of the traditional rivalry. Wood withdrew from a trial match against a second-string England team last week because of a hamstring strain in his first game since knee surgery in March, but was cleared after medical scans. The 35-year-old paceman had a 30-minute bowling session in the nets on Tuesday in England's first practice at Perth Stadium, venue for the first test. England could go into the test with two express bowlers if Jofra Archer and Wood are both selected in a city where quality pace attacks have had success in the past. (AP)

Indian Football Team Suffers Embarrassing 0-1 Loss To Bangladesh

Already out contention for a spot in the 2027 Asian Cup, India suffered another embarrassing defeat, losing 0-1 to Bangladesh in their penultimate Group C match of qualifying round in Dhaka on Tuesday. Sheikh Morsalin scored the all-important goal for Bangladesh in the 11th minute to the wild cheer of the capacity crowd at the National Stadium. The match, though, had been rendered inconsequential as both the sides were out of contention of the 2027 continental showpiece. India's campaign had effectively ended on October 14, when they squandered a 1-0 lead to lose 1-2 to Singapore in Margao, Goa. The first leg match between the two sides had ended in a goal-less draw on March 25 in Shillong. It was India's first match on Bangladesh soil in 22 years, since the 2003 SAFF Gold Cup, where the hosts prevailed 2-1 at the same venue. India are currently ranked 136th in the FIFA chart while Bangladesh are at 183rd. (PTI)

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