

J&K Set for Logistics Policy 2025 Rollout: LG

Says Improved Connectivity Has Unlocked J&K's Potential

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said Jammu is rapidly emerging as a trade and logistics hub connecting Ladakh and the Kashmir Valley with the country's major trade corridors. He said the significant improvement in road and rail connectivity over the past five years has unlocked the region's economic potential.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the Jammu Trade and Logistics Conclave 2025 organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce.

In his address, he said the



National Logistics Policy, guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has accelerated reforms in the logistics sector and transformed digital integration, skill development and infrastructure planning. He said better storage | [More on P6](#)

6 JAMMU IS EMERGING AS A TRADE, logistics hub connecting Ladakh and Kashmir with the country's trade corridors.

HC Affirms Remand Powers Of PMLA Tribunal

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Thursday ruled that the Appellate Tribunal under the Prevention of Money



Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 possesses the power to remand cases to the adjudicating authority as an inherent extension of its jurisdiction to annul contested orders. "The power | [More on P6](#)

Red Fort Blast Probe Widens

NIA Picks Up Three Doctors, Preacher; Searches Across Valley

Observer News Service

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency on Thursday took custody of three doctors and a preacher arrested in connection with the November 10 car blast outside the Red Fort that killed 15 people. Those handed over to the agency are doctors Muzammil Ganaie, Adeel Rather and Shaheena Saeed



along with preacher Maulvi Irfan Ahmad Wagay. They were earlier arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir Police. The NIA

took their custody in Srinagar on the basis of production orders issued by the district sessions judge at Patiala House Court in New Delhi.

According to an NIA spokesperson, all four had played a key role in the attack that killed several civilians and injured many others. With this, the total number of arrests in the white collar terror module | [More on P6](#)

High-Level Committee Probing Nowgam Blast: JKP

Observer News Service

Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday dismissed circulating social media posts about the accidental blast at Police Station Nowgam, terming the claims "conjectures" aimed at misleading the public. Police said the blast took place on 14 November 2025 during the process of sample collection from a large cache of recovered explosives. The procedure was being | [More on P6](#)

Light Snow Likely On Dec 2-3: MeT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Thursday said that isolated higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir are likely to receive a brief spell of very light snow on December 2 and 3.

The department said the current dry weather is expected to continue across the region till December 1. It added that cloudy conditions are likely on December 2 and 3, with a chance of very | [More on P6](#)

CM Meets FM Amid Deepening Fiscal Crisis in J&K

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi, a meeting held against the backdrop of the financial constraints currently facing the Union Territory, officials said.

According to the official X handle of the chief minister's office, the two leaders discussed key developmental



priorities for Jammu and Kashmir. "The meeting focused on strengthening

infrastructure, boosting investment and ensuring continued | [More on P6](#)

2 New MLAs to Take Oath Today

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather will administer the oath to two newly elected MLAs on Friday morning, sources said.

Officials said that the Speaker will administer the oath to the Peoples Democratic Party's Muntazir Mehdi and the Bharatiya Janata Party's Devyani Rana at 11 am in the Assembly complex.

Muntazir Mehdi was elected from the Budgam Assembly segment, while Devyani Rana won from Nagrota, a constituency earlier represented twice by her late father, Devinder Singh Rana.

With the filling of these two vacancies, the strength of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly has risen to 90 members.

In the House, the National Conference holds 41 MLAs, the BJP 29, Congress six, PDP four, while the Peoples Conference, CPI(M) and Aam Aadmi Party have one MLA each. There are also seven | [More on P6](#)

58 JKAS Officers Shifted in Big Shuffle

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday ordered the transfer and posting of 58 officials in the interest of administration.

According to an order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), Rajinder Singh Tara has been transferred from Controller, Legal Metrology to Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment. Tariq Hussain Ganai will now serve as Managing | [More on P6](#)




MEGA MSME

OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Where Opportunities Begin and Businesses Thrive!

24th November, 2025

Venue: Circle Office, Sonwar Srinagar.





Why Attend?



Connect with Experts - Meet senior officials from PNB on the spot for customized financial solution.



Get Instant Approvals for select MSME loan schemes



Experience the Digital Zone - Check loan eligibility & obtain offer letters instantly!



Explore exclusive MSME loan products and schemes tailored for your business.


Attend the Outreach Programme & Secure the Right Financing At Competitive Pricing For *Yours Growth*

For More Details Please Visit Your Nearest PNB Branch

Follow us:  www.pnb.bank.in | Toll Free: 1800-1800 & 1800-2021 | Give a missed call 1800 180 8888



पंजाब नैशनल बैंक  **punjab national bank**
...the name you can BANK upon!

Abbas Ads.# 7006444730



“ वीएसएफ साहस, समर्पण एवं असाधारण सेवा के प्रतीक तथा रक्षा की एक महत्वपूर्ण पंक्ति के रूप में खड़ा है। ”


श्री नरेंद्र मोदी
माननीय प्रधानमंत्री


हीरक जयंती समारोह

21 नवंबर 2025, भुज-कच्छ, गुजरात


मुख्य अतिथि
श्री अमित शाह
गृह एवं सहकारिता मंत्री, भारत सरकार



0955 बजे से वीएसएफ के आधिकारिक यूट्यूब चैनल पर लाइव स्ट्रीमिंग



डीडी गिरनार चैनल पर सीधा प्रसारण



आकाशवाणी एफएम ट्रांसमीटर, भुज पर लाइव कमेंट्री

CBC 19110/13/0083/2526



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Srinagar | Friday | 21-11-2025

2

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as **Maswal Mushtaq** While my correct name is **Maswel Nazneen** . 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

Maswel Nazneen W/o Mohd Mushtaq Khan
R/o Pinjoora

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name & DOB of my ward has been wrongly written in his adhaar card as Liba Jan instead of Nehmat Sheeraz and dob wrongly written as 16-03-2020 instead of 25-02-2020 . 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

Mehmooda Jan
M/o Nehmat Sheeraz
R/o Gahind Tehsil Herman Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is information to the general public that my name in my Aadhaar Card bearing No:- 5801-0863-7183 has been wrongly entered as Meireen Nabi. while my correct and actual Name is Aeireen Nabi. 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 Concerned Authority, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Aireen Nabi
D/o Ghulam Nabi Bhat
R/o Alamdar Colony Pattan.

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

My particulars have been wrongly written in my adhaar card as **Nuzhat Jan** , DOB 25/4/1988 R/o Batapora instead of **Nuzhat Gani** DOB 01/02/1988 R/O Deegam Shopian . 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

Nuzhat Gani
W/O Tanveer Ahamd Dar
R/O Deegam Tehsil & Distt.Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his adhaar card as **Faisal Hussain Shah** While his correct name is **Shah Faisal Hussain** . 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

Aarif Hussain Shah
F/o Shah Faisal Hussain
R/o Trenz Distt Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to general public that in School record my wards date of birth is wrongly entered as 27-02-2016 instead of 27-02-2018 now it needs to be corrected so, in this regard have anybody any objection he/she may file his/her objection at Govt Boys Primary School Shikargah Tal within the period of one week from the date of publication of this notice after due date no objection will/shall be accepted or entertained.

Name:Sethi Ahmad Dar.
F/O:Khair un Nisa .
R/O:Shikargah, Quil Shikargah Tal.
District Pulwama.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have los the number plate of my vehicle Maruti 800 bearing Jk05D 5836 . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of ARTO Sopore within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ghulam Mohammad bhat
S/o Asad Ullah bhat

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I MOHD SHAFI MIR F/O IFFAT SHAFI R/O MANAGAM my daughters date of Birth has been wrongly written as 18/11/2012 in her school regard while her correct Date of Birth is 18/06/2012 which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his /her objection in the office GOVT HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL MANAGAM Wagoora within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name MOHD SHAFI MIR
F/O IFFAT SHAFI
R/O MANAGAM ZONE WAGOORA

fko

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL MTM EXPERIMENTAL SCHOOL WUSSAN KAWARHAMA 193404

The Following are the members of Managing body/Committee of MTM Experimental School:
1. Mr. Hilal Ahmad Zargar S/o Mohd Akbar Zargar R/o Chichilora
2. Mrs. Neelofar Bashir W/o Mehraj Ahmad Lone R/o Kawarhama
3. Miss Suraya Bashir D/o Bashir Ahmad Wani R/o Kawarhama
4. Mr. Peer Anees Ahmad S/o Peer Abdul Majeed R/o Wussan
5. Miss. Rifat Ara D/o Mohd Akbar rather R/o Kawarhama
6. Mr. Adil Hussain Gowhar S/o Ghulam Mohammad Gowhar R/o Kawarhama
7. Mr. Showkat Ahmad Bhat S/o Ghulam Ahmad Bhat R/o Kawarham

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as **Sabreena Jan** while my correct name is **Sabreean Manzoor** . 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

Sabreean Manzoor D/o Manzoor Ahmad Najar
R/o Drawani Distt Shopian

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in Name in data to the Registration Certificate No.JK04G 2935 issued in favour of MOHD AMIN DEEDED Parentage GHULAM AHMAD DEEDED

Whereas an application has been recieved by one MOHD AMIN DEEDED Parentage GHULAM AHMAD DEEDED wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Registration Certificate as MOHD AMEEN Parentage GHULAM AHMAD Which needs to be changed as MOHD AMIN DEEDED Parentage GHULAM AHMAD DEEDED

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shal reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in Name in data to the Registration Certificate No.JK04C 4886

issued in favour of PARVAIZ AHMAD BHAT Parentage GHULAM HASSAN BHAT

Whereas an application has been recieved by one PARVAIZ AHMAD BHAT Parentage GHULAM HASSAN BHAT wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Registration Certificate as PARVIAZ AHMAD BHAT Parentage GHULAM HASAN BHAT Which needs to be changed as PARVAIZ AHMAD BHAT Parentage GHULAM HASSAN BHAT

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shal reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb



JKB Financial Services

Investments Beyond Banking

Corporate Office: Main Road Jawahar Nagar,

Srinagar, Kashmir – 190008.

Phone: 0194-2311512

Email ID: hr@jkbfsl.com

Website: https://www.jkbfsl.com/

Apply For – Associate Level-I @ JKBFSL

Applications are invited for recruitment of “Associate Level - I” at JKBFSL for UT of Ladakh. The detailed Notification for recruitment of “Associate Level - I” at JKBFSL for UT of Ladakh is available on JKBFSL’s website <https://www.jkbfsl.com/> under careers tab.

Interested candidates are requested to visit careers tab on JKBFSL’s website <https://www.jkbfsl.com/>, to apply for recruitment of “Associate Level - I” under the link titled as “Recruitment – Associate Level-I @ JKBFSL”.

Date of submission of application form is from 21.11.2025 to 05.12.2025.

Sd/-

Managing Director-JKBFSL

No.: JKBFSL/HR- Recruitment/2025-26/001

Dated:- 19.11.2025

DIPK-NB-2528/25dated: 20-11-2025



J&K Bank

Serving To Empower

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd

Zonal Office Srinagar

M.A Road Srinagar,190001 J&K

PREMISES REQUIREMENT

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank invites offers from owners of premises for outright purchase/ on lease basis for housing Branches/Offices & Offsite ATMs as per below mentioned details:

S.No	Particulars	Carpet Area of Premises
1	Offsite ATM at Zafran Colony, Sempora, Panthachowk, Srinagar	Upto120 Sft (Preferably at Main Market)
2	Offsite ATM at Parraypora, Srinagar	Upto 120 Sft (Preferably at Main Market)
3	Offsite ATM at Iqbalabad, Bemina (Near Unani Hospital), Srinagar	Upto 120 Sft
4	Offsite ATM at Old Zero Bridge, Rajbagh, Srinagar	Upto 120 Sft
5	Branch/Office at Brein, Nishat, Srinagar	1500-2500 Sft Preferably at Ground Floor In addition, for Boiler/ Generator Room area upto 250 Sft

The interested parties/persons owning the premises and having a clear title over the property should submit their offers at Estates Deptt Zonal Office Srinagar, M.A.Road Srinagar by or before 5th December 2025. The parties who have already applied in response to the tender notice No. jkb/zo sgr/Est/25-17, Dt.-28-10-2025 need not apply again. The tender documents and the terms and conditions relating to same can be obtained in person from Zonal Office mentioned above during working hours and also can be downloaded from Bank's website <https://jkb.bank.in> from 21st November 2025. The Bank reserves the right to cancel/reject any/all offer(s) without assigning any reason thereof.**Note: Only those parties having valid commercial permission of the offered premises need to apply.**

Ref: jkb/zo sgr/Est/25-18

Dated: 19.11.2025

Zonal Head

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L6510JK1938SGC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928;
E : info@jkbmail.com ; W : https://Jkb.bank.in

DIPK-NB-2519/25 DATED: 20-11-2025

Over 80% Of Indians With Disabilities Lack Health Insurance: NGO White Paper

Press Trust Of India



More than 80 per cent of Indians with disabilities remain uninsured, and over half of those who apply are often rejected without explanation despite legal safeguards meant to ensure equal access to health coverage, a new white paper released on Thursday has found.

The report, titled "Inclusive Health Coverage for All: Disability, Discrimination and Health Insurance in India", was launched by the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) at a roundtable attended by policymakers, insurers, and disability rights advocates. Drawing on a nationwide survey of over 5,000 persons with disabilities across 34 states and union territories, the study warns that "deep systemic inequities" continue to block nearly 16 crore disabled Indians from both public and private insurance schemes. According to the findings, 80 per cent of respondents had no health insurance, while 53 per cent of those who applied said their applications were rejected.

Many reported being turned away solely because of their disability or pre-existing conditions, with particularly high denial rates among persons with autism, psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, and blood disorders such as thalassemia. The report noted that these practices persist despite constitutional protections, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and repeated directives from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

Researchers also flagged unaffordable premiums, inaccessible digital platforms, and a widespread lack of awareness about available schemes as major barriers to coverage. Speaking at the launch, Manmeet

Nanda, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, said the government was working to strengthen assistive technology and improve coordination across ministries.

"IRDAI's role, along with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, needs to be very strongly converged and coordinated because this is not a single ministry's game," she said, adding that insurers could be mandated to meet annual disability coverage targets monitored through digital dashboards. She also offered to integrate the Unique Disability ID database with insurance processes to track rejections and streamline access.

Calling the findings a "moral and constitutional challenge", NCPEDP Executive Director Arman Ali said the continued exclusion of persons with disabilities from affordable insurance "is more than a systemic failure; it is a violation of rights".

"Even as the government expands Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY) to cover

all senior citizens aged 70 and above, persons with disabilities remain conspicuously excluded despite facing equal, if not greater, health vulnerabilities," Ali said.

"There is no principled or policy justification for this gap... India cannot be burdened with the generational 'cost of exclusion' of people with disabilities," he added.

The white paper recommended immediate inclusion of all persons with disabilities under Ayushman Bharat without age or income criteria, aligning with the government's 2024 expansion for senior citizens.

Other key proposals include enhanced insurance coverage for mental health, rehabilitation and assistive technologies, the creation of a dedicated Disability Inclusion Committee within IRDAI, standardised and non-discriminatory premiums across private insurers, and mandatory accessibility in all insurance processes.

It also urged expanded awareness programmes for insurers and healthcare staff to ensure disability-sensitive service delivery.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT NO 41 OF R&B/Dooru/2025-26 /E-TENDERING/_EED/HD/ 3422-27
DATED:20-11-2025_

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Dooru invited e-tenders on % age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works :-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of SDM Office Dooru Anantnag	\$4.43 lacs (71.68 + 12.75)	1600	168860	9 months	Capex (land reforms) Revenue sector 2025-26	AAY class only

Position of AAA : Accorded.
Position of TS : Accorded.
The date of completion is subject to the availability of funds.

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

S.No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20/11/2025
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 21/11/2025 (09:00 Am) To 28 -11-2025 (06:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 21/11/2025 (09:00 Am)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 28/11/2025 (06:00 PM) 29/11/2025 (11:00AM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059
- PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division DOORU [Tender Inviting Authority](Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)(Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-451 Dt 07.06.2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date (NIT No and Name of work/ Item No. should be mentioned on Treasury Challan) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU (Tender receiving Authority).
- All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.
- The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division DOORU (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 03 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.
- Note: a. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of Tender Document Cost or Rs 500/- whichever is lower. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of the amount of EMD/ Bid Security or Rs 5000/- whichever is lower.
1. Bidders are required to open their bids online at 11:00 AM.
- The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through 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 PWD(R&B) Division DOORU.
- 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/Performance Security shall be forfeited if:

- Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter of intent.
- Successful Bidder fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security/EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited.
- The tenders shall be opened and allotted to 1st lowest responsive bidder only when the funds are released/ available on Beams.

- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
 - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

No:EED/HD/3422-27

DIPK-8309/25

Dt: 20 /11/2025

Sd Er Manzoor Ahmad wani

Executive Engineer,

PWD (R&B) Division D



Srinagar Police Lauded for Phone Recoveries

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Srinagar police has been recognised for its mobile recovery performance by the Centre, as it traced and recovered around 900 stolen or lost phones in over two years, valued at Rs 3.5 crore, an official said on Thursday.

The Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal has accorded the "best-performing district in the North Zone" distinction to Srinagar.

A police official said the recognition was conferred by the Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, during the Annual Security Conference for North Zone Licensed Service Areas (LSAs) and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), held recently in Himachal Pradesh.

"The accolade underscores the exceptional performance of the Srinagar police in tracing and recovering around 900 stolen or lost mobile phones, collectively valued at approx-

imately Rs 3.5 crores," the official said. The number accounts for recoveries made since the launch of the CEIR on May 17, 2023.

He said this achievement reflects the professionalism, technological expertise, and commitment to public service of the Srinagar police.

Following the accomplishment, SSP Srinagar, G V Sundeeep Chakravarthy, felicitated the team members with certificates of appreciation.

According to PTI, the team worked under the supervision of Dy SP, Headquarters, Syed Sleet Shah, and comprised Inspectors Mohammad Aslam and Mohammad Iqbal, and Constable Yawar Majid, the official added.

While presenting the certificates, Chakravarthy commended the officers for their "exemplary dedication" and encouraged them to maintain their momentum with continued perseverance and public-centric service.

KU's Signature Youth Fest 'Sonzal-2025' Begins

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The University of Kashmir (KU) on Thursday inaugurated its annual youth festival Sonzal 2025 at the Main Campus.

The week-long festival is being organised by the varsity's Division of Youth Affairs under the aegis of Department of Students Welfare (DSW).

The intra-university festival scheduled from November 20-27, brings students from various affiliated colleges and departments of the University to participate in a series of literary, cultural and fine-arts competitions. It features events including quiz, debate, elocution, collage-making, poster-making, painting, rangoli competition, cartoon-making, clay-modelling, Indian and Western vocals and other activities to be held over the next seven days.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said "Sonzal represents the creative and intellectual aspirations of our students. The University is committed to strengthening platforms that enable young people to express themselves, learn from one another and take pride in their abilities."

She added that the festival encourages participation, teamwork and confidence-building among students from diverse academic backgrounds, stat-

ing "such events supplement academic learning and help students develop broader life skills."

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada; Dean Research KU, Prof. Mohammad Sultan Bhat, Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, and Controller of Examinations KU, Prof. Majid Zaman Baba, in their remarks, said that Sonzal provides a space for students to engage with new ideas and explore their talents beyond the classroom. They said that the University continues to expand student-centric platforms and that Sonzal remains one of its most anticipated annual events.

Earlier, Dean DSW KU, Prof. Pervez Ahmed, welcomed the participants and highlighted the aims and objectives of the festival.

The inaugural ceremony began with soul-stirring musical performances by artists from 'Sufi Brothers' band of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and University's Pashmina Band.'

The session was attended by deans of various schools, heads of departments, officers of the University administration, directors, faculty members, scholars and hundreds of students from the campus as well as from various affiliated colleges of the University.



Kashmir's Craft Traditions Take Centre Stage at 'Know Your Artisan' Carnival

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Building on the overwhelming response to the first three editions of the 'Know Your Artisan' (KYA) series held last month at Polo View Market, Jhelum Riverfront and Ghanta Ghar, the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir (DOHHK) launched a grand three-day 'Know Your Artisan' Craft Carnival at the scenic Sher-e-Kashmir Park, Residency Road, under its vibrant 'Soulful Kashmir' campaign.

The event was inaugurated by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, who praised the department for creating platforms that spotlight Kashmir's master artisans and their centuries-old craftsmanship.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Garg said such exhibitions carry immense transformative potential. "Initiatives like 'Know Your Artisan' bring our master craftsmen to the forefront, giving them a deserving platform to showcase Kashmir's rich craft heritage to both local and global audiences. These programmes not only revive our traditions but also empower artisans economically, ensuring their skills endure for generations," he said.

He added that exports of Kashmiri handicrafts and handloom products have doubled in the last four years, significantly boosting artisan incomes.

The carnival comes on the heels

of Srinagar earning two prestigious international recognitions — UNESCO Creative City of Crafts and Folk Art in 2021 and its recent inclusion as the 63rd World Craft City by the World Crafts Council (WCC) in 2024. These accolades have further cemented the city's reputation as a global centre for craft excellence, renowned for Pashmina weaving, hand-knotted carpets, papier-mâché and walnut wood carving.

A large gathering of senior officials and craft lovers marked the opening, where 36 curated stalls were unveiled. These feature a

nar-lined park, creating a vibrant festive atmosphere in the heart of the city.

Officials said the carnival aligns with the Prime Minister's Make in India and Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiatives by promoting indigenous crafts as engines of economic growth, sustainable tourism and export potential. With fair-priced stalls connecting artisans directly to consumers, the event reinforces the 'Vocal for Local' mission while discouraging counterfeits and celebrating the human stories behind every hand-

“Initiatives like ‘Know Your Artisan’ bring our master craftsmen to the forefront, giving them a deserving platform to showcase Kashmir’s rich craft heritage to both local and global audiences.”

comprehensive range of GI-certified crafts including Pashmina, Kani shawls, hand-knotted carpets, alongside ODOP (One District One Product) and District Export Hub items.

Adding to the attraction are live craft demonstrations, giving visitors an intimate look into labour-intensive processes, and interactive 'Try Your Hand' zones where people can attempt chain-stitch embroidery, Pashmina weaving and walnut wood carving under artisan guidance.

The venue buzzed with activity as locals, tourists, families and craft enthusiasts thronged the Chi-

made creation.

Speaking on the occasion, Musarat Islam, Director Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir, said the carnival marks a key milestone in the department's aggressive push to revive, protect and commercialise traditional crafts. "We are empowering over 3.80 lakh artisans through GI enforcement, skill development and branding workshops. After Srinagar's UNESCO and WCC honours, we are not just exhibiting crafts — we are weaving a narrative of harmony, innovation and cultural coexistence that echoes the spirit of 'Vocal for Local'," he said.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (IRRIGATION & F C), DIVISION SOPORE-193201

Notice inviting e-Tender

e-NIT No: 10 of 2025-26

Date:20/11/2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) on item rate basis are invited from approved and eligible Registered dealers of various Petroleum companies for supply of 90 No's of 19 Kg's Commercial Gas Cylinders (which may increase or decrease as per our requirement) for heating purpose during ensuring winter season, commencing from 29th November 2025 to 15th March 2026. The interested parties shall quote the rate of rebate, to be offered by them, on the rates being fixed by the Ministry of Petroleum from time to time: - works to be opened by the Executive Engineer Irrigation & F C Division Sopore at 11.00 Hrs.

S.No	Description	Earnest Money (Rs)	Treasury Challan Fee	Validity of Contract	Class of Contract
01.	Supply of 90 No's 19 Kg's Commercial Gas Cylinders (Which may increase or decrease as per our requirement for heating purpose during ensuring winter season, commencing from 29th November to 15 th March 2026	3600/-	200/-	Upto March 2026	Approved and eligible Registered dealers of various Petroleum companies for supply of commercial LPG

MH of Account: 2702/2711-007-OE, contingencies of various projects/Works, M&R 2711, 2702 and 2701

Position of funds: under budgetary provisions of annual ceiling 2025-26

1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded on e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S.No	Description	Schedule
1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	20-11-2025
2.	Date of start of downloading	20-11-2025
3.	Bid submission start Date Technical/ Financial	20-11-2025
4.	Bid Submission end date	27-11-2025 (15:00 PM)
5.	Date & Time of opening of Tenders (online)	28-11-2025 (11:00 AM)

2. Bid Security/ Earnest Money and Cost of Tender Document
 - 2.01 Bids must be accompanied with Earnest money and cost of tender document (Non- Refundable/Non- transferrable) to be deposited under MH: 0702-Rev. Misc. in shape of Treasury Challan/ receipt or e-Challan (mentioning therein NIT No, S No of work and Adv. Cost of work) and to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department (Irrigation & F C) Division Sopore & date on the instruments must not be prior to date of issuance of this tender Notice.
 3. Bidders must ensure to upload all the documents clearly and no clarification shall be asked for later-on. However, the documents shall be received only from 1st lowest tenderer (L-1) at the time of fixation of contract.
 4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of Price bids.
 5. Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
 - 5.01 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual form the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquaints bid submission process.
 - 5.02 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per information Technology Act- 2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
 - 5.03 The bidder has to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - 5.04 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in above at S. No. 1.
 6. The Bid Security/ Earnest Money shall be forfeited if:
 - 6.01 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.
 - 6.02 Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required Performance Security within the specified time limit of seven days from the date of notification of same to the bidder by the tender opening authority.
 - 6.03 Failure to produce the original documents necessary for verification on declaration of the lowest bidder (L-1) on which bidder was qualified by or before 07 days of the opening of Price Bid / generation of comparative statement.
 - 5.05 2996-3007
 - DIPK-8312/25

Dated: - 20-11-2025.

Executive Engineer
Irrigation & F C Division
Sopore

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPOR: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



HIGHWAY STATUS



- Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
- Mughal Road - (Open)
- Srinagar- Leh- (Open)



HIJRI CALENDAR

29 Jumada al-Awwal

1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 40
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	3: 50
Magrib	5:30
ISHA	6: 51

This Day In History

- 235 - St Anterus begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 695 Pope Sergius names Willibrord as Archbishop Clemens of Friezen
- 1272 - Following Henry III of England's death on November 16, his son Prince Edward becomes King of England.
- 1317 - Frederik of Sierck/Zyrick becomes bishop of Utrecht
- 1620 - Pilgrim Fathers reach America: Provincetown Harbor, Mass
- 1729 - Netherlands signs Treaty of Seville
- 1759 - Battle at Maxen: Prussian army surrenders to Austrians
- 1794 - Honolulu Harbor discovered
- 1806 - Decree of Berlin: Emperor Napoleon I bans all trade with Britain
- 1813 - Stettin surrenders to allied armies
- 1818 Russia's Tsar Alexander I petitions for a Jewish state in Palestine
- 1877 - Thomas Edison announces his "talking machine" invention (phonograph), the 1st machine to play and record sound
- 1906 - China prohibits the opium trade
- 1914 - British army conquers Baza
- 1917 - Maxim Gorky calls Vladimir Lenin a blind fanatic and unthinking adventurer
- 1918 - 2 German ammunition trains explode in Hamont Belgium, 1,750 die
- 1924 - British Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin cancels Labour contract with USSR
- 1942 - Hitler names field marshal Erich von Manstein commander of the newly-created Army Group Don (Heeresgruppe Don)
- 1944 - Personnel & executive staff of Philips demonstrate for more food
- 1945 - Benjamin Britten's 2nd String quartet in C premieres
- 1945 - General Motors workers go on strike
- 1946 - Georgi Dimitrov elected premier of Bulgaria
- 1946 - Harry Truman becomes 1st US President to travel in a submerged sub
- 1947 - Bill Longson beats Lou Thesz in St Louis, to win National Wrestling Association world heavyweight title
- 1949 - Bill Veeck sells Indians for \$22 million
- 1952 - 1st US postage stamp in 2 colors (rotary process) introduced
- 1953 - Authorities at the British Natural History Museum announce the "Piltdown Man" skull, one of the most famous fossil skulls in the world, is a hoax
- 1955 - Argentina asks Panama for return of ex-president Peron
- 1962 - The Chinese People's Liberation Army declares a unilateral cease-fire in the Sino-Indian War.
- 1967 - Vietnam War: American General William Westmoreland tells news reporters: "I am absolutely certain that whereas in 1965 the enemy was winning, today he is certainly losing."
- 1970 - General Hafez al-Assad becomes Prime Minister of Syria following military coup
- 1971 - Battle of Garibpur: Indian troops aided by Mukti Bahini (Bengali guerrillas) defeat the Pakistan army
- 1974 - Birmingham pub bombings: 21 civilians killed when bombs explode at two pubs in Birmingham, England (deadliest attack in England during "the Troubles")
- 1989 - Law banning smoking on most domestic flights signed by US President George H. W. Bush
- 2002 - NATO invites Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia to become members.
- 2012 - An Israel and Hamas ceasefire is negotiated
- 2013 - 31 people are killed by a truck bomb in northeastern Iraq
- 2013 - The Alabama parole board grants posthumous pardons to three members of the Scottsboro boys
- 2016 - India celebrates 50th anniversary of IR8, rice variety specially bred that saved much of Asia from famine
- 2017 - Robert Mugabe's resignation after 37 years in power is read out in Zimbabwe's parliaments during impeachment proceedings

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of
Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex,
Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Distribution & Advertising: Firdous Ahmad
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

KO VIEW

Kashmir Needs
Platforms

Many young Kashmiri entrepreneurs are creating smart, original products that can easily stand on global shelves. They make herbal blends, craft tools, design software, and develop services rooted in local skills.

But most of their work stays hidden, limited to small workshops or social media pages.

The main issue is the absence of platforms. A founder may spend years perfecting a product and still have no clear path to reach customers outside the valley. Without strong marketing support, distribution networks, or collaborations, many promising ideas never grow beyond a familiar circle of buyers.

At the same time, global brands are taking over local markets. Kashmiri bazaars are now full of products promoted across India. Shopkeepers prefer them because these brands are well-known and sell quickly.

Even online, searches for items traditionally made in Kashmir often show national and international companies first, instead of the people who create these products here.

This creates an uneven playing field. A local entrepreneur may offer something of equal or better quality than a big brand, but without visibility, his work goes unnoticed.

The idea of “vocal for local,” once meant to support homegrown businesses, is slowly losing ground.

This gap weakens the dream of a strong startup ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. If we want innovation to thrive, we need platforms that feature local makers, policies that make it easier for young founders to grow, and partnerships that help them reach wider markets.

The national push to support local products applies here too. Kashmir has hundreds of young builders ready to innovate and compete. They simply ask for guidance, fair chances, and a place to showcase their work to the world.

Kashmir does not have to reject global products. But it must raise its own talent with equal energy.

If the region wants a vibrant startup culture, it should begin by trusting its own creators and giving them the support they need to shine.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Kashmir Eyes Better Returns

A shift from property pride to smarter financial choices can reshape household wealth in the valley.

Irshad Mushtaq

For many Kashmiri families, real estate remains the first choice for investment. Elders still urge everyone to buy land whenever possible. The idea feels safe and rooted in tradition. But the financial landscape today pushes investors to look again and consider new options.

Property still offers emotional value. Families recall homes in Delhi that rose in price and created stability. But the numbers today are less convincing.

Rental yields in major cities stay close to 2 to 3 per cent a year. Maintenance bills take away more value. Returns once touched high double digits in a few pockets. Growth slowed after the 2014 floods as many localities struggled to deliver steady gains. Selling a property can take months and legal processes add delays.

Market-linked products present a stronger case. The Nifty 50 has averaged about 12 per cent CAGR across thirty years. Leading flexi-cap mutual funds have delivered close to 15 per cent over two decades with simpler taxation and easy liquidity.

These products work without high commissions, legal hurdles, or long waiting periods. Only 7 per cent of Indians invest in such instruments. Kashmir’s share stays below 1 per cent due to mistrust and poor awareness.

The preference for real estate is more psychological than financial. Property feels stable and markets feel risky, though long-term data suggests the opposite. A mutual fund can be sold in minutes. A flat may take a year to find a buyer. Investors need to study costs, track real returns after inflation, and choose products with low charges.

Kashmir once relied on land, gold, and fixed deposits. Today the region can access national and global markets with ease. Wealth grows when learning grows. A balanced, flexible approach offers younger generations a clearer path to financial strength.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.



Paws and Policy

Supreme Court directives spark structured intervention in Kashmir to balance public safety with animal welfare.

Mohammad Hanief

Kashmir mornings start with a sense of worry. Children head to school with extra care. Shopkeepers keep an eye on the lanes outside their stores. Even a short visit to a hospital can feel uneasy.

Behind this caution is a growing stray dog population across Jammu & Kashmir that has changed the way people move through public spaces.

Thousands of bite cases in recent years have stretched hospitals, worried families, and pushed people to ask for firm action.

This month, the Government of Jammu & Kashmir issued an extensive order to address the problem systematically, creating committees at both the Union Territory and district levels.

The move follows directions from the Supreme Court, which has flagged the threat stray dogs pose to children in particular and urged states to adopt scientifically proven and humane measures to control populations.

For the first time in years, there is a sense that administration, judiciary, and communities are approaching the issue with aligned seriousness.

At the heart of the new strategy is a Union Territory-level committee, chaired by senior bureaucrats from diverse sectors: Health, Education, Housing, Public Works, Transport, Sports, Rural Development, and Law.

Representatives from national bodies like the Animal Welfare Board and the NHA are also included, reflecting a multi-departmental, whole-of-government approach.

Housing & Urban Development acts as the nodal authority, responsible for tracking progress, ensuring compliance with the 2023 Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules, and reporting to the Supreme Court.

Sterilisation and vaccination form only one part of the plan. Officials also have to secure public institutions, including schools, hospitals, playgrounds, transport points and other busy areas, against stray dog intrusions.

In Srinagar, several spots near hospitals, markets, and tourist areas have turned into dog hotspots, largely because of scattered food waste. The administration wants to reduce these risks by identifying such zones, cutting access to food waste, and keeping a closer

watch across public and private institutions.

At the district level, committees headed by Deputy Commissioners will coordinate with Municipal Commissioners, police officers, and departmental heads. Their responsibilities include inspecting public spaces, arranging fencing or gates where needed, and ensuring stray dogs are sterilised, vaccinated, and moved to shelters.

Feeding will be regulated through designated spots to discourage random street feeding while ensuring animals receive controlled care.

Public awareness is another important part of the plan. Schools and hospitals will run sessions on safe behaviour around animals, how to respond to bites, and why quick reporting matters.

Srinagar’s lone anti-rabies clinic, already

stretched during peak tourist seasons, will now work alongside hospitals that are required to keep steady stocks of anti-rabies vaccines and immunoglobulin.

Waste management, often overlooked in discussions about stray animals, is central to the new system. Improper disposal at markets, schools, or transport hubs can sustain dog populations regardless of sterilisation drives.

The government order mandates strict waste protocols and regular monitoring to complement other interventions.

Coordinated highway patrols will also ensure that stray dogs and livestock do not disrupt traffic or create accidents, illustrating the administration’s intention to protect both human and animal life.

Monthly progress reports from district committees, including covering sterilisation, vaccination, sheltering, inspections, and awareness campaigns, will feed into UT-level assessments, forming a structured compliance record for the Supreme Court.

The scale and ambition of this initiative mark a departure from piecemeal measures of the past.

By integrating multiple departments, enforcing accountability, and adopting a humane approach, the government seeks a balance between public safety and animal welfare.

Success will hinge on disciplined waste management, community engagement, and consistent monitoring, especially in high-density urban pockets where fear of attacks remains palpable.

For the people of Jammu & Kashmir, this effort offers relief to parents anxious about their children, commuters wary of daily routes, and healthcare workers burdened with bite cases.

It also signals a larger shift: that urban safety can be strengthened without sidelining animal welfare, and that collaborative governance can tackle challenges that affect everyday life in deeply tangible ways.

The next few months will reveal whether these committees can translate policy into action, and whether Srinagar and Jammu can reclaim public spaces from the threat that has lurked too long in plain sight.

The author is a senior analyst. He can be reached at m.hanief@gmail.com.

Letter to Editor

An Open Letter to Omar Abdullah on the Future of J&K Students

Honourable Chief Minister,

I write with a simple concern that many of us in Jammu and Kashmir talk about in private. Our education system is slipping into a cycle of ceremonies while students struggle with real learning and teachers feel increasingly sidelined.

Your warning about the mushrooming of colleges struck a chord. The rush to approve 50 degree colleges in 2019 happened without planning or accountability. Many of those institutions still run with low enrollment, weak facilities, and almost no permanent staff. Students and teachers carry the burden of decisions made in haste.

The transfer system tells a similar story. The ATD Portal, introduced in 2023 as a step toward transparency, has been pushed aside

for manual transfers. Teachers feel tossed around from one posting to another without fairness or clarity. This goes against the spirit of a digital India.

Meanwhile, the world is changing fast. AI can now write, analyze, and organise information in seconds. This means teachers have to guide students to think clearly, ask better questions, and solve real problems. Creativity and critical thinking count more than memorising facts. Teachers can take on this role only when they get the support they need.

Many colleges do not even have basic staff like sweepers or chowkidars. Others rely heavily on Local Fund Employees whose wages swallow money meant for student services. Smaller colleges suffer while larger ones carry an imbalance. The system feels stretched in

all directions.

Teachers need steady training in new technology, help in pursuing higher studies, and a clear path for promotions. A teacher who never gets a chance to learn cannot prepare students for the future. Career stagnation is pushing many bright educators into frustration.

Another challenge sits right in front of us. The administration has become obsessed with events. Seminars, parades, and cultural shows happen one after another. These activities have value although they have overtaken the real work of teaching. A stage gets ready faster than a laboratory. This says everything about our priorities.

This drift feeds our unemployment crisis. Thousands of students graduate with outdated degrees that the modern job market does

not value. They walk into the world with paper boats in a rising storm. Reforming old courses and building skill-based learning is an urgent need, not an optional exercise.

Honourable Chief Minister, you have the authority to shift this course. The staged receptions during official visits hide the daily struggles inside classrooms. The truth lives in the eyes of a teacher waiting for a fair posting and a student unsure of what lies beyond graduation.

Jammu and Kashmir can rebuild its education system with focus and courage. The future is moving fast. Our classrooms must move with it.

Sincerely,

Aufaq Zargar
aufaq.zargar@gmail.com

Ancient Wisdom for Modern Kashmir

Amid anxiety and social pressures, two forgotten Islamic practices offer Kashmiri youth practical and spiritual guidance for life beyond home.

Dr. Rameez Ahmad

Life in Kashmir has grown heavier over the years. Economic uncertainty, political tension, and social expectations touch every part of daily life. For young people, even stepping out of the valley for studies or work at times feels risky.

After the recent Delhi suicide attack, I saw friends hesitate and reconsider journeys that once seemed simple. Profiling, stereotyping, and suspicion have become routine. Fear now shapes decisions that used to depend on ambition or curiosity.

From my perspective as someone who studies society, this feels like what Émile Durkheim called excessive regulation.

When expectations, scrutiny, and moral pressures pile up, people shrink under the weight. I see young Kashmiris caught between performing perfectly for others and avoiding misjudgment.

Families, once sources of warmth, drift into routine. Friendships weaken, community bonds strain, and anxiety grows silently in homes and streets.

Some young people I know shrink their own worlds, choosing what to do, where to go, and even what to dream based on fear.

I have often thought about how Islam addresses such moments.



Two practices, Istisharah and Istikharah, speak directly to the uncertainty we face.

Istisharah is seeking advice from those with experience and wisdom. Istikharah is turning to God when our own judgment falters.

Together, they teach that decisions should not come from panic or pressure. They encourage patience, reflection, and trust in guidance that is greater than our immediate fears.

I recall reading how the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, sought advice from companions, including some younger than himself.

He showed that listening to others is a sign of wisdom, than weakness. Istisharah asks us to speak, listen, and weigh counsel.

I think of my own life and of the young Kashmiris I meet, and I realize how often a conversation with someone trusted could prevent rash decisions.

Leaving the valley for studies, work, or migration should never

come from fear. It should come from careful consultation and reflection. Istikharah completes this process.

When human advice reaches its limit, turning to God provides calm. I have practiced it myself when fear blurred judgment. It reminds me that clarity is always near if I pause long enough to ask for it.

In a world crowded with digital misinformation, political manipulation, and communal mistrust, Istikharah has become my anchor. It teaches that some decisions require surrender and trust.

This guidance feels significant for Kashmiris because pressures on young people are growing.

Families face economic challenges. Communities are fragmented.



WHEN I LOOK AT YOUNG KASHMIRIS TODAY, I SEE FEAR, BUT I ALSO SEE POTENTIAL. I see ambition that needs direction and a generation that can thrive if it learns to pause, seek advice, and trust. Istisharah and Istikharah can give that direction.

Young people see lifestyles that impress but leave them hollow.

Decisions often happen in reaction to fear of judgment, failure, isolation, or profiling.

I have spoken to friends who avoid opportunities because anxiety holds them back. I have seen depression rise silently among those carrying the weight of social expectations.

When pressure builds, faith often steps aside, and fear rushes in to fill the space.

I have come to see Istisharah and Istikharah as tools for survival. They remind young Kashmiris to pause, seek counsel, pray, and weigh decisions carefully.

They restore agency in moments when the world feels threatening and confusing. They teach that clar-

ity comes through patience, courage through reflection, and trust can grow even in the valley's uncertainty.

I remember friends who rushed decisions out of fear. I remember families who discouraged travel because they could see the risks I could not.

In moments like these, I learned that consulting others and turning to God are acts of courage. They protect the mind, heart, and body from choices made in haste.

I now tell young people around me: pause before you decide. Seek advice, pray sincerely, and consider consequences. Step beyond the valley with thought instead of fear.

Guidance is always close, but we have to reach for it. Clarity comes when we pause and ponder. Calm grows when we let go of fear. Strength comes from patience, careful thought, and trust.

For Kashmiris, these practices can ease anxiety, restore confidence, and guide decisions toward safer and more fulfilling paths.

They protect mental health, reduce the silent suffering of those carrying societal pressure, and restore purpose to a generation facing uncertainty.

When I look at young Kashmiris today, I see fear, but I also see potential. I see ambition that needs direction and a generation that can thrive if it learns to pause, seek advice, and trust.

Istisharah and Istikharah can give that direction.

They can provide clarity, calm, and courage. They can help us face life beyond the valley with eyes open and hearts steady.

— The author is an independent scholar and former senior research fellow in sociology at Aligarh Muslim University. He can be reached at rameezln777@gmail.com.



FOR KASHMIRIS, THE TWIN ISLAMIC PRACTICES CAN EASE ANXIETY, RESTORE CONFIDENCE, AND GUIDE DECISIONS TOWARD SAFER AND MORE FULFILLING PATHS. They protect mental health, reduce the silent suffering of those carrying societal pressure, and restore purpose to a generation facing uncertainty.

Wake Them With Warmth

Warm words at sunrise can make a measurable difference in a child's behaviour, energy and learning in Kashmir.



Mohmad Iqbal Khandy

A few days ago in Srinagar, I watched a short video on Facebook while talking with colleagues. It showed a teacher explaining how we wake our children in the morning. He said many of us begin their day with pressure. His message felt true the moment I heard it.

When we connect waking up with something pleasant, children step into the day with ease instead of stress.

Childhood carries learning, surprise, fear, courage and a constant search for new experiences. Science backs this.

Between one and twelve years, the brain grows at its fastest pace. UNICEF says more than 80 percent of brain development happens before age five.

Every word, tone and action shapes a child's emotional world. Even small stress in early years affects attention and confidence.

Kashmiri teachers see this in classrooms every day.

Mornings matter the most. A child wakes with an active subconscious mind that receives every signal clearly. A calm voice helps release happy hormones like dopamine and serotonin. A tense voice triggers adrenaline. Both shape the child's mood for the entire day.

Many of us use the same warnings at dawn: "Wake up or you will miss the bus," "Get up or your exam will go



PARENTING IN KASHMIR COMES WITH PRESSURE. FAMILIES WORRY ABOUT STUDIES, exams and future careers. Small habits at home can still make a big difference. A gentle wake-up routine helps children feel loved, safe and ready for the day.

wrong." "Hurry, everyone else is already ahead."

These lines sound normal in our homes, though they carry fear. Children still wake up, eat and go to school. Their day often feels heavy. I see this in my students in Anantnag.

Some reach school tired and unmotivated before the first class begins. This affects their learning, focus and emotional strength.

I decided to try something new with my own two children. I started waking them gently: "Wake up, I made your

favourite tea," or "Your friends will be happy to see you today," or "Look outside, the sunrise is beautiful."

These words lifted their mood. They woke up faster, with curiosity instead of worry.

I also carry this approach into my classroom in Vailoo.

Many students walk long distances to reach school. A warm greeting changes their day. Children who feel valued engage better, learn faster and make stronger friendships.

Those who start the day with stress carry it into every lesson.

Children hold energy in every part of their being. They need time to play, run, think and feel heard. When they release that energy during the day, they sleep better. Good sleep helps them stay alert, manage emotions and grow with confidence.

Parenting in Kashmir comes with pressure. Families worry about studies, exams and future careers. Small habits at home can still make a big difference.

A gentle wake-up routine helps children feel loved, safe and ready for the day.

I learned this from a simple video, though its lesson changed my home and my classroom.

— The author is a JK-UT Best Teacher Awardee and teaches at MS Badray, Vailoo in District Anantnag. He can be reached at khandyiqbal@gmail.com.

Saabirah's House

A widow in Srinagar devotes her life to her family, only to face betrayal inside the home she built with her own hands.

Syed Majid Gilani

Saabirah walked into her Srinagar home at eighteen, carrying more hope than belongings.

Her husband greeted her with warmth, and his parents opened their arms as if she had always belonged there.

She entered her new life with steady resolve. Days filled with cooking, visits to relatives, small favours for neighbours, and a kindness that shaped every corner of the house.

Motherhood soon added its own glow. First a son, then two daughters.

She handled the long days of work, prayer, and parenthood without complaint and later joined a private school as a teacher.

Her small salary brought dignity and helped her family rise a little above worry.

Evenings filled with tuitions and children from nearby homes, their notebooks spread out across her kitchen table.

Life moved in a straight, dependable line until the morning everything collapsed.

Her husband suffered a sudden cardiac arrest and passed away when she was forty-two. The house felt smaller after that day. Nights stretched out with a heaviness she had never known.

Many Kashmiri widows carry their pain in silence, and she became one of them.

She quit her job and focused entirely on her children and her ageing in-laws. There were illnesses to handle, medicines to measure, and long nights beside their beds.

She used her husband's savings carefully and kept the house in shape through slow years filled with responsibility. When her children grew older, she arranged their marriages with whatever she could gather: savings, her pension, even the gold she had collected since her wedding.

She worked through winter chills and summer heat, keeping every corner of the home clean. She gave without pause and never spoke about her losses.

Her son Imran stayed with her after marriage. She welcomed his wife, Naila, with affection. She taught her family routines,



guided her through the household, and helped her settle into the home.

When Naila wished to work as a teacher, Saabirah encouraged her. She promised to take care of the home and the children, and she fulfilled that promise without hesitation.

Her grandchildren became the center of her days. She cooked for them, washed their clothes, soothed their fevers, and waited at the gate every afternoon.

Her pension often went toward family expenses, and she offered it gladly. The house moved smoothly because she handled everything behind the scenes.

Then the tone inside the home shifted. The warmth she had built over decades started to thin. Conversations turned sharp. Small disagreements grew into larger ones. Naila dismissed her opinions and spoke with irritation.

These tensions between women inside Kashmiri households often stay hidden behind polite greetings and shared family meals.

Saabirah felt the change but kept her peace. The day Naila told her to leave the house left her stunned. The house she had shaped since girlhood now felt unfamiliar. Her

refusal brought more strain.

Naila began pressing through legal channels, filing complaints and taking steps that pushed Saabirah outside the home she had nurtured for decades.

False cases appeared, painting her as an intruder instead of a mother who had spent her life holding this family together.

Imran stood with his mother. He tried to explain the value a mother brings to a home, the status she holds in Kashmiri culture, the blessing that comes from her presence. His words changed nothing.

Arguments grew tense, and the situation turned harsh. Naila dragged both mother and son into disputes that drained them emotionally and financially.

The home that once carried prayer and laughter now carried fear of the next step.

Through this turmoil, Saabirah relied on her faith. She prayed through long evenings and asked Allah to protect her son and grandchildren. She prayed for Naila as well. Forgiving came easier to her than anger. It had always been that way.

Now she moves through her late sixties with slow steps. She wakes before dawn, spreads her prayer mat, and recites verses with a steady voice. Her eyesight weakens, her hands shake, but her faith stays firm.

Relatives visit during long afternoons. They sit in her courtyard, sip kehwa, and share memories of her younger days. They speak of her years of service, the sacrifices she never mentioned, the calm she carried even when life broke around her. She listens with a small smile and holds their hands with gratitude.

She asks for fairness from Allah alone. She carries no bitterness, only a hope that truth finds its way through tangled narratives.

Her story reflects a larger truth inside Kashmiri homes. Women face deep struggles, and sometimes those wounds come from another woman.

Conversations about women's rights often overlook mothers-in-law whose entire lives revolve around their families. These women need dignity as much as anyone else.

A home stays whole when every woman inside it receives respect, and Saabirah knows this better than anyone.

She waits for peace to return and continues with the same calm she brought into this house when she was a young bride.

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

Search Operations Along Indo-Pak Border In Kathua, Samba & Jammu

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Security forces conducted search operations along the Indo-Pak border and hinterland areas in Kathua, Samba and Jammu districts on Thursday as part of a security drill to enhance vigilance, officials said.

The forces carried out search operations in Korepannu and Marheen villages in Kathua; between Sadoh and Arangal villages, particularly forested areas near Mawa village in Samba district, besides the Chowki Choura area of Jammu, they said.

According to officials, the joint search operations -- conducted by the Special Operations Group (SOG) of Jammu and Kashmir Police,

border police and the Border Security Force (BSF) -- were aimed at strengthening security and enhancing vigilance in areas along the Indo-Pak border.

To review the security apparatus along the International Border, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Kathua, Mohita Sharma conducted a ground review of the anti-infiltration grid in lower Kathua, visiting remote villages and security camps in Hiranagar and Rajbagh areas.

She inspected Malaman and Chingara outposts and interacted with personnel deployed there and was briefed on past infiltration routes, Village Defence Guards (VDGs) and key terrain features, officials said.

Ensure Innocent Kashmiris Are Not Doubted Or Harassed: Dr Farooq Urges Centre

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Thursday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and chief ministers to ensure that Kashmiris living, studying or earning their livelihood across the country are not viewed with suspicion or subjected to any form of harassment in the wake of the Delhi car blast.

In a statement, Abdullah expressed deep concern about the narratives that sometimes emerge after such unfortunate events and emphasised that those responsible for criminal acts constitute a minuscule fraction and in no way represent the



people of Jammu and Kashmir. "It is deeply painful when the actions of a few misguided individuals lead to an atmosphere of doubt and hostility toward the entire Kashmiri community. The people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially our youth working and studying in different parts of the country, must feel safe, supported and protected," he said. Asserting that Kashmiris have

always contributed positively to the social, economic, and cultural fabric of India, Abdullah urged all governments to take proactive measures to safeguard the dignity, safety and security of Kashmiris in every state and Union Territory.

The former chief minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir appealed to the leadership at the Centre and in the states to issue clear directives to law enforcement agencies to maintain vigilance against any form of "discrimination or targeted harassment", ensuring that innocent citizens are not victimised in moments of heightened tension.

"We must stand together as one nation, with justice and fairness as our guiding principles," he added.

Stereotyping Unfortunate: Sajad Lone To PM

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: People's Conference president Sajad Lone on Thursday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure the safety of Kashmiris outside the union territory.

"Please ensure that any citizen of India, including Kashmiris, is not harassed in their own country," Lone said and expressed concern over reports of harassment they face across the country.

"Reports of harassment of Kashmiris across India are coming in. Stereotyping of a Kashmiri, unfortunately, is a favourite hobby across the country," he said in a statement.

The MLA from Handwara said the incidents of harassment were not new, but the intensity has increased over the past 10 years.

"It is not a new trend. It is just that it has become more chronic in the last decade," he said.

Pointing to the anxiety faced by Kashmiri families, Lone said lakhs of Kashmiris are in other parts of the country for business, education, or other work.

"The families of these people are most concerned that no adverse events should take place, which will put the safety of their loved ones in danger," he added.

Lone admitted that extremism existed but emphasised it should not define an entire community.

"Yes, there are radical lunatics in every society. But they are an aberration," he said.

Meanwhile, PDP MLA from Kupwara Mir Mohammad Fayaz spoke with Himachal Pradesh Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla regarding the incident involving harassment of Kashmiri vendors.

"The Hon'ble Governor has assured that necessary action will be taken," the PDP posted on its X handle. (PTI)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Set for

facilities, multimodal connectivity and last mile access have ensured that remote areas are linked to development. He added that e-commerce and the expanding retail sector are also strengthening the warehousing and logistics ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

He called for meeting the developmental needs of the region through smart logistics infrastructure and improved operations.

"A strong storage, logistics and warehouse ecosystem is essential to move towards self-reliance and to connect producers directly with consumers," Sinha said.

He added that such improvements would support traders, industrialists, farmers, artisans and MSMEs.

The Lieutenant Governor said Jammu and Kashmir is working on several initiatives to make the Union Territory more competitive and investment ready. He announced that the J&K Logistics Policy 2025 will be unveiled soon.

Sinha said the policy will introduce a comprehensive framework focused on multimodal connectivity, development of dry ports and warehousing zones, and greater private sector participation. It will also grant industry status to the logistics sector to ensure it receives benefits under the industrial policy.

He said that under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, 49 major logistics and connectivity projects worth about 3,000 crore rupees have already been mapped, helping improve coordination and accelerate execution. According to him, the integrated planning approach is helping the region identify logistics gaps, strengthen last mile connectivity to industrial estates, improve freight movement and reduce costs and transit times.

The Lieutenant Governor said a Multi Modal Logistics Park will be developed in Vijaypur, Jammu, through a public private partnership model using the Build Develop Finance Operate Transfer approach. The facility will include an inland container depot, warehousing, cold storage, a truck terminal and a container freight station to support trade and improve logistics efficiency.

The event was attended by Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce Vikramjit Singh, ICC Jammu Chairman Rahul Sahai, ICC Regional Director Debmalya Banerjee, Transport Commissioner Vishes Paul Mahajan, business leaders, members of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and senior officials.

NIA Picks Up

has risen to six. The NIA had earlier arrested Amir Rashid Ali and Jasir Bilal Wani. Investigators said Dr Umar un Nabi, who drove the explosives laden car that detonated outside the Red Fort, bought the vehicle in Ali's name. Wani was arrested after it emerged that Umar had tried to convince him to become a suicide bomber. He refused but allegedly agreed to work as an overground supporter for the banned Jaish e Mohammed.

Officials said interrogation has shown that the module, led by a group of doctors, had been scouting for a suicide bomber since last year. They said Umar was the key planner and was described during questioning as a hardcore radical who insisted that their plot required a suicide attack. Wani told investigators he met the doctor group in October last year at a mosque in Kulgam and backed out in April due to financial hardship and his belief that suicide was forbidden in Islam.

The investigation led police and central agencies to Al Falah University in Faridabad where 2,900 kilograms of explosives was recovered. The probe began after Jaish e Mohammed posters appeared on walls outside Srinagar on the night of October 18 and 19. Three persons were arrested after CCTV footage showed them pasting the posters. During interrogation, they named Maulvi Irfan as the person who provided them. His questioning eventually led police to the university and the doctors associated with the module. Ganaie was arrested in Faridabad, Saeed from the same town and Adeel Rather from Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh.

Following the arrests and recoveries, authorities across Jammu and Kashmir have intensified security and compliance checks at medical institutions, commercial units and public places.

Locker Inspections Across Hospitals

In Srinagar, police along with health department officers inspected lockers used by doctors and staff across district hospitals, private hospitals, medical colleges, primary health centres and health facilities. The inspections

were aimed at preventing misuse of lockers for unauthorised storage of restricted or hazardous material. All racks and lockers were checked and staff were reminded to keep proper records and use the space only for official purposes. Officials said similar checks will continue as part of routine vigilance.

In south Kashmir, a major inspection drive was carried out at Government Medical College Anantnag where an AK forty seven rifle was recovered earlier this month from the locker of Dr Adeel Rather. His arrest had led to the busting of the doctor led terror module and the recovery of nearly three thousand kilograms of explosives. Police and hospital authorities checked all lockers, identified unclaimed ones and instructed the college administration to update records.

Security Drives Extended Across Valley

Security checks have also been extended to Bandipora where police and civil administration teams inspected medical and administrative facilities. In Shopian, teams intensified inspections of shops dealing with chemicals, fertilisers, explosives, hardware and vehicle workshops. Shop owners were directed to maintain detailed records of buyers, quantities purchased and intended use. They were also advised to install functional CCTV cameras to aid monitoring.

In Kulgam, authorities carried out verification drives across LPG agencies and commercial gas cylinder outlets. Inspecting officers checked stock registers, distribution logs and transport records to ensure compliance with safety rules. Dealers were told to verify the identity of consumers before sales and maintain proper documentation. Violations will invite strict legal action, officials said.

Highway Monitoring Intensified

Security personnel have been deployed at strategic points including on the Srinagar Jammu highway near Pulwama and at the Qazigund gateway to monitor vehicle movement and maintain public order.

High-Level Committee

carried out by experts from the Forensic Science Laboratory when the accidental detonation occurred.

Refuting the unverified posts being shared online, police said several social media claims were based on speculation and intended to mislead people. The statement urged the public not to circulate unverified information and to rely only on official updates.

Police said the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has already constituted a high-level committee on 16 November to investigate the incident. The committee is headed by the Principal Secretary, Home Department, and includes the Inspector General of Police Kashmir Zone, the District Magistrate Srinagar and a senior scientist from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory of the Government of India.

The committee will examine the circumstances leading to the incident, police said.

'Intellectual Terrorists

riots case. Police said it had become a trend now for doctors and engineers to engage in anti-national activities.

Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the Delhi police, told a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria that the delay in trial was attributable to the accused, and they cannot take advantage of it.

Raju showed in the top court videos of Imam giving "inflammatory speeches" against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

The videos showed Imam giving speeches at Chakhand, Jamia, Aligarh, and Ansanol in 2019 and 2020 before the riots in February 2020 in Delhi.

Pointing out that Imam is an engineering graduate, the advocate said, "Nowadays there is a trend that doctors and engineers are not doing their professions but engaging in anti-national activities."

Raju added, "It's not a simple protest. These are violent protests. They are talking about blockades."

At this juncture, Justice Kumar asked if the speeches were part of the chargesheet, to which Raju replied in the affirmative.

The ASG said CAA protests were timed with US President Donald Trump's visit to India to get international media coverage.

"The ultimate intention is regime change. CAA protests were a red herring; the real purpose was regime change, create economic

deprivation and create chaos across the country. The riots were deliberately made to coincide with the visit of US President Donald Trump. These so-called intellectuals are more dangerous than the ground-level terrorists," Raju said.

Khalid, Imam, Gulfisha Fatima, Meeran Haider, and Rehman were booked under the UAPA, the stringent anti-terror law, and provisions of the erstwhile IPC for allegedly being the "masterminds" of the 2020 riots, which left 53 people dead and over 700 injured.

The violence erupted during widespread protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Strongly opposing the bail pleas of activists, Delhi on Tuesday had argued that it was not something spontaneous but an "orchestrated, pre-planned, and well-designed" attack on the sovereignty of the nation.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Delhi Police, had told the bench that there was an attempt to divide the society on communal lines and it was not merely an agitation against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

2 New MLAs

independent MLAs. The Lieutenant Governor is empowered to nominate five members to the Assembly, including two women, two representatives of migrants and one representing refugees from Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

58 JKAS Officers

Director, J&K Medical Supplies Corporation. Sajad Hussain Ganai has been posted as Mission Director, ICDS, J&K.

Bashir Ahmad Khan will hold additional charge as Executive Director, J&K Rehabilitation Council, Social Welfare Department. Shiv Kumar Gupta is assigned as Controller, Legal Metrology, while Reyaz Ahmad Wani takes over as Special Secretary, Science & Technology Department.

Rajinder Kumar Sharma has been transferred to the Skill Development Department. Ashwani Khajuria will oversee Director, Estates, Jammu, and Kashmir. Abid Hussain is appointed Additional Inspector General of Registration, Kashmir. Ashish Kumar Gupta moves to Power Development Department, and Ashiq Hussain Lily will serve as Regional Director, Survey and Land Records, Srinagar.

Ghan Shyam Singh, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Special Secretary to the Government, Jal Shakti Department. Bilal Khurshid, JKAS, Chief Executive Officer of the Tourism Development Authority, Yusmarg, has been transferred and posted as Additional Registrar Cooperatives, Kashmir.

Riyaz Ahmad Beigh, JKAS, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Doodpathri, will additionally hold the charge of Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Yusmarg.

Natasha Kalsotra, JKAS, Registrar, District Jammu, is transferred and posted as Registrar, J&K Special Tribunal. Suresh Chander, JKAS, Additional Secretary to the Government, Power Development Department, has been transferred as Officer on Special Duty with the Deputy Chief Minister.

Rajesh Kumar Basotra, JKAS, Registrar, Sales Tax Tribunal, J&K, is posted as Registrar, District Kathua. Muzaffar Malik, JKAS, Additional Secretary to the Government, Revenue Department, is transferred as Additional Secretary in the office of Chief Electoral Officer, J&K. Khalid Hussain, JKAS, Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Poonch, has been transferred and posted as Registrar, District Jammu.

Anirudh Rai, JKAS, Joint Registrar, Induscos, Handicrafts Department, is posted as Registrar, Sales Taxes Tribunal, J&K. Fareed Ahmad Kohli, JKAS, Additional Secretary to the Government, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, is posted as Joint Director, Geology and Mining, Jammu.

Nasir Mahmood Khan, JKAS, Deputy Director, Tourism, Kashmir, is posted as Joint Director (Administration) in the Directorate of Rural Development, Kashmir.

Sanjeev Sharma, JKAS, Sub-Registrar, Kathua, is transferred as Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Baderwah. Manzoor Ahmad, Additional Secretary with the Deputy Chief Minister, will await further orders of adjustment in the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

Mukhtar Ahmad, under orders of transfer as Deputy District Election Officer, Pulwama, is posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat,

Jammu. Syed Nadeem Iqbal Andrabi, JKAS, Deputy Secretary to the Government, Finance Department, is transferred and posted as Deputy Director, Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir, against an available vacancy.

Salam Din, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, is posted as Deputy Director Information in the office of Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, against an available vacancy.

Peer Zahid Ahmad, JKAS, Deputy Secretary to the Government, School Education Department, is transferred and posted as Deputy Director, Tourism, Kashmir.

Manoj Kumar, JKAS, Deputy Secretary to the Government, Information Department, is transferred and posted as Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Kishtwar, against an available vacancy. Abdul Khabir, JKAS, Deputy Secretary to the Government, Mining Department, is transferred and posted as Deputy Director, Tribal Affairs, Jammu, and shall also hold the charge of Deputy Secretary to the Government, Science and Technology Department, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Shahzaada Noor-ul-Ain, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Jammu, is transferred and posted as Deputy District Election Officer, Kishtwar, against an available vacancy.

Javid Iqbal Bhat, JKAS, Technical Officer, Revenue Department, is transferred and posted as Deputy Director, Rural Sanitation, Kashmir, against an available vacancy.

Abdul Majeed Rather, JKAS, Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Ganderbal, is transferred and shall await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department.

Altaf Hussain Bhat, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Ganderbal, shall hold the charge of Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Ganderbal, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Sourabh Sharma, JKAS, General Manager, TPO, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Secretary, Jammu Development Authority. Meenakshi Jasrotia, JKAS, Deputy Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Jammu, is now Assistant Settlement Officer, Jammu, while Sugandhi Banotra, JKAS, moves from Assistant Settlement Officer, Jammu, to Deputy Director (Trainings), Handlooms, Jammu.

Ghulam Mohammad Khan, JKAS, shifts from Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Anantnag, to Deputy Director, Estates, Kashmir. Arshada Akhter, JKAS, now serves as Deputy Secretary to the Government in Planning, Development and Monitoring Department.

Farooq Ahmad Bandy, JKAS, Private Secretary, Culture Department, is posted as Deputy Secretary to the Government, Culture Department.

Manoj Kumar, JKAS, moves from Deputy Secretary, J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examination, to Deputy Secretary, Finance Department.

Mohd. Yaseen Shah, JKAS, Administrative Officer, MD KPDCI, Kashmir, is appointed Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Budgam.

Sunil Dutt, JKAS, Deputy Director, Tribal Affairs, Jammu, is now Deputy Secretary in the J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examination.

Preeti Sharma, Jr. Scale JKAS, District Panchayat Officer, Udhampur, is placed at the disposal of the Social Welfare Department. Saniya Malik, Jr. Scale JKAS, along with Kanchan Bala, Jr. Scale JKAS, both from the Excise and Taxation Department, are placed at the disposal of Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants), J&K.

Rupali Vaid, Jr. Scale JKAS, moves from Excise and Taxation Department to serve as Under Secretary in the J&K Services Selection Board.

Mansoor Ahmad, Jr. Scale JKAS, Block Development Officer Sukhnaag, is transferred and posted as Under Secretary to the Government in the Tourism Department; Varun Bhasin, Jr. Scale JKAS, Block Development Officer Latti Marothi, Udhampur, is transferred and placed at the disposal of the Transport Department for further posting.

Tajamul Yousof, Jr. Scale JKAS, Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Shopian, is transferred and placed at the disposal of the Handloom & Handicrafts Department; Sonam Verma, Jr. Scale JKAS, Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (Mills), Jammu, is transferred and placed at the disposal of the Finance Department; Kapil Deol, Jr. Scale JKAS, Block Development Officer in the Directorate of Rural Sanitation Jammu, is transferred and placed at the disposal of the Transport Department; Muzaffar Ahmad Malik, Jr. Scale

JKAS, awaiting adjustment in the General Administration Department, is transferred and placed at the disposal of the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs; Abrar Ahmed Kripak, Jr. Scale JKAS, ARTO Doda, is transferred and placed at the disposal of the Tribal Affairs Department for posting as DTWO.

Sandeep Singh, Jr. Scale JKAS, awaiting adjustment in the General Administration Department, is transferred and placed at the disposal of the Finance Department; Afiaq Ahmed, Jr. Scale JKAS, Under Secretary to the Government, Revenue Department, is transferred and placed again at the disposal of the Revenue Department for further posting; Akshay Sharma, Jr. Scale JKAS, awaiting adjustment in the General Administration Department, is transferred and placed at the disposal of the Finance Department.

Mohit Sharma, Jr. Scale JKAS, awaiting adjustment in the General Administration Department, is transferred and placed at the disposal of the Information Department; Sonali Arora, Jr. Scale JKAS, Block Development Officer Miran Sahib, is transferred and posted as Under Secretary to the Government, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department; and Jyoti Choudhary, Jr. Scale JKAS, Block Development Officer Moughla, is transferred and placed at the disposal of the Handloom & Handicrafts Department for further posting.

CM Meets FM

financial support for welfare-driven initiatives in J&K," the office said.

However, officials said the primary focus of the meeting was securing central assistance to tackle the severe fiscal challenges confronting the UT. They said J&K's finances have been significantly impacted by multiple factors, including a substantial decline in its share of Goods and Services Tax revenue.

A major drop in tourist arrivals following the Pahalgam terror attack has also hit a key revenue stream, they said. In addition, recent floods in both the Kashmir Valley and the Jammu region have caused extensive damage, requiring large expenditure on relief and reconstruction.

The officials said the UT administration is actively seeking urgent central financial support to bridge the revenue deficit and address the setbacks caused by these economic and natural disruptions.

Light Snow

light snowfall over isolated higher areas. The weather is expected to remain dry again from December 4 to 10.

Officials said shallow to moderate fog is likely at many places in the Kashmir division and at isolated spots in Jammu. They also forecast a further dip of one to two degrees Celsius in both maximum and minimum temperatures after November 22.

HC Affirms Remand

to set aside an order by the Appellate Tribunal includes the power to remand, which is a necessary attribute or concomitant of the power to annul or set aside the order under appeal, unless such power is expressly, or by necessary implication or intendment, taken away by the statute which creates the appellate tribunal," said a bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Sanjay Parihar while dismissing a batch of related plea.

The bench responded in affirmative to common question of law that whether the appellate Tribunal defined under Section 2 (b) of the Act of 2002 and exercising powers under Section 26 thereof is empowered to remand the matter back to the Adjudicating Authority after setting aside the order of confirmation passed by the latter confirming the provisional attachment made by the authorized officer under Section 5 of the Act of 2002?"

The power of remand is an important postulate of any authority exercising appellate jurisdiction and vested with the power to confirm, modify or set aside the order appealed against, the court underlined.

"Such power is a necessary concomitant to the powers of the Appellate Authority to pass the orders like the order of confirmation, modification or setting aside," the court said, adding, "Absent such power, the power to set aside or annul the order appealed against, that too, on the technical grounds, like non compliance with the principle of natural justice, would render the power itself illusory and ineffective."

This power is inherent in, and forms an integral part of, the power of the statutory appellate authority to annul or set aside an order under appeal, the court added.

Respiratory Ailments Surge in Kashmir as Mercury Plunges

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As Kashmir's temperatures drop, hospitals across the valley begin to witness a sharp spike in admissions of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and asthma patients.

Doctors said the majority of emergency and casualty cases during winters are linked to COPD—an irreversible and progressive lung condition—largely triggered by smoking and worsening air pollution. They called for prevention, early diagnosis and enhanced respiratory care facilities in the region.

Dr Ghulam Hassan Khan, a chest disease expert, told KNO that COPD cases in J&K are increasing at an alarming rate.

"Most of the patients landing in casualty during the winter months are COPD and asthma patients. Smoking remains the

leading cause. Quitting smoking is the single most effective step to prevent this lifelong disease," he said.

The doctor said a considerable number of people who have never smoked also develop COPD due to exposure to poor air quality, which, he points out, is deteriorating in Kashmir.

"Environmental pollution is rising due to combustion emissions, industrial activities, wood and kerosene burning in homes, biomass fuels, and even charcoal used in kangris. At times, Kashmir's air quality has been reported to be worse than major metro cities," he added.

According to Dr Khan, reducing smoking rates and improving overall air quality would significantly reduce respiratory disease cases. He urged the administration to take concrete measures for cleaner air.

"Apart from smoking and pol-



COPD IS A LIFELONG DISEASE. Winter and pollution aggravate symptoms, leading to increased hospital footfall. Most COPD patients are long-term smokers,"

lution, genetic factors, socioeconomic conditions, repeated lung infections, exposure to toxic fumes, and vascular complications among IV drug users also contribute to COPD," he said.

Dr Khan advised lifestyle modifications such as quitting smoking, avoiding allergens and respiratory irritants, staying hydrated, maintaining good nutrition, regular exercise, and avoiding extreme temperatures can slow the progression of COPD.

COPD, once developed, is irreversible, he explained. Winter months bring frequent infections that push patients into hospitals, he added.

"Flu vaccination, pneumococcal and Haemophilus influenzae vaccines every five years are crucial. These vaccines can prevent infections that worsen COPD during winter," Dr Khan said.

Dr Javid Ahmad, another chest specialist, said that COPD

incidence in Kashmir is higher than in other parts of the country. "COPD is a lifelong disease. Winter and pollution aggravate symptoms, leading to increased hospital footfall. Most COPD patients are long-term smokers," he said.

Dr Ahmad said that early awareness is crucial so that people quit smoking before irreversible lung damage occurs. "Most patients are diagnosed after the age of 45, by which time they've often smoked for two decades. The earlier they quit, the better their lungs can cope," he added.

Doctors advised patients to follow preventive measures to avoid winter complications, which include avoiding overcrowded, poorly ventilated rooms, ensuring adequate ventilation at home, increasing water intake, maintaining a balanced diet and staying away from smoke, dust and pollutants.

Saffron Crisis Deepens as Production Plummets

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir's famous saffron sector is facing one of its toughest years in recent memory, with production dropping drastically to nearly 5-10 percent of the usual yield. As a result, saffron prices in the market have surged by around 20 percent, and traders fear the rates may climb even further in the coming weeks.

Growers and traders, who spoke to KNO attributed the crisis to prolonged dry spells, erratic weather patterns, and shrinking traditional saffron fields—factors that have collectively dealt a heavy blow to this centuries-old industry.

Muhammad Ashraf, a saffron grower from Pampore, often called the 'Saffron Bowl of Kashmir', said this year's output has left farmers devastated. "We have never seen production fall to this extent. Most of us harvested barely a few grams. If this continues, many growers will have no option but to abandon saffron farming," he said.

Another grower, Haleema from Lethpora, said the low yield has pushed many families into financial distress. "Saffron is our main livelihood. With only 5-10 percent produce this year, we are unsure how to manage daily expenses. We request the government to intervene immediately before this crop disappears

from Kashmir," she said.

Traders dealing with saffron say that the supply shortage has already led to a noticeable spike in prices. "Prices have jumped by nearly 20 percent in just a few weeks. If the market continues to receive low stocks, we may see another surge soon," said Bashir Ahmad, a trader in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

He added that buyers, especially from outside Kashmir, are already expressing concern about limited availability.

Another trader, Imran Rather, said the demand is stable, but the supply is extremely low. "This imbalance is pushing the rates up. We are worried that saffron from other countries might capture the market if local production keeps declining," he said.

Saffron growers have appealed for urgent government assistance, including measures to ensure proper irrigation, protect land from conversion, and strengthen the Mission Saffron project.

"We need scientific support, better irrigation systems, and strict action against land encroachment. Without government help, the saffron industry of Kashmir is at serious risk," said Abdul Majid, a grower.

Stakeholders also urged authorities to compensate growers who suffered heavy losses this season.

SLA Raids KT Office in Jammu

Police says cartridges of AK rifles recovered; Paper denies charges

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The State Investigation Agency on Thursday raided the head office of Kashmir Times in Jammu and recovered arms, ammunition and incriminating documents during the search operation conducted over allegations that the publication was promoting anti-national activities, an SIA spokesperson said.

The agency also searched the house of Prabodh Jamwal, the owner of the media house situated at Gandhi Nagar in Jammu, in pursuance of the same investigation.

The searches, conducted in the presence of an Executive Magistrate, were carried out in continuation of the investigation into the case registered against the media house Kashmir Times (kashmirtimes.com) for its alleged involvement in criminal conspiracy with secessionist and other anti-national entities operating within and outside Jammu & Kashmir, a statement issued by the agency said.

The FIR was registered against the organisation, indicating that this particular media platform has been allegedly disseminating terrorist and secessionist ideology, spreading inflammatory, fabricated, and false narratives, attempting to radicalise the youth of Jammu & Kashmir, inciting disaffection and separatist sentiments, disturbing peace and public order, and challenging the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India through print and digital content, it said.

In the raid and search conducted at the office premises of Kashmir Times, located at Residency Road, Jammu, the following incriminating arms and ammunition were recovered: one revolver, 14 empty cases of AK-series weapons, three live AK rounds, four fired bullets, four grenade safety levers, and three suspected pistol rounds, the statement said.



"All recovered items were seized on the spot following due legal procedures. These recoveries indicate possible unlawful possession and suspected linkages with extremist or anti-national elements, warranting further detailed investigation," it added.

The seized arms, ammunition, digital devices, and documents will undergo forensic and technical examination to determine their origin, purpose, and any potential connections to proscribed organisations or individuals.

The investigation remains active, and further action shall be taken based on emerging evidence.

KT Management Slams Raid

The Kashmir Times management issued a sharp rebuttal, calling the allegations "baseless" and the raid an attempt to intimidate an independent media institution.

Editors Prabodh Jamwal and Anuradha Bhasin said in a joint statement, "The reported raids, the accusations of being inimical to the state, and the coordinated crackdown are yet another attempt to silence us."

er attempt to silence us."

They stressed that criticism of the government must not be equated with being anti-national.

"A robust, questioning press is essential to a healthy democracy. Our work of holding power to account strengthens the nation. It does not weaken it," they stated.

The editors highlighted that Kashmir Times, founded by veteran journalist Ved Bhasin in 1954, has a legacy of independent journalism and reporting uncomfortable truths. They accused authorities of targeting the organisation for "speaking truth to power" and called the allegations "a tactic to intimidate and delegitimise" the outlet.

"We will not be silenced," the statement said, urging withdrawal of charges and calling for solidarity from media colleagues and civil society.

They noted that although the newspaper's print edition was suspended in 2021-22 following what they termed "relentless targeting", the organisation continues digital operations with all content publicly accessible. (With inputs from PTI)

ICC Lauds Jammu Division's SDCM for Pioneering Freight Push



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu Division of Northern Railway is witnessing a phase of robust commercial growth, thanks to a renewed emphasis on strengthening freight connectivity and industry-driven logistics. At the centre of this transformation is Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singh, whose initiatives have earned him commendation from the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) for positioning the division as a strategic freight hub for Jammu & Kashmir.

The recognition came during the Trade & Logistics Conclave 2025 hosted by ICC Jammu on Thursday, where Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha was the Chief Guest. Industry leaders and logistics ex-

perts also participated in the event.

Among the division's landmark achievements under Singh's leadership is the introduction of the first industrial salt freight train to the Valley. The arrival of a 21-wagon rake carrying industrial salt from Kharaghoda in Gujarat to Anantnag marked a significant breakthrough in the region's supply chain capability. The consignments provided a dependable and cost-effective alternative to highway transport—often disrupted by harsh weather—benefiting sectors such as tanning, soap and pulp manufacturing, and brick production.

Freight trains also played a key role in ensuring timely transportation of apples when road connectivity was hit by adverse weather conditions.

Kashmir May Face 20% Peak-Time Power Hike

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Close on the heels of a massive controversy in Kashmir over the installation of smart meters, the Power Development Department (PDD) has proposed an extra 20 percent charge on electricity consumption during morning and evening hours in the Valley.

The Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDC) has sought approval from Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) to impose a 20 percent surcharge on all categories of consumers except for the agriculture sector during peak hours, when demand is at its highest due to the bone-chilling cold in the Valley. According to a petition filed before the JERC for J&K and Ladakh, KPDC has proposed the surcharge for different consumer categories, including domestic households. The JERC, a quasi-judicial body, is empowered to approve or reject tariff proposals.

Confirming the development, Managing Director KPDC, Mahmood Ahmad Shah told KNO that "KPDC has proposed a 20 percent surcharge on tariff for the peak hours of the day. As of now, no decision has been taken by the regulatory commission."

The proposal is part of the

Time of Day (ToD) tariff system, under which electricity costs vary depending on the time of consumption.

However, the proposal has been vehemently opposed by the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) during the hearing on KPDC petition on Thursday. The KCCI, represented by Secretary General Faiz Ahmad Bakshi argued that it was misleading for KPDC to claim it had not raised tariffs while simultaneously proposing a surcharge during peak hours.

"Since electricity consumption during these hours is a necessity and not a discretionary choice, treating it as an additional charge is fundamentally unfair," the KCCI said.

Citing figures, the KCCI said Kashmir has the worst power reliability in India.

"As per Central Electricity Authority figures for 2022, the System Average Interruption Duration Index(SAIDI) for Kashmir stands at a shocking 889, while the System Average Interruption Frequency Index(SAIFI) stands at 723.95. These numbers are several times higher than the national averages of 116.12 and 171.64. Even Jammu, despite its own problems, performs significantly better with a SAIDI of 489 and SAIFI of 442," the business body said.(KNO)

WAVES Film Bazaar Opens in Goa with Vibrant Inaugural Ceremony



Observer News Service

GOA: The 19th edition of the WAVES Film Bazaar—South Asia's foremost film market—opened on Wednesday at the Marriott Resort, Panjim, with an exuberant inaugural ceremony that brought together leading filmmakers, policymakers, producers, festival programmers and global delegates. Held alongside the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), the rebranded WAVES Film Bazaar will run from November 20 to 24.

In his opening address, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Secretary Sanjay Jaju described WAVES Film Bazaar as a "natural beginning" to IFFI's celebrations and lauded its evolution into a "complete ecosystem of screenings, masterclasses, and technology showcases." He said the Bazaar's new identity aligns with the

Prime Minister's vision of "converting art into commerce," adding that WAVES is now a unique platform "connecting creators and countries, making India a meeting point for global collaboration."

Jaju highlighted the extensive slate of curated projects, grants, and structured evaluation systems, while also emphasising India's first-ever AI Film Festival and Hackathon hosted at the venue.

Guest of Honour Jaewon Kim, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, praised the organisers for their consistency and commitment since the market's inception. Calling for deeper cultural and creative ties between India and Korea, she captivated the gathering with a moving rendition of Vande Mataram, which drew warm applause and a standing ovation.

J&K BOSE Suspends Affiliation of Four Schools

The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (J&KBOSE) has suspended the affiliation of four private schools after confirming that they had prescribed textbooks not approved by the Board, in violation of its statutory guidelines and the terms of affiliation.

In a statement issued, J&K BOSE said the institutions had displayed "open defiance" of mandatory norms by adopting non-prescribed learning material. Show-cause notices are being served to all four schools, seeking an explanation as to why their affiliation should not be cancelled altogether.

The schools facing suspension are Radiant Public School, Anantnag; Solace International School, Pulwama; Holy Mission School, Narbal, Budgam; and Pioneer Educational Institute, Hanjiwara, Pattan, Baramulla. All Board-related facilities to these institutions have been halted with immediate effect.

The Board has also imposed monetary penalties on eight other private schools for similar violations. These include Candid Higher Secondary School, Nowgam; Fayaz Educational Institute, Chanapora—Nowgam; Al-Fair Institute, Chanapora—Nowgam; Al-Huda Public School, Pattan, Baramulla; Shamas Memorial School, Khanshib, Budgam; Hanfia High School, Frisal, Kulgam; Future Vision School, Bandipora; and Linton Hall School, Rajbagh, Srinagar. The penalised schools have been directed to deposit the fine within one week. Failure to comply will trigger formal proceedings for disaffiliation, the Board warned. (Observer News Service)

SKIMS Issues Public Health Advisory

SKIMS on Thursday issued a comprehensive public health advisory on three common winter-related health conditions, urging people to take necessary precautions as part of the World COPD Day observance organised by the Department of Pulmonary Medicine, Division of Internal Medicine.

A statement issued to Kashmir Observer reads that the event featured a series of expert lectures during a day-long CME-cum-Workshop themed "Shortness of Breath – Think COPD."

Director SKIMS Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie, Patron & Chief Guest, appreciated the Department of Pulmonary Medicine for its remarkable progress. He expressed satisfaction over the establishment of the newly carved-out Pulmonary ICU and the standardized Paediatric Pulmonary Lab, stressing that SKIMS must now strive to achieve global recognition through its specialised skills and resources. Highlighting COPD as the second leading cause of death with a particularly high prevalence in Jammu & Kashmir, he called for a comprehensive screening strategy to enable early diagnosis of non-communicable diseases such as COPD. Citing recently published research in JAMA, he noted the high prevalence of lung cancer in J&K, where smoking remains a major risk factor common to both diseases.

"Early diagnosis and prevention are central to reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases," he emphasized. (Observer News Service)

GHS Zainakote Bags Second Rank in National Water Award



Government Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS) Zainakote has brought laurels to Jammu & Kashmir by securing the second rank in the 6th National Water Award 2024, announced by the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The award ceremony, held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on November 18, 2025, was presided over by the President of India Droupadi Murmu.

The honour—comprising a trophy, citation, and a cash prize of ₹1.05 lakh—was received by the school's former Principal Ali Mohamad Rather and Senior Lecturer Nyla Ali, who represented the institution at the national event. The achievement is particularly noteworthy as the school had also been acknowledged last year under the Special Mention category, marking two consecutive years of national recognition.

Expressing his gratitude, former Principal Rather said the award was a collective victory. "This honour belongs to every student and staff member. It reflects years of hard work and the belief that environmental responsibility must begin at the school level. Our students have shown that with the right guidance, young minds can truly bring positive change," he said. (Observer News Service)

CS Reviews Progress of Major Highways, Tunnels

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the status of major highway and road development projects being executed across Jammu & Kashmir by Project Beacon, Project Sampark, NHAI, NHIDCL, and the Public Works (R&B) Department.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Secretary Transport; Engineer-in-Chief (Works); Regional Officer, NHAI; Chief Engineers of Project Beacon and Project Sampark and other senior officers. All Deputy Commissioners participated through video conferencing.

The Chief Secretary took a project-wise and package-wise assessment of progress on all major highways under execution across the UT. He sought detailed timelines for completion and enquired about bottlenecks faced by the executing agencies. (Observer News Service)

England Desperate To End Ashes Drought In Australia As Series Begins

AP

PERTH: The build-up to the Ashes series starting Friday began at the end of July 2023 following one of the more acrimonious test cricket series between England and Australia.

Ben Stokes and his England lineup won that test at The Oval in South London but it wasn't enough to reclaim the Ashes from the Aussies, who won the first two tests and drew the fourth in a five-match series to retain the old urn.

Cue to Perth Stadium, Day 1 of a possible 25 spanning seven weeks and five cities. There are some big questions in play.

Can an aging, understrength Australia continue an unbeaten run in home Ashes tests that dates to the 2010-11 series?



Can Stokes inspire an end to that long drought for England?

Can Joe Root, the world's No. 1-ranked test batter, finally post an Ashes century in Australia?

THE ENGLISH

Stokes knows the record: 13

tions expected to suit them. Jo-fra Archer is primed to do well in Australia and 35-year-old Mark Wood recovered from a minor hamstring strain to be including in the 12-man match squad for the first test.

THE AUSSIES

Australia captain Pat Cummins and fellow paceman Josh Hazlewood will be missing the first test because of injuries, leaving Australia's attack without half of its frontline bowlers.

The remaining half – left-arm fast bowler Mitchell Starc and offspinner Nathan Lyon – are confident that the team can win on what is expected to be a fast, bouncy pitch in Perth. Brendan Doggett is set to make his test debut alongside fellow fast bowler Scott Boland, making it the first time the men's test XI will contain two players with Australian Indigenous heritage.

Cameron Green's fitness to bowl means he'll fill the all-rounder spot and Australia can give opening batter Jake Weatherald a test debut at the age of 31. The flow-on means Marnus Labuschagne will return at No. 3, with stand-in skipper Steve Smith at No. 4 and allrounder Beau Webster has been cut from the lineup.

SMITH'S ROLE

The 36-year-old Smith will lead Australia for the third time this year and the seventh time since his era as full-time captain ended with the Sandpapergate scandal in 2018.

Junior National Roller Ball C'ship To Be Held In Jammu

Players from around 25 States and the Union Territories are expected to participate in the upcoming Junior National Roller Ball Championship to be held at Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu.

The event would be held from December 29, 2025 to January 1, 2026.

Pertinently, J&K had hosted the senior National and the North Zone Roller Ball Championship in 2023 and the upcoming competition will be the third national event to be hosted by the J&K Roll Ball Association in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council.

An official said that arrangements and preparations are being reviewed for the successful conduct of the prestigious event. "Besides Maulana Azad Stadium one more venue will be selected for the championship," he added.

Notably, the Roll Ball is a sport that has become popular in a short span in J&K and players from the region have won International and National medals.

They have also been decorated with the prestigious 'State Award', Sher-e-Kashmir Award, and the 'Rangil Singh Award' by the J&K government. (KNO)

Indian Football Team Drops 6 Places To 142nd In FIFA Rankings

The embarrassing 0-1 defeat to Bangladesh in the 2027 Asian Cup qualifiers saw the Indian men's football team drop six places down to 142nd in the latest FIFA rankings, reflecting the national side's free fall in the last two years.

The Khalid Jamil-coached team lost to Bangladesh for the first time since 2003 in Dhaka on Tuesday, leaving the country's football fans deeply anguished at the continuous downward slide in its fortunes.

The team has already been knocked out of Asian Cup contention after losing to Singapore in Goa last month. This was the worst ranking of the team since October 2016 when it was placed at 148th.

The Indian team is now ranked 27th among the 46 Asian countries included in the FIFA rankings, with Japan on top at 18th, followed by Iran (20th), South Korea (22nd), Australia (26th) and Uzbekistan (50th). India's best ever ranking was 94 in February 1996. (PTI)

East Bengal Knocks PM's Door, Seeks Help For Football Revival



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Concerned about Indian football's "decline for many years", East Bengal, one of the country's oldest clubs, on Thursday sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's urgent intervention to address the "unprecedented crisis", highlighted by the uncertainty over the fate of Indian Super League (ISL) and a sharp decline in investment in the sport.

In the letter, the 106-year-old club pointed out that the national team has slipped to 142nd in the latest FIFA rankings despite its illustrious past, which includes Asian Games gold medals in 1951 and 1962 and a bronze in 1970.

The Supreme Court is

currently seized of the matter relating to the selection of a new commercial rights holder of the ISL after the tender floated by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) found no takers. The matter is likely to come up before the SC on Friday.

Interestingly, the Kolkata club is also a part of the 12 ISL teams which have filed a joint application for intervention before the SC, praying for a solution in the vexed issue arising out of the uncertainty in conducting the ISL season.

The club expressed concern that the ISL -- the country's top-tier league -- had still not begun this season, causing "deep distress" among players, clubs, officials and supporters.

Kabaddi Coaching Camp Probables For Sub-Junior National Named

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association on Thursday announced the list of probables shortlisted for the upcoming coaching camp before the participation of J&K teams in the 35th Sub-Junior National Kabaddi Championship (Boys and Girls). The championship is scheduled to be held at Sonipat, Haryana, from November 27 to 30, under the banner of the J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association and J&K Sports Council.

According to General Secretary Dr. Kuldeep Kumar Gupta, a total of 32 players have been selected in both sections for the preparatory camp.

GIRLS SECTION:

EVA (Jammu), Manjot Rajput (Samba), Nazia Cateef (Bandipora), Beenakshi Devi (Udhampur), Fozia Anjum (Rajouri), Shreya Thakur (Udhampur), Kysa Fatema (Doda), Prakriti (Kathua), Siya (Jammu), Saara Amin Khan (Poonch), Aakriti (Kathua), Sania Jaan (Baramulla), Anfa Tanveer (Baramulla), Girja Bhagat (Jammu), Palak (Jammu) & Baneev Verma (Jammu).

BOYS SECTION:

Irfan Alam (Poonch), Yashir Bashir (Budgam), Waseem Raja (Doda), Danish Ali Waza (Bandipora), Akshraj (Jammu), Yawar Imran Dar (Budgam), Ram Paul Sharma (Jammu), Lavish Dogra (Udhampur), Tanik Loria (Jammu), Farhan Khursheed (Shopian), Shazib Manzoor (Pulwama), Vikas Sharma (Udhampur), Anirudh Dev Singh (Ramban), Vishab Pratap Singh (Kathua), Arun Kumar (Jammu) & Shubam Kumar (Jammu).



Gill To Undergo Fitness Test Friday But Unlikely To Play 2nd Test

Press Trust of India

GUWAHATI: India captain Shubman Gill, who has not trained due to a neck spasm sustained during the first Test against South Africa, will undergo a fitness test on Friday in a last-ditch attempt to be available for the second game, batting coach Sitanshu Kotak has indicated.

Gill developed the spasm on the second day of the opening Test in Kolkata that India lost by 30 runs and hasn't returned to the nets ever since.

While his chances remain slim, the BCCI sports science team is waiting as long as possible before taking a final call. The second and final Test begins on Saturday.

"See, he is definitely recovering really well, because I also met him yesterday," Kotak said ahead of a practice session that Gill skipped.

"Now, the decision will be taken tomorrow evening, because the physios and doctors have to decide whether, even if he is fully recovered, there's a chance of the spasm recurring during the match. That is very important."

"If there is a doubt, then I am sure he will rest for one more game because it won't help the team otherwise. A player like Shubman, and he's the captain so any team would miss him," Kotak added.



Rising Asia Cup: India A Take On Bangladesh A In Semis

India A will need a heftier contribution from their top-order batters to support the in-form Vaibhav Suryavanshi when they take on a tricky Bangladesh A in their Rising Stars Asia Cup semifinal here on Friday. Suryavanshi, the second highest run-maker with 201 runs in this T20 event, has done most of the heavy-lifting with the bat while making a blistering hundred and 45. But other batters in the line-up such as skipper Jitesh Sharma, Naman Dhir, Priyansh Arya and Nehal Wadhwa have not exactly set the tournament ablaze so far. A far more rounded outing from batters is mandatory against Bangladesh as the latter is not a team to be taken lightly. They have bowled out a capable Afghanistan A side for a paltry 78 and then stretched a strong Sri Lanka A all the way till the last over of a league match. (PTI)

MIRAE ASSET Sharekhan

Achieve financial freedom

Set up Systematic Investment Plans in Exchange Traded Funds (Shariah Based ETF)

Contact: M I Securities - 9906518342 / 9906684475
1, 10 Samad Complex, Ma Link Road, Srinagar, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, Srinagar - 190001