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Unregulated Antibiotics Pushing Kashmir Toward A Health Emergency

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Antimicrobial resistance has become a growing concern for doctors in Kashmir, who warn that the world may soon face a time when common infections are no longer easy to cure. They fear that the region is gradually moving toward a post antibiotic era, where routine illnesses could again become life threatening.

Doctors at GMC Srinagar said

that antibiotics, once celebrated as breakthrough medicines, are steadily losing their effectiveness. "We are dealing with cases where trusted antibiotics fail to work. Infections that were simple to cure are now becoming difficult and stubborn," a senior specialist said.

He explained that antimicrobial resistance occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites evolve to survive the drugs meant to eliminate them.

This makes infections harder to treat, prolongs sickness and increases the risk of serious complications.

Doctors say several factors are driving this resistance. These include misuse of antibiotics, incomplete courses of treatment, poor infection control in hospitals, over the counter sales of powerful drugs and excessive use of antimicrobials in agriculture and livestock. The lack of new antibiotics in



recent years has made the situation more worrying.

"People should avoid taking antibiotics without medical

advice. Misuse affects everyone. Over prescribing and self medication have allowed resistant bacteria to spread," the doctor said.

Studies show that resistance has already weakened the treatment of pneumonia, urinary tract infections, tuberculosis and bloodstream infections. A landmark Lancet study published in 2022 estimated that bacterial AMR contributed to 4.95 million deaths in 2019. It warned that by 2050, drug

resistant infections could cause 10 million deaths every year.

A doctor at GMC Anantnag said AMR is not just a medical issue but a major economic and social challenge. "It increases hospital stays, complicates surgeries and puts critical treatments like chemotherapy and organ transplantation at risk," he said.

He also highlighted the environmental dimension of the crisis. "Improper disposal of expired | **More on P6**

'Pak Bid To Derail Peace'

LG Urges Armed Forces To Stay Vigilant

Calls Army Pillar Of Peace & Progress In J&K

Observer News Service

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday called for heightened vigilance by the armed forces, saying the "adversary" is making desperate attempts to disrupt peace and hinder India's progress.

His remarks, seen as a veiled reference to Pakistan, came during the closing ceremony of the mega eye camp 'Op Drishti' at the Northern Command Hospital in Udhampur.

The Lieutenant Governor said the armed forces must continually adapt to the rapidly changing security environment and remain alert to emerging threats. He noted that the recent unearthing of a pan India terror network by the Jammu and Kashmir Police underscored the



need for sustained vigilance.

"I am proud of the selfless service and supreme sacrifices by the Indian Army, the symbol of unity and national integration. The army has contributed to creating a conducive environment for sustainable peace and overall development of J&K as well as the growth of our country," Sinha said.

He commended the Northern Command. | **More on P6**



A flower seller rows his shikara inside Dal Lake on a cold morning. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

MGNREGA Work Limit In J&K Raised To 150 Days

LG, CM Welcome Move

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Centre has approved an increase in the number of person-days provided under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act to 150 for Jammu and Kashmir, a move welcomed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare had recommended extending the benefit of additional employment of 50 days over and above the 100 days per household under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in the flood, cloud burst, and landslide-affected areas of the Union territory for the 2025-26 financial year.

In view of the likelihood of increased demand for employment on public works due to natural calamities, it has been decided to provide up to 50 days of additional employment over and above the 100 days per household in the affected rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir for FY 2025-26, an official release said. | **More on P6**

LG To Chair Key Security Meet In Jammu

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will chair a high level security meeting in Jammu on Sunday to assess the situation following the deadly blast in Delhi last week and to review winter preparedness across the security grid, officials said. Sources said that the meeting is scheduled for 11 am at the Jammu Convention Centre and will be attended by senior officers from the police, army, CRPF, intelligence agencies and the civil administration. | **More on P6**

PM Modi Proposes Four Global Initiatives At G20

Pushes Plan to Counter Drug Terror Nexus

Press Trust Of India

Johannesburg: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called for a profound rethink of the global development parameters and proposed setting up of a G20 initiative to counter the drug-terror nexus and a global healthcare response team.

Addressing the opening session of the G20 Leaders' Meeting here, Modi said the G20 has long shaped global finance and growth, but prevailing models have deprived large populations of resources and driven the over-exploitation of nature – challenges felt acutely in Africa.



Modi also presented the principle of Integral Humanism – part of India's civilisational values – which he said showed a way forward in striking a balance between development and nature.

The prime minister outlined four path-breaking new initiatives – the Global Traditional Knowledge | **More on P6**

DELHI BLAST

SIA Picks Up Man From Srinagar

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police State Investigation Agency on Saturday arrested a Srinagar resident in connection with the ongoing investigation into what officials describe as a white collar terror module linked to the Delhi blast case. Officials identified the arrested individual as Tufail Niyaz Bhat of Batamaloo.

Officials said the arrest follows a series of disclosures made during the investigation into a module that allegedly involved several medical professionals. The case was later taken over by the National Investigation Agency after the November 10 blast near the Red Fort in Delhi that killed at least 15 people and injured many others.

How the Module First Came to Light Police officials said the



module was first detected in mid October after Srinagar Police began investigating posters that carried threats against the police and security forces in Bunpora, Nowgam. According to the officials, Senior Superintendent of Police Srinagar, Dr G V Sundeeep Chakravarthy, personally led the investigation. Police said CCTV footage

attachment of property in Awantipora, heightened vigil in the Chenab Valley, and a coordinated drill at Jammu Airport. Officials said that | **More on P6**

Security Situation In Srinagar Has Improved: CRPF IG

Says Troops Fully Deployed, Coordination At Its Best

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The security situation in Srinagar has improved, and authorities have put the required measures in place to maintain peace, CRPF Inspector General, Srinagar Sector, Pawan Kumar Sharma, said on Saturday, citing close coordination among all security agencies.

Responding to a query on the overall security scenario, Sharma said the CRPF, Jammu and Kashmir Police, the army and the civil administration are working jointly to ensure stability in the region.

"Every possible security measure has been taken in Srinagar and other areas," he told reporters. He said CRPF troops have been deployed across the city and adjoining zones, and the force "is doing a good job" in coordination with other agencies.

His remarks came days after the Counter Intelligence wing of Jammu and Kashmir



Police conducted raids at multiple locations in a terror conspiracy case involving a doctor. Officials said the searches had no link to either the "white collar" terror module or the Delhi blast case. The raids took place in Srinagar, Anantnag and Kulgam districts.

While Srinagar has not witnessed a terror incident in recent months, an accidental blast at the Nowgam police station on November 14 killed nine people and left 32 injured. The explosion occurred as police and Forensic Science Laboratory teams were examining explosives recovered in the "white collar" module.

Sharma spoke on the sidelines of the inauguration of a cricket | **More on P6**

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2

آر سی۔ کی گمشدگی

میری ماٹر سرائگل زیر نمبر JK04E-1859 کے نمبر پلٹ کیں گم ہو گئے۔ بہت ڈھونڈنے پر نہیں ملے۔ اگر کسی نے اٹھائی ہو تو دوہرائے انسانیت نیچے دے ہوئے نمبر پر فون کرے۔ بصورت دیگر اسکی ڈیپلیٹ کاغذی مطلب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر RTO A پورہ گام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد ازاں میرا کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
خود شیدا احمد ڈار مولد حبیب اللہ ڈار سرائگل شولی پورہ پورہ گام
فون۔ 7889730377

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in School records the mother's name of my wards 1. HAFSA MANZOOR and 2. ANAYATULLAH BHAT is entered as ABIDA BANO while her actual name is ROZIA AKHTER. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact HEAD-MASTER GOVT. MIDDLE SCHOOL NENDWANDPORA BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
MANZOOR AHMAD BHAT
F/o 1. HAFSA MANZOOR and
2. ANAYATULLAH BHAT
R/o NANDWANPORA BUDGAM CELL. 8899882008

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed that the documents related to vehicle JK01-4832, Chassis No: SB308-IN 206571 Engine No: F8B-IN 278801 belonging to Sajad Yousuf, have been misplaced. Anyone who finds the documents or has any information is requested to contact the owner. Objections, if any, may be reported to the concerned authority within 7 days.
Phone: 9697001001

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NOTICE

I Mohammad shafi Sheikh S/o Late Ali Mohamad Sheikh R/o Gadoora Tulmulla Ganderbal hereby inform that my father Ali Mohammad Bhat who was the Registered Consumer of PDD having Electric Connection bearing Consumer no.020501007221 intend to transfer the electric connection in my name "Mohammad Shafi Sheikh".
If any person or party has any objection in this transfer, they may file their objection in writing in the office of the Sub Division Ganderbal within 7(seven) days from the Date of Publication. No objection shall be entertained after stipulated Time Period.

Mohammad Shafi Sheikh
S/o: Late Ali Mohammad
R/o Gadoora Ganderbal
Mob: 9419454915

Media line adst

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION SRINAGAR

NOTICE FOR e-AUCTION OF IDENTIFIED STANDING/FELLED TREES OF VARIOUS SPECIES

Re-Auction Notice No: 08 of 2025-26

Dated:-21-11-2025

Name of Work:- Sale of Timber/Firewood from Standing/felled Trees of various species at different locations through e-Auction on "AS IT IS WHERE IT IS" basis.

SECTION – I

It is hereby notified for information of Timber/Firewood Dealers and civil contractors duly registered with JK Government/Central Government/Forest Department/FDC and registered on e-Auction India that Social Forestry Division Srinagar intends to carry out e-Auction (forward auction) of "felling/ removal and sale of marked Poplars/ Willow standing trees on "as it is, where it is basis" as per SF Order No: 79 of 2025 dated: 03-10-2025 issued vide endorsement No: DIR/DSF/Estt/529-30 dated: 03-10-2025 at below mentioned Plantation as per details given below:-

Name of V.W. Lot with location	Period of inspection of Location trees	species	No of trees	Volume in (cfts)	Fire wood in Quintals	Security deposit	Remar ks
Village Wood Lot Sindhbal, Galdarpora, Sehpora Ganderbal LOT NO-01	15-11-2025 to 17-11-2025	Poplar	487	22295.76	0	96000	
Village Wood Lot Sindhbal, Galdarpora, Sehpora Ganderbal LOT NO-02		Willow	11	504.47	0	1600	
Village Wood Lot Sindhbal, Galdarpora, Sehpora Ganderba ILOT NO-03		Poplar/Willow	70	0	92.02	600	
		Total	568	22800.23	92.02	98200	

Detailed auction document with terms and conditions are available on or can be see / downloaded from the website eauction.gov.in. Bid documents containing qualifying criteria for bidders, schedule of advertised quantities, conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the Website:- eauction.gov.in in as per schedule hereunder.

Time Schedule and Key details of the e-Auction (Table:1)

#	Activity	Date & Time/ particulars
1	e-Auction Publishing Date	21-11-2025
2	CDR/FDR Instrument deposit and other related documents before Approval Date.	24-11-2025 by or before 18:00 Hours
3	Approval Start Date	25-11-2025 from 12:00 Hrs
4	Approval End Date	26-11-2025 18:00 Hrs
5	Auction Start Date	27-11-2025 from 11:00 Hrs
6	Auction End Date	27-11-2025 to 13:00 Hrs
7	Declaration of Result	27-11-2025
8	Deposit of 25 % Down Payment/Security Deposit by H1 Bidder	By or before 30-11-2025
9	Type of e-Auction	Forward Auction
10	Lot Types	Plantations as per location
11	e-Auction Place	eauction.gov.in
12	e-Auction Fee	Rs:600/-
13	Security Deposit	Rs.98200/-
14	Payment Instrument (security deposit)	CDR/FDR/Online Payment Mode (NEFT/RTGS)
15	Security Deposit Exemption Allowed to:	Policy matter

Section-II

General Terms and Conditions:

- Forward-Auction documents consisting of qualification information and eligibility criteria for bidders, specifications and the set of terms and conditions for online participation in auction to be compiled by the bidder is publicly visible in the website eauction.gov.in and the intending bidder(s) can download the documents free of cost from the website.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. The bids cannot be uploaded without Digital Signature. No proposal will be accepted in physical form.
- The trees are auctioned on "AS IT IS, WHERE IT IS BASIS". The trees which have been earmarked for auction shall be removed in full from the site. No selection or sorting of the trees/ material shall be allowed. The quantified volume/ weight of proposed trees/ stated is approximate based on local volume table/ yield table. Goods are sold on the assumption that the bidders have inspected the unit/ lot prior to the bidding and know what they are bidding for. No complaint shall be entertained after the highest bid is accepted.
- Security deposit:
 - Security deposit: The intending bidder(s) is/are required to deposit a sum of Rs. 98200/- (Rupees Ninety Eight Thousand Two Hundred) to become eligible for bidding online.
 - Mode of Security deposit: The security deposit may either be deposited in the shape of FDR/CDR pledged to Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division Srinagar or paid by the bidder(s) through online payment mode into the following Account:

Account Title	Bank, Branch and IFSC Code	Account Number
Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division Srinagar	J&K Bank	0005010100005780
	Branch Residency Road Srinagar. IFSC Code: JAKA0CHINAR	

The Bank instrument, as the case may be (FDR/CDR/Bank Challan), must be deposited with the, Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division Srinagar by or before the document submission end date. In case the Security Deposit is transferred online, particulars of online transaction (UTR number, Date, Bank and Branch, Amount) must be emailed at dfo.sgrsf@jk.gov.in (DFO concerned email) with copy to Regional Director, Kashmir on email rd.sfk@jk.gov.in Security Deposit shall be refunded back to all unsuccessful bidders except H-1 (Highest bidder), whose Security Deposit shall be refunded once he/she deposits 25% down payment/ security deposit (see clause 17(a) below) of the purchased tree lot. However, in case the bidder desires, he/she can keep the Security Deposit permanently with concerned Divisional Forest Officer concerned for participation in future auctions.

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forestry Division
Srinagar

No. 824-32/SF/Sgr-215

DIPK-8348/25

Dated: 22-11-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Amaad Asmat Khan, S/o Asmat Ahmad Khan, R/o Acha Bagh, Malla Bagh, intend to start a travel agency under the name Triplify.

If anybody having any objections he/she may submit the same in writing to the JK Tourism Office within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Mob:7889412692

Media line adst

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Adil Radu, R/o Hawal, Srinagar, hereby solemnly affirm that my ward's name has been incorrectly recorded in the school records as Saadat Adil, whereas the correct name is Saadat Radu needs to be corrected. The Date of Birth of my ward is 17-07-2011.

If anybody has any objection to the above correction, they may contact the Principal, Radiant Public School, within 7 days from the publication of this notice. After that, no objections will be entertained.

Mob:6006775828

Media line adst

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ghulam Mohammad Dar, am going to change my name to Mudassir Mohammad on the electricity bill id no 2012101000 7982 If anybody have any objection in this regard, he may contact the same at PDD dept Baramulla within 07 days from the publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mudassir Mohammad
S/o Ghulam Mohammad Dar
R/o Chinarbagh Delina Baramulla

jvd

PUBLIC NOTICE

The particulars of my ward has been wrongly written in his adhaar card as Zaira Aijaz D/O Aijaz Ahmad Sheikh R/O Heerpora , Dob 05-08-2019 While Her Correct Particular Are Zara Ajaz D/O Ajaz Ahmad Sheikh R/O Hirpora Shopian Dob 06-02-2020 . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if any body 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.
Shabnum Koser
M/O Zara Ajaz
R/O Hirpora Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his adhaar card as Owais Ahmad Talie while his correct name IS Owais Hamid . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if any body 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.

Abdul Hamid Teeli
F/o Owais Hamid
R/o Urapora
Distt Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of a Discharge Certificate for Class 3rd. I was studying in Class 3rd in the year 1989 at Govt. Boys Middle School Mughama. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may submit it in the office of the Headmaster Govt. Boys Middle School Mughama, Zone Kunzer within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Shabir Ahmad Pandith
S/o Ghulam Nabi Pandith
R/o Mughama, Kunzer

bmgr

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF PR. DISTRICT JUDGE PULWAMA

1.Masroora Akhter V/S Public at large
D/O Wali Mohd Malik (Caveatee/non- applicant)
R/O Nawa Pulwama
2.Kumail Abbas S/O Mohd Abbas Malik
R/O Gangoo Pulwama
(Caveators/applicants)

In the matter of: Caveat application on behalf of caveaters for affording an opportunity of being heard to the caveaters before passing any order in favour of caveatee/non-applicant.

May it please your Honour
The caveator submits as under:-

- That the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has invited applications for installation of a petrol pump at Gudoora Pulwama (within 02 kms from District Court Pulwama towards Nawa on NH-444) and besides the other candidates the caveators have also submitted the application form for allotment of the said petrol pump and the caveators were declared as successful candidates at the time of draw of lots and accordingly LOI has been issued by the said oil company in favour of the caveators.
- That the caveators have apprehension that the candidates who have been not allotted the said petrol pump or any other person will institute a suit against the caveators with respect to the allotment of said petrol pump on the basis of wrong facts. In the premises it is as such prayed that in case any suit relating to the above mentioned petrol pump is instituted by any person, the caveators may be given an opportunity of being heard before passing any order against the caveators in the interest of justice.

CAVEATORS
1.Masroora Akhter
2.Kumail Abbas

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Nisar Ahmad Wagay
F/O Sehnan Nisar
R/o Kanipora

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed that I, Aabid Ahmad Bhat, have completed my Class 12th in the year 2016. My original Leaving Certificate has been misplaced and is not traceable. I am applying for the issuance of a duplicate Leaving Certificate If any person has any objection or relevant information regarding the issuance of the duplicate certificate, he/she may contact the concerned authorities of Government Higher Secondary School, Kunzer Any objection must be submitted within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.
Aabid Ahmad Bhat
Roll No.: 2407256
Year of Passing: 2016
Contact No.: 7780851094

fko

Executive Engineer, Transmission Line Maintt. Division-VIII, Srinagar

Jammu and Kashmir
Power Development Corporation J & K Srinagar.

Tele Fax 0194-2491342
E- mail: tlmd8-jkptcl@jk.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No-TLMD-VIII /TS/13 of 2025.

Dated: 19 : 11 : 2025.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer Transmission Line Maintenance Division-VIII, Srinagar, hereby Invites e-Tenders valid for 180 days, from eligible and financially sound registered reputed, experienced A-Class Contractors /Firms having sufficient experience of the relevant job as per Terms, Conditions, Technical Specifications and Schedules thereto mentioned in the Standard Bidding Document, for the works detailed below.

The Cost of Tender Documents shall be deposited through Bank Account of Executive Engineer Transmission Line Maintenance Division-VIII, Srinagar bearing CD A/C No. 0367010200000174 J&K Bank Branch Tankipora Srinagar and the bank receipt shall be uploaded.

The EMD @2% in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Executive Engineer TLMD-VIII Srinagar JKPTCL Srinagar Kashmir shall be uploaded and the original Bank Instrument shall have to be deposited by the first three lowest Bidders after opening of Price Bids. The Standard Bidding Document is available at website <http://jkptenders.gov.in>.

S.#	Scope of Work	Qty.	Estimated Cost	Tender Fee	EMD	Time of Completion
1.	Construction of Protection Walling At Different Tower Locations of 220kV Wagoora-Budgam-Zainakote & 132kV D/C Bemina-Wanganpora Transmission Lines as Per details mentioned below. Protection Wall Details 220kV D/C Wagoora-Budgam-Zainakote Transmission Line At Village Gudsutho, In District Budgam) - 3No. 132kV D/C Bemina-Wanganpora Transmission Line At Noor Bagh Qamar Wari In District Srinagar - 5No.	As per BOQ	Rs.90.00Lac	Rs. 2500/-	Rs.180000/-	70Days.

The information regarding schedule of downloading of the tender document, seeking of clarifications and submission dates thereof is as per the table below:

CRITICAL DATES

1.	Issue of NIT	19- 11-2025.
2.	Downloading of bidding documents (Start)	20- 11-2025.
3.	Start date of clarifications	21-11-2025. (11.00AM)
4.	Last date of clarifications	29-11-2025.
5.	End date for replies to clarifications	01-12-2025.
6.	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (uploading of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF formats)	22-11-2025.
7.	e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF formats)	04-12-2025. (2.00PM)
8.	Online Techno-Commercial e-Bid opening date and time.	05-12-2025 (3.30 PM)
9.	Venue of opening of Techno-Commercial-Bids	Office of the Executive Engineer TLMD-VIII, Srinagar
10.	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs.2500/-
11.	Amount of earnest Money Deposit	Rs.1.80Lacs

- Only the bidders possessing the qualifying criteria as mentioned in the SBD should participate in the bidding process.
- Clarifications can be sought from the office of the under signed one-mail tlmd8jkptcl@gmail.com or fax 0194 – 2491342.
- Before participating in the bids, the bidder shall acquaint himself with the site of work and local conditions.
- The Department reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

DIPK-NB-2548/25
dated: 22-11-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
TLMD-VIII Srinagar.

HCMCT Manipal Hospital Launches Super-Specialty Clinic

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Delhi-based HCMCT Manipal Hospital on Saturday announced the launch of its Manipal Clinic in Srinagar, introducing a range of super-specialty OPD services to enhance access to advanced medical care in the Kashmir Valley. The facility aims to bridge the gap for patients seeking expert consultations in oncology, spine care, cardiac

Valley, with lung, head and neck, and oesophageal cancers most prevalent among men, while breast and colorectal cancers are increasingly common among women. Experts attribute the surge to lifestyle factors including tobacco consumption, poor diet and inadequate screening practices. The trend underscores the need for greater awareness, timely screening and improved access to spe-



sciences, neurology and gastroenterology.

A key highlight of the initiative is the regular availability of renowned robotic cancer surgery specialist Dr. Surender Kumar Dabas, Chairman of the Manipal Comprehensive Cancer Centre (MCCC). Dr. Dabas will offer consultations and treatment to cancer patients in Srinagar, bringing advanced capabilities such as robotic and minimally invasive surgeries closer to those who previously needed to travel long distances for such care. The clinic is expected to boost early diagnosis and precision-driven treatment for a rising number of cancer cases in the region.

Cancer incidence continues to climb in the

cialty care, particularly as late-stage cancers pose more complex treatment challenges.

Speaking at the launch, Dr. Dabas said the Srinagar clinic would significantly ease the burden on patients. “Our aim is to ensure timely access to advanced cancer care without the need for long-distance travel. With minimally invasive laparoscopic and robotic surgeries, patients can expect faster recovery, reduced pain and better clinical outcomes. By combining cutting-edge treatment with a patient-centred approach, we hope to empower individuals to fight cancer more effectively and achieve a better quality of life,” he said.

‘Know Your Artisan’ Carnival Concludes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The three-day “Know Your Artisan” carnival under the “Soulful Kashmir” initiative came to a graceful close this evening at Sher-e-Kashmir Park, near Polo View, Srinagar, drawing praise from visitors and artisans alike for celebrating the spirit of handmade Kashmir.

Organised by the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, the event witnessed heavy footfall throughout its final day, as people gathered to interact with local craftsmen and explore Kashmir’s timeless crafts from papier-mache, walnut wood carving and sozni embroidery to willow wicker and pashmina weaving.

“This is not just an exhibition, it is a connection of hearts,” said Abdul Rashid, a papier-mache artisan. “For years, we worked behind the scenes. Now people know our faces, our stories and our art. That gives us dignity.”

Another artisan, who specialises in sozni embroidery, said the platform gave our work visibility and recognition. “When visitors hear about the hard work behind each piece, they value it more. That motivates us to keep the craft alive,” he said.

According to KNO, visitors described the carnival as a “living gallery of Kashmir’s soul.” “It is heartwarming to see artisans speak so proudly about their creations. Every product here feels authentic and alive,” said a visitor.

As reported earlier, a foreign tourist had praised the initiative, calling it “beautiful, real and original” and lauding it for promoting authentic craftsmanship over imported imitations.

With applause and appreciation marking its conclusion, the “Know Your Artisan” carnival ended on a high note, reaffirming Kashmir’s place as a cradle of artistry, heritage and soulful craftsmanship.

Body Found Outside SMHS Hospital

Observer News Service

Srinagar: An unidentified man was found dead outside Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital in Srinagar on Saturday morning, officials said.

An official told KNO that the deceased, believed to be mentally unsound, is suspected to have died due to the night’s severe cold.

“The body was recovered from outside the hospital premises early this morning,” the official said.

He said police have taken cognizance of the incident and initiated necessary legal formalities.

Meanwhile, the general public has been requested to contact Police Station Karan Nagar in case anyone has information about the deceased.

Major Traffic Relief Ahead as Sanat Nagar Flyover Reaches Last Stage

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Saturday said the long-awaited Sanat Nagar Flyover is in its final phase, with one tube having successfully completed load testing and the second expected to be finished by Sunday evening.

Labroo said the project will significantly ease movement between Rawalpura, Rambagh and the Airport Road corridor, marking a major stride in reducing congestion across some of Srinagar’s busiest intersections.

“This project connects two major stretches of the city and will substantially help reduce traffic pressure. It is an important milestone for Srinagar, and seeing it reach technical completion brings satisfaction to all departments involved,” the DC said.

He added that once operational, the flyover will complement recent infrastructure upgrades such as the Noor Jahan Bridge at Noorbagh, which was recently opened to traffic. “Together, these projects form part of a broader network aimed at providing smoother intra-city connectivity,” he noted.

The DC said the flyover is expected to divert peak-hour traffic from surface roads, improving flow across major routes. He also informed that Detailed Project Reports for several upcoming works have been submitted by the Roads & Buildings Department within a short span.

“Alongside infrastructure, enforcement and regulatory measures are being strengthened. Every week, the district administration, traffic police, SMC and Smart City officials jointly review conges-



“This project connects two major stretches of the city and will substantially help reduce traffic pressure,”

tion points to identify new interventions,” he said.

Labroo added that issues related to street lighting at Sanat Nagar and Bemina have been flagged, and SMC teams have been directed to inspect and resolve them immediately.

Speaking on traffic regulation and e-rickshaw operations, the DC said the administration is adopting a balanced approach to Srinagar’s decongestion plan. “While short-term restrictions may appear inconvenient, our efforts ensure that all stakeholders are taken on board,” he said.


He said the administration is identifying “hungry routes”—underutilized stretches that can be opened for e-rickshaw operations—to ensure both mobility and employment are improved. “Regulation should not affect livelihoods. Our aim is to strengthen both connectivity and job opportunities,”

he added.

Labroo said that once the second tube completes load testing, the R&B Department will hand over the project for technical clearance, after which the government will decide on the inauguration. “This long-awaited project will soon be ready for public use. It’s another step toward making Srinagar smoother, safer and better connected,” he said.


He was accompanied by SSP Traffic Aijaz Ahmad; Additional DC Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Joint Commissioner SMC Nuzhat Khurshid; Superintending Engineer R&B Tetheer Manzoor; Executive Engineer R&B Nasir Amin; Tehsildar Chanapora, and other officials.

The remaining works and final components of the project were inspected during the visit, with officials expressing confidence that the flyover is now in its concluding stage.



- 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
- BIJBHARA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI CALENDAR


1 Jumada al-Sani
1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 42
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	3: 50
Magrib	5:30
ISHA	6: 50

This Day In History

- 602- Byzantine senate elects army officer Phocas Emperor in a mutiny against the reigning Emperor Maurice (who is then killed along with all his family)
- 800- Charlemagne arrives in Rome to investigate the alleged crimes of Pope Leo III
- 1165 - Pope Alexander III returns from exile to Rome
- 1499 - Flemish pretender to the English throne Perkin Warbeck hanged for reportedly attempting to escape from Tower of London. Invaded England in 1497, claiming to be the lost son of King Edward IV
- 1556 - King Philip II confers with Dutch financial experts
- 1654 - French mathematician, scientist, and religious philosopher Blaise Pascal experiences an intense, mystical vision that marks him for life.
- 1700 - Cardinal Francesco Albani elected Pope Clements XI
- 1832 - French take Antwerp in liberation of Belgium
- 1844 - Independence of the Duke of Schleswig-Holstein from Denmark.
- 1863 - Battle of Chattanooga & Orchard Knob, TN, begins
- 1863 - Patent granted for a process of making color photographs
- 1864 - Battle at Ball's Ferry Georgia (30 casualties)
- 1892 - Battle of Lomani Congo: Belgian unit beats Arabs, 1000-3000 killed
- 1899 - Battle at Belmont, Cape colony: general Methuen beats Farmers
- 1914 - The US Army withdraws from Mexico.
- 1915 - On the Tigris River in Mesopotamia, the Battle of Ctesiphon between Allied and Turkish forces enters its second day
- 1940 - Romania signs Tripartite Pact
- 1941 - German troops conquer Klin, at NW of Moscow
- 1942 - 3rd & 5th Romanian army corps surrenders
- 1942 - US Coast Guard Woman's Auxiliary (SPARS) authorized
- 1942 - German 4th & 6th Army surrounded at Stalingrad
- 1942 - Japanese bombing of Port Darwin, Australia
- 1943 - 1st printing of illegal "Warheid"
- 1943 - British Forces Broadcasting Service begins operations
- 1943 - US forces take control of Tarawa, Gilbert Island & Makin from Japanese
- 1944 - US 7th army under General Alexander Patch conquers Straatsburg
- 1945 - Most US wartime rationing of foods, including meat & butter, ends
- 1946 - French Navy fire in Haiphong Vietnam, kills 6,000.
- 1971 - China People's Republic seated in UN Security Council.
- 1973 - Arab summit conference adopts open and secret resolutions on the use of the oil weapons; embargo extended to Portugal, Rhodesia, and South Africa.
- 1983 - Soyuz T-9 lands.
- 1983 - USSR leave weapon disarmament talks.
- 1996 - The Republic of Angola officially joins the World Trade Organization.
- 2011 - Arab Spring: After 11 months of protests in Yemen, The Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh Signs a deal to transfer power to the vice president, in exchange for legal immunity.
- 2014 - A suicide bomber kills 40 people at a volleyball tournament in eastern Afghanistan.
- 2015- President Yahya Jammeh of Gambia bans "Khatna", the Islamic ritual practice of genital mutilation of young girls
- 2017- Brazilian footballer Robinho sentenced to nine years in prison for rape in Italy
- 2018- Phil Mickelson claims \$9m winner-takes-all prize in dramatic matchplay golf duel with Tiger Woods, finishing under floodlights in Las Vegas; match goes to 22nd hole before Mickelson sinks 4-foot putt for rich victory
- 2020- AstraZeneca is the third drugmaker to report an effective vaccine for COVID-19 (62% or 90% effective depending on how it is given) and easy-to make and distribute



सत्यमेव जयते

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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announces

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Post-Matric Scholarships Scheme for SC students for the Year 2025-26

ELIGIBILITY	SCOPE	ENTITLEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✔ Parents'/Guardians' annual income not exceeding Rs. 2.50 Lakh✔ Students pursuing courses in recognised Institutions/ Universities/ Colleges/ Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✔ All recognised courses from class XI onwards✔ Applications are accepted and verified by the State Government/Union Territory✔ Coverage of the poorest households	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✔ Compulsory non-refundable fees (including tuition fee)✔ Academic allowance ranging from Rs. 2500 to Rs. 13500 per annum✔ 10% extra allowance for Divyang (specially abled) students

- ✔ Student should have a valid **Mobile Number, Aadhaar Number (UID), Aadhaar seeded Bank Account, Income Certificate, Previous Year Marksheet and Caste Certificate.**

- ✔ Scheme guidelines and detailed eligibility criteria available on below mentioned link:
<https://socialjustice.gov.in/schemes/25>



Scan QR Code for Scheme Guidelines

CBC 38101/11/0036/2526

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Our Ego Is
Blocking the Road

Kashmir’s growing traffic crisis is wasting our time and testing our patience. Smarter systems and kinder driving can turn the road into a shared space again.

Saad Parvez

I often leave home early, hoping traffic will be kind. It rarely is.

The roads feel like an endless test of patience. Vehicles crawl, horns rise, and tempers flare.

I look around and see the same frustration on every face. A 10-minute trip becomes a half-hour. Students reach school late. Professionals miss meetings. Families reach the airport with anxiety instead of excitement. Even ambulances wait in lines like ordinary cars. It feels unfair and exhausting.

Kashmir has seen a huge jump in vehicles in the past decade. Srinagar’s narrow roads carry more cars than they were ever designed for. Every new day adds more wheels to streets already stretched thin.

Cars, two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and commercial carriers all demand space that does not exist.

Sometimes I think of traffic like fluid. When water flows through a clear pipe, it moves smoothly. One small object disrupts the flow and the turbulence spreads.

Our traffic behaves the same way. One sudden brake or careless stop triggers a ripple that slows hundreds of vehicles behind. Even a distraction like rolling down the window to chat with a friend can turn a smooth line into a dead stop.

People hope new flyovers and wider roads will solve everything. Infrastructure helps. It also costs time, land, and huge money. But the deeper issue sits in the driver’s seat.

A vehicle magnifies our attitude. A polite person can turn impatient behind the wheel. We forget basic respect. Lanes disappear. Signals become suggestions. Everyone tries to get ahead, which slows everyone down.

I often remember a simple rule I learned long ago: Attitude, Behaviour, Culture, Discipline, and Ego. These five shape our road experience more than any design.

Road rage is now common in Srinagar. I recall an incident at Jehangir Chowk. An elderly man and his wife were in their car when a young biker hit them from behind. Instead of checking if they were okay, the biker abused the old man, punched him, and sped away.

The couple stood shocked, humiliated, and helpless. People watched, murmured, and moved on.

We talk about such incidents later over tea, though nothing changes on the road.

I think about my brother in Qatar, who once found a dent on his parked car. A note stuck on the windshield read: “I hit your car by mistake. I am sorry. Here is my phone number. Please send me the repair cost.”

That apology changed his anger into admiration. They ended up becoming friends.

I wonder what would have happened if the same accident occurred here.

Our attitudes shape the streets more than rules do. Still, rules and systems matter. Traffic police work hard, often in harsh weather and suffocating pollution. They cannot fix the mess alone.

In 2022-23, the Traffic Police Department did something unusual. They invited students and researchers to a traffic hackathon. It focused on smart ideas to reduce congestion, improve driver behaviour, manage parking better, and make traffic policing safer.

Many strong ideas emerged. They need incubation support and collaboration between planners, universities, and civic bodies to become reality.

There are questions we cannot ignore anymore. Where do we design smarter diversions. Which routes should large buses use so they do not choke downtown lanes. Where should bus stops stand to avoid crowding. How do we track wrong-side driving or dangerous overtaking. Where do slow battery rickshaws run so they do not block fast vehicles.

Can one-way loops during rush hours help. Should we test an odd-even number plate rule on busy days. Could markets take turns staying closed once a week to ease rush.

How do we build enough parking so roads stop serving as parking lots.

We need a stronger public transport backbone so private cars stay home. Buses must run clean, safe, and on time. When public transport becomes reliable, people use it willingly. That is how cities breathe.

Digital technology can help. Intelligent traffic systems read road conditions in real time and adjust signal timings. GPS navigation spreads traffic across alternate routes. Cameras record violations, reducing roadside confrontations and making enforcement fair. Data predicts where jams will grow before they do.

Globally, cities explore Internet-linked vehicles that talk to each other for safer and smoother flow. We can learn from these ideas. But still, the real shift begins with people.

Even the smartest signals fail if the driver ignores the red light.

Change also starts in our institutions. Schools can form traffic awareness groups where students help during rush hours. Religious scholars can remind us that driving is a moral act too. Workplaces can offer quick reminders about safe and calm driving.

A smile, a little space, and a calm reaction can make life on road easier for all of us.

The author leads the Greenovator Incubation Foundation at NIT Srinagar.

“
My favourite moment was hearing a young filmmaker, barely twenty-four, describe Kashmir through the eyes of children who still play and dream despite discord. It showed how powerful real stories can be. These festivals are giving Kashmiri voices a platform, helping them build networks, and shaping a new identity for the valley.

Every time I enter a public place in Kashmir, a familiar worry comes to mind: will I find a restroom I can actually use?

This question follows me everywhere, from hospitals to parks, from trains to shrines.

A toilet is a simple space. It shapes how safe, healthy, and respected people feel in any setting.

In my homeland, this basic need still feels like a promise waiting to be kept.

Government reports talk about new toilets under different schemes. Numbers look good and inaugurations get attention. The reality changes when you open the door.

Many washrooms have no water or remain locked. Cleaning happens once in a while. Responsibility fades soon after the ribbon-cutting.

The progress we read about does not match what we face every day. Hospitals show this reality more than any other place.

I have stood in SMHS and Lal Ded watching families search for a clean washroom. New mothers, still in pain, walk slowly after childbirth and find leaking pipes, broken seats, and taps that never give water.

An elder pushes a wheelchair toward a toilet, then turns away because the smell hits him before the door even opens.

Patients are already weak. One dirty bathroom can make them sicker in a single day.

Doctors and nurses often say the buildings are there. The care needed to maintain them is not. Schools tell another part of this story.

Teachers in rural areas often say that girls skip classes during menstruation because the toilets are either unsafe or locked.

Many boys spend the day avoiding water because they do not want to use the washroom. It becomes hard

Kashmir Finds Its
Film Voice

After decades behind the camera, Kashmir is finally telling its own stories through a new wave of festivals, filmmakers, and audiences.



I remember Srinagar’s theaters filled with people, the smell of fresh popcorn, and the soft whirr of projectors. Movies brought us together, even when life was hard.

Then the screens went dark, one by one, leaving only memories of stories told elsewhere, about us, but rarely by us.

That is beginning to change.

This year, I watched the Kashmir World Film Festival and the Srinagar Film Festival come to life. They felt bigger than just events. They were statements.

Kashmir is stepping forward in Indian cinema, taking back its stories and its place on the screen.

India hosts hundreds of film festivals every year, but the recent ones in Kashmir felt different. They were not only about showing films. They were about opening doors.

Young directors, cinematographers, actors, and writers showed up, stepping into spaces that once felt out of reach. They met producers, distributors, and mentors who could actually shape their paths.

I watched conversations begin that could turn into collaborations, new projects, and futures they once only imagined.

For a long time, filmmakers who came to the valley focused on its landscape. Kashmir turned into a backdrop. Our people watched

from the sidelines while stories about us reached the world without our own voices.

Things are changing now. Local filmmakers are bringing stories shaped by real life here. The valley feels alive on screen, telling its own story instead of serving as scenery for others.

The moment feels linked to a broader national pulse.

I recently arrived to attend the International Film Festival of India, in its 56th edition in Goa. The festival transformed the city, spilling out from the stadium into streets and squares, where performers, audiences, and artists formed a living celebration.

I heard Union Minister L. Murugan speak about India’s Orange Economy, where content, creativity, and culture drive opportunity and growth.

Goa has become a permanent home for IFFI because it built strong policies, modern facilities, and a welcoming ecosystem for filmmakers.

Watching that festival, I could imagine Kashmir taking similar steps, building infrastructure, nurturing talent, and connecting local stories to global networks.

Kashmir’s filmmaking journey is still at the beginning. Studios are few. Money is hard to find. Distributors rarely look this way. Even so, the energy feels strong and alive.

I watched audiences clap, laugh, and sometimes cry at stories that felt like home. That moment of recognition can grow into something bigger, a creative community that gives young talent a reason to build their future here instead of searching for it far away.

I thought about the generations that came before, whose homes were used as sets but whose stories never reached the screen.

I kept thinking about what comes next. A future where a Kashmiri filmmaker shoots a film in Srinagar and sees it screen at festivals across the world. A future where collaborations grow with filmmakers from other parts of India and from abroad, bringing new ideas, tools, and skills into the valley.

My favourite moment was hearing a young filmmaker, barely twenty-four, describe Kashmir through the eyes of children who still play and dream despite discord. It showed how powerful real stories can be.

These festivals are giving Kashmiri voices a platform, helping them build networks, and shaping a new identity for the valley.

The author is a native of Jammu & Kashmir. She’s presently the Program Leader for the Media Studies Department at Amity University, Dubai Campus.

Where Do We Go?

When toilets stay locked or dirty, progress becomes a word without meaning for the people who need it most.

Ghazi Rahil Banday

to focus on lessons when a child feels uncomfortable from the inside. Even in city schools, heavy use and poor upkeep quickly turn a clean toilet into a health risk.

Attendance, confidence, and a child’s growth depend on a washroom they can enter without worry.

Likewise, public parks are meant to offer relief. Families come to enjoy fresh air and a break from busy streets. They leave sooner than planned because the washrooms are either locked or too dirty to use.

I have seen tourists in Srinagar gardens search for a functional toilet, only to learn it is far from reach.



“
I believe sanitation deserves the same focus we give to roads, education, electricity, and healthcare. Progress will feel real when no one in Kashmir needs to ask where the nearest working toilet is. That day can arrive once we start valuing maintenance as much as construction.

A park that fails a basic need also takes away the comfort it promises.
Train travel does not

solve the worry.

I sit in those coaches and, like most passengers, avoid the washrooms completely.

Fixtures stay broken. There is no water and no soap. A simple journey turns stressful.

Trains connect the valley. The toilets on them take convenience away from that travel.

Markets and shrines are no different.

People spend hours in these busy places and still hesitate to drink tea or water because they worry about where to go later.

Tourist towns may look perfect in photos, but behind the scenes, many public toilets stay closed or too unclean to use.

Visitors remember how comfortable they felt while moving through the “paradise”.

Meanwhile, officials list new projects every year. They mention eco-friendly toilets and better facilities in hospitals, stations, and busy public spaces. They speak of contracts, committees, and immediate improvements. The idea sounds strong, but the follow-through is weak.

A toilet needs daily cleaning, enough staff, round-the-clock water, and fast repairs. Without these, every new project fades within weeks.

I believe sanitation deserves the same focus we give to roads, education, electricity, and healthcare.

Progress will feel real when no one in Kashmir needs to ask where the nearest working toilet is.

That day can arrive once we start valuing maintenance as much as construction.

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TALK OF THE TOWN

Heat, Trees, and the Price of Power

A new electricity rule in Kashmir stirs an old fear: that warmth may return to wood and axes.

Mohammad Abdulla Kachro

Winter writes the real story of Kashmir. It covers the mountains in white and knocks on every door asking how prepared we are. Families count coal, cylinders, and courage. A small flame becomes the heart of a home.

Smart and prepaid meters now arrive in cardboard boxes. They promise progress, and control.

People listen, then look at the sky above their roofs. A meter can turn off power, but cold never waits.

Parents think of their children, cheeks red from frost, hands tucked into phiran sleeves. They picture heaters silent in the middle of the night. Firewood always listens, even when pockets are empty.

One fallen tree branch can keep a room alive till morning.

Forests stand like guardians around the valley. Pines and willows hold the air clean. For years, we tried to protect them. We shifted

stoves to LPG, made kitchens clearer, and breathed easier.

A sudden change in power pricing might push families back to smoke and soot. Every tree saved was a promise to the land. And every tree cut will feel like breaking it.

People here carry simple wishes: Warm children, safe elders, bills that do not take away comfort, and policies that care for the climate outside and the cold inside.

Kashmir knows technology. It also knows survival. The real success of any reform lies in how it understands our winters.

A smart meter should bring light instead of fear. And a forest should remain a forest than fire.

Progress is a path. It feels right when it keeps both the valley green and every home warm.

— The author can be reached at moabdullah7866@gmail.com

Beyond the Bell

Teaching is a life lived in classrooms. Decision-makers need that experience too.

Wani Hayat

A proposal landed this year. KAS officers could soon step in as Chief Education Officers.

The news traveled fast through staff rooms, whispered over WhatsApp.

Teachers felt frustration and disappointment, as if a door had closed in front of them just when a new path had begun to appear. A CEO looks after many things: budgets, discipline, planning, and overall management.

The role also means noticing a student who is struggling, seeing when a teacher is worried, and handling markbooks through long winters and exams. No book can teach this. Only years of experience do.

Administrators work with papers, files, and important tasks. Schools work with curiosity, and care.

Teaching takes thousands of hours of explaining, learning, and trying again. It becomes a skill.

A principal or senior teacher brings that skill into leadership.

They know how it feels when a parent hopes their child can achieve more. They know when a teacher needs support instead of a notice.

Educators now worry that their experience is being ignored. They trained for this work and spent years helping

students grow into professionals across India and beyond.

Their concern is clear: an “outsider” might run the office but fail to understand what happens inside the classroom.

That’s why there is a call for a separate Education Administrative Service.

It will be a system that values the journey of teachers. Promotions would be based on exams, accomplishments, and school experience. Leadership would belong to those who know classrooms from the inside.

Notably, over 10 lakh students in Jammu and Kashmir enter schools every year hoping for a better future. Every decision from the CEO affects that hope.

Children deserve leaders who understand what it means to open a notebook on a cold morning and keep believing in learning.

Education takes time and care. Those who have spent years teaching, learning, and shaping minds deserve to lead. Their wisdom comes from real classrooms and real stories.

Let the people who taught shape the future.

— The author can be reached at wanihayat035@gmail.com

Between Tea, Wool, and Words

Can Kashmiris hold on to who they are while moving with the world?

Khushboo Amin Bhat

It sits on the porch, tea in hand, and hears the neighbour’s five-year-old shout, “Mom, look at my new shoes!”

Mom claps. “So smart!” Nobody notices Kashmiri has left the room.

The kid will grow up calling our lake “Dal” only on the school map. At home it’s just “the lake.”

We call it progress. Honestly, it feels more like forgetting.

I walk through Srinagar these days and hear more Ed-Sheeran than native tunes. Coffee shops serve foreign toast. The baker down the road still makes lavas, but the sign is in Helvetica English.

We’re waving at the world with one hand and letting our own story slip out of the other.

Japan kept its kimonos and sushi while building bullet trains. Germany still says “Guten Tag” even to Alexa.

They moved ahead without trading their voice. We can, too.

Kids should inherit more than Instagram backgrounds of mountains.

Let them taste Kashmir in the noon-chai pink, in the crunch of walnuts their grandparents cracked during power cuts, and in the smell

of a kangri under a pheran that’s been mended six times.

Our apples, paper-mâché, pashmina, and the habit of offering tea before asking your name are suitcases already packed.

They can travel the world, but only if we keep filling them here first.

I’m not asking anyone to freeze in time. I type on a phone made in China while wearing my mother’s embroidered cuff.

Tradition doesn’t mind sharing a table with Wi-Fi. It just wants a seat.

So I speak Kashmiri to my niece even when she answers in cartoon English.

I tell her the snow has stories, the teacup reads your future, and the word “phiran” is really a hug you wear.

She rolls her eyes, but one day she’ll wrap that hug around her own kid.

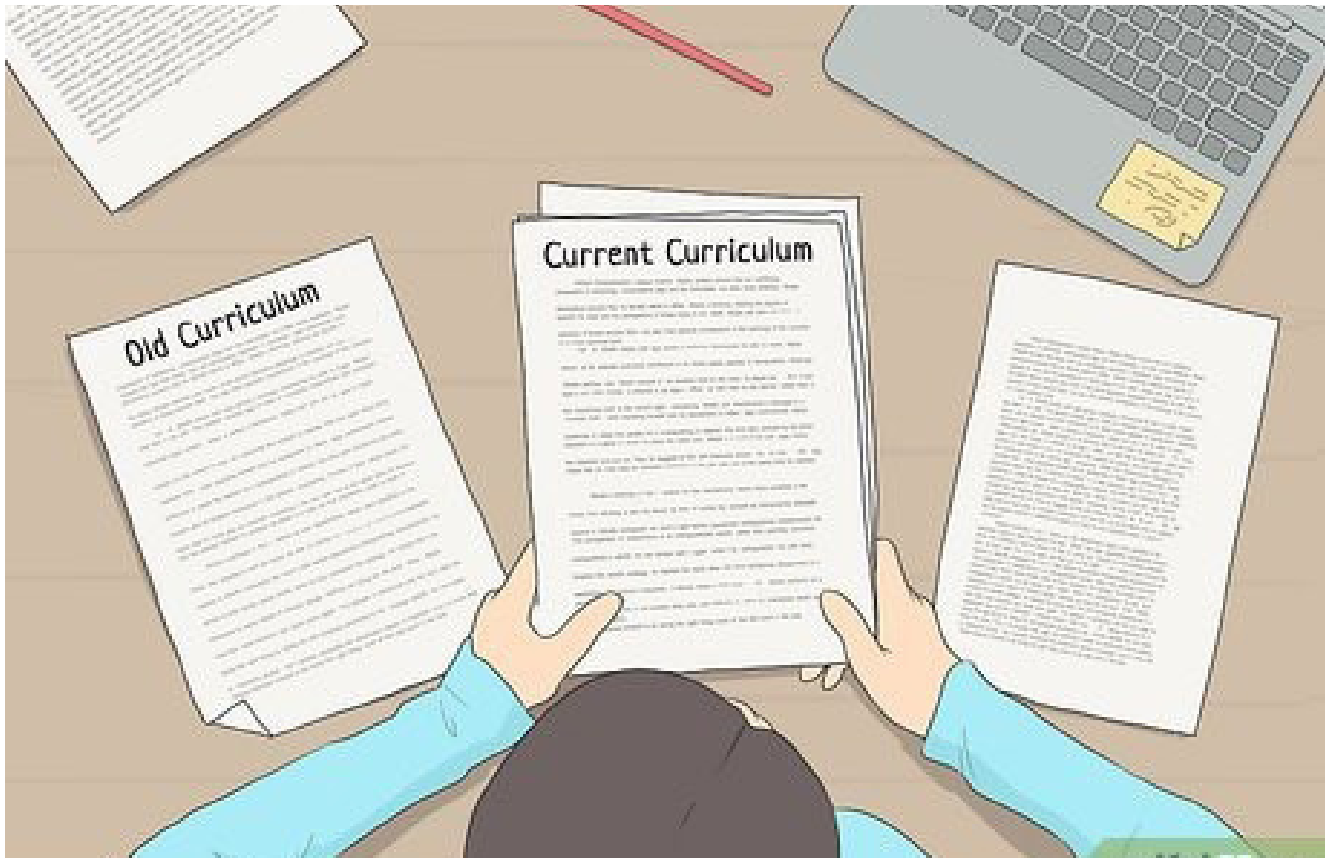
If we keep talking, cooking, singing, and laughing in the language that raised us, the valley won’t feel like a postcard from someone else’s holiday.

It will still be home: moving, modern, and ours.

— The author can be reached at khushbooaamin786a@gmail.com

The Fight Over Pages

Officials want every child to read the same worn out books. Private schools want kids ready for tomorrow. The losers are the children.



Tariq Maqbool

In a first-grade class in Srinagar, little kids sing the ABC lesson from a book printed in 2011. The pages are yellow and the cover is held on by tape.

A few miles away, another class learns the same letters by making an airplane fly across a bright screen.

The state’s answer to that joy is a letter that says, “Stop or we will close you down.”

Kashmir is fighting over books, but the real fight is over time.

Should 2.2 million students move forward, or stay stuck in the past?

The education department says all schools must use only JKBOSE books. Schools that refuse can lose their licence.

Leaders call the plan “one book for all.” Parents who have seen both kinds of books call it a trap.

Let’s look inside the two sets of pages.

The JKBOSE math book for Class 3 shows a calculator as a rare lab tool. It never asks kids to spot a pattern or build a model.

A modern book of the same grade shows how to map real

IN THE TURBULENT 1990S, CLOSED CLASSROOMS STOLE A DECADE. Today, the enemy is a rule that sells sameness as fairness. A plan that pulls every school down to the lowest step is not unity. It is loss.

flood data on a tablet.

The gap is wide and it is deep.

Even then, some parents cheer the crackdown. They fear new books mean high fees. No one has told them that an e-book set now costs less than the old paper one.

If the state fixed paper and ink prices, parents could buy tomorrow’s lessons at yesterday’s cost.

Price is only the first page. Turn more pages and you see what is missing.

There is no task on how to check a fake news clip. There is no lesson that asks kids to film a short science clip on a phone. There is no group work that ends with a talk in front of the class.

These are skills listed in India’s own 2020 policy. Kashmir kids are told to skip them.

Well, the clock is ticking. By 2030, the country will need one million new cloud workers, drone pilots, and data minds. The valley wants to sell code, not just carpets.

A child who never zooms or shares work online at ten will not jump into a startup at twenty.

Kashmir already owns the tools. Fibre touches almost every village. 5G is up and run-

ning. Banks give cheap loans for tablets. The only block is a rule that says, “Use books from the last century.”

Private schools are not saints. Some charge too much. Check their books, tax them fair, but do not punish them for giving kids fresher pages.

Kashmir has lived this story before.

In the turbulent 1990s, closed classrooms stole a decade. Today, the enemy is a rule that sells sameness as fairness.

A plan that pulls every school down to the lowest step is not unity. It is loss.

The board can still flip the page. Let many publishers compete. Set clear skill goals. Cap paper cost. Pay to train teachers. Let every school pick books that reach the same bright bar.

Then kids, not clerks, will choose the winners.

Until that day, the warning is plain. A child who learns with floppy disk books will wake up in a phone app world.

The closing notice will not fall on the school. It will fall on all of us who chose the past over the future.

— The author can be reached at tariqmaqbool15@gmail.com

Gates of Opportunity

The valley’s brightest children struggle outside gates meant for the privileged.

Ikkz Ikbal

Education comes with a price tag in today’s Kashmir.

The “best” schools advertise opportunity and excellence, but their gates open only for those who can afford the fees.

Talent spreads across the valley, but opportunity concentrates in a few polished campuses.

Children step out of sleek SUVs, carrying brand-new bags, striding confidently into classrooms that gleam with smartboards and air-conditioning.

A few streets away, children share a single textbook, dreaming far beyond what their circumstances allow.

Ability is never the barrier. Money is.

Fees in reputed schools often exceed ₹70,000 to ₹1,20,000 per year per child. Add uniforms, transport, books, and surprise charges, and the total becomes an unscalable mountain for families who earn through orchards, small shops, or labour.

Admission desks feel like billing counters. Words like “development charges” and “annual activity fund” turn hope into a transaction.

Statistics show 38 per cent of poor children in India drop out before Class 8. Numbers carry no tears. Fathers leave school offices with forced smiles, hiding the sting of humiliation. Mothers fold fee lists into tiny squares, tucking them deep in purses. Children whisper to themselves, “Maybe I’m not

good enough,” because their homes cannot buy the right uniform or cover the fees.

Some children start with tutors, tablets, and extracurricular exposure. Others rely on outdated books and little guidance.

All are expected to compete in the same examination hall.

When schools select children polished by privilege, they pur-

EDUCATION WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE A PRIVILEGE FOR THE FEW. It is a light meant to reach every home, family, and child. When schools embrace this truth, the valley can rise together, united by knowledge rather than divided by wealth.

chase success instead of nurturing talent.

The impact extends far beyond individual families. Every

child denied admission because of poverty is a loss to the valley. A shepherd’s child could become a doctor, teacher, scientist, or writer.

Children who grow up in hardship develop discipline, creativity, and resilience that money cannot buy. Their potential cannot thrive under locked gates and high fees.

Education should not be an exclusive right. A child’s brilliance does not depend on marble floors, brand-name bags, or air-conditioned classrooms.

Children need opportunity, guidance, and a system that believes in them.

Reputed schools must widen their doors, offer need-based scholarships, and simplify fee structures. Economically weaker families must have access without the burden of begging or humiliation.

Government bodies should monitor fee hikes, and communities should come together to sponsor children.

Most importantly, society must see the child before seeing the income of their family.

Education was never meant to be a privilege for the few. It is a light meant to reach every home, family, and child.

When schools embrace this truth, the valley can rise together, united by knowledge rather than divided by wealth.

— The author is a principal and education advocate based in Kashmir. He can be reached at ikkzikbal@gmail.com.



Experts Urge Change Amid Rising Student Suicides in India

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: As outrage over student suicides intensifies, experts are calling for reforms to create "mentally healthy schools" while angry parents' associations are demanding "government take-over" of institutions linked to such cases. In all, the focus is on systematic changes to prevent further loss of young lives.

On Tuesday, a class 10 student of the St Columba's School of New Delhi, who once dreamt of becoming "the next Shah Rukh Khan", took a fatal step and jumped from the platform of Rajendra Place Metro Station on Tuesday, following months of alleged harassment by his teachers.

While the tragic incident has sparked nationwide debate, with some blaming schools and others siding with parents, mental health expert Neha Kirpal cautions that such polarisation is misplaced.

She emphasises that "suicidality is everyone's responsibility" -- encompassing teachers, parents, caregivers, staff, and the wider community -- and no one can absolve themselves of it.

"PTAs and school associations need to collaborate to address suicidality systemically and

preventively. Suicidal thoughts rarely emerge and act out suddenly; they progress through multiple phases, often overlooked due to myths or assumptions.

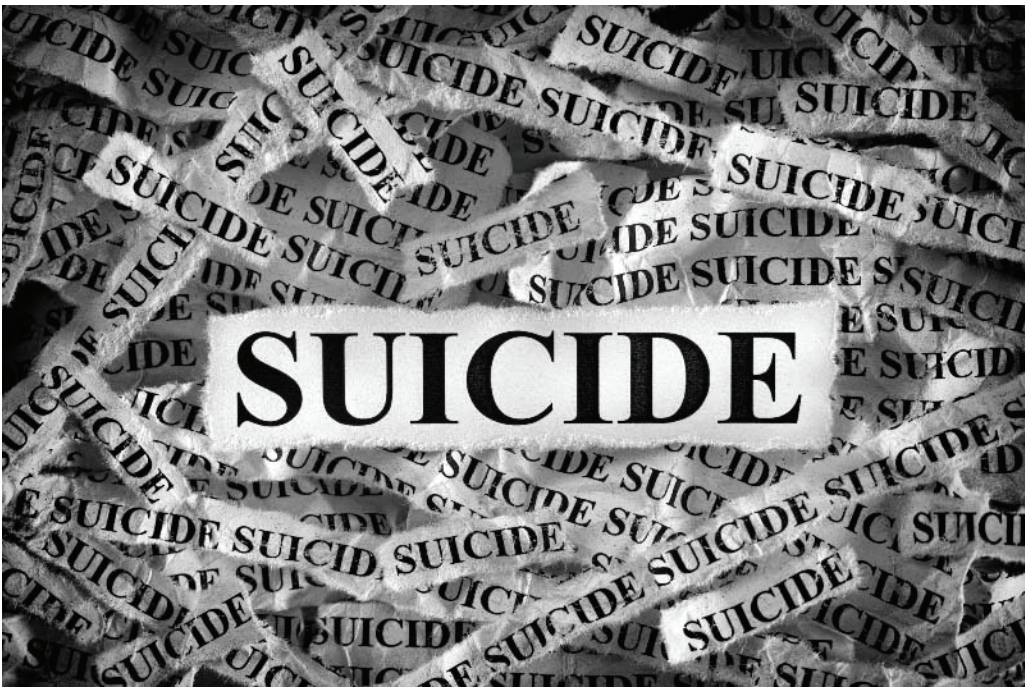
"The public narrative of sudden shock often absolves society of responsibility, even though warning signs usually exist. It is crucial to recognise these signs early and respond in a safe, supportive manner for the child," Kirpal, co-founder of Amaha Health and India Mental Health Alliance, told PTI.

There has been a spate of such tragic incidents in recent weeks.

Apart from the Delhi case, a 17-year-old class 11 student in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa died by suicide after alleging that a male teacher had physically assaulted her.

Earlier this month, a nine-year-old girl in Jaipur jumped from the fourth floor of her private school building. The class 4 student had allegedly faced relentless bullying, in her school for several months, including verbal abuse from classmates.

Experts highlight a growing trend of suicidality among schoolchildren, pointing out that India accounts for "one-third of the global suicide



burden, and suicide is now the leading cause of death among youth aged 15-29".

But Kirpal, who is also the co-author of book, "Homecoming: Mental Health Journeys of Resilience, Healing and Wholeness", urged all stakeholders, including the media, to go beyond reporting the graphic

details of individual incidents.

She stressed that the priority must be to address "systemic gaps in preparedness, mental health support, and institutional response".

One of her key suggestions: a legislation mandating "mentally healthy schools" -- evaluated on standardised criteria for staffing,

training, resourcing, and policy.

"There are global initiatives known as 'mentally healthy schools', which assess whether a school meets key standards across areas such as staff training, counselor availability, and resource allocation to qualify as a mentally healthy institution. "Currently, our school system

faces a significant policy and implementation deficit, with too few counsellors, inadequate training, limited budgets, and an absence of structured mental health frameworks," explained Kirpal, pushing for these changes that support not only students, but teachers' mental health as well.

Adding to this, renowned clinical psychologist Jayanti Dutta highlighted the hostile environment many students face, where teachers, themselves under pressure, often fail to address bullying or harassment.

"All these schools have counsellors and clinical psychologists, but they often don't intervene. Most teachers don't bother... they're under pressure and have no time. Administrations, too, ignore what is happening with the teachers, creating a very bad atmosphere in these schools," she observed.

Dutta warned that children often cannot confide in even their parents, leading to a loss of trust in adults -- a factor she described as "the most damaging" in a child's mental health journey.

Frustrated with a system that leaves children and their parents to bear the brunt, Aparajitha Gautam, president of the Delhi

Parents' Association, did not mince words in holding schools directly accountable.

She pointed to the deep-rooted failures within schools, describing them as "commercialised, insensitive, and defensive".

"I know for a fact that in these schools, children's complaints often go unheard, with principals sometimes dismissing concerns by blaming the child. Many such schools maintain counsellors only on paper, while anti-bullying committees and PTAs remain largely hidden or inactive," she said.

Gautam called for criminal action against school managements, immediate cancellation of school recognition, and government takeover, warning that without strict laws and enforcement, little will change.

"If schools know that ignoring complaints or harassing children could result in license cancellation, things will improve," she added.

In the case of the Delhi boy's suicide, four staff members, including the headmistress of St Columba's School, have been suspended after an FIR was filed in connection with the alleged mental harassment of the class 10 student.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Unregulated Antibiotics

medicines and pharmaceutical waste adds to resistance. These drugs seep into soil and water and create resistant microbes," he said.

Doctors in Kashmir say misuse is widespread in the region. "More than two thirds of antibiotics prescribed here are unnecessary. Many are given for viral infections or illnesses that do not need antibiotics," a senior physician said.

The absence of strict regulation has made the problem worse. "Antibiotics are often sold without prescriptions. In hospitals, broad spectrum drugs are sometimes started even before diagnostic tests," they said, warning that these practices are increasing the risk of treatment failures.

Health experts have reiterated the need for a comprehensive antibiotic policy in Jammu and Kashmir, standard treatment guidelines, stronger infection control systems, better tracking of resistant bacteria and strict limits on over the counter sales.

"AMR is a silent pandemic," doctors warned. "If we fail to act now, the consequences will be irreversible. We must protect antibiotics before they lose their value completely."

The warning comes as November 18 to 24 is being observed globally as Antimicrobial Awareness Week. (KNO)

LG Urges Armed

Armed Forces Medical Services, the Army Hospital Research and Referral in Delhi and the medical team involved in the camp for setting an example of humanitarian service. The four day initiative, the first of its kind in the region, screened more than 2,000 people from remote districts including Udhampur, Doda, Rajouri, Poonch, Kishtwar and Ramban, and conducted over 400 surgeries.

Sinha praised the armed forces for their courage and commitment in addressing security challenges. "Our great nation remains committed to peaceful coexistence, mutual harmony and friendship. Today, India does not need to prove its prowess. The nation's valiant armed forces stand as a powerful testament to its valour," he said.

Reiterating the need for a strong security posture, he warned that adversarial attempts to destabilise the region require constant readiness. "We must remain alert to protect the nation's honour, secure our borders and preserve our unity and integrity," he added.

"The adversary is making desperate attempts to disrupt peace and hinder India's progress. Recently, the Jammu and Kashmir Police unearthed and dismantled a pan-India terror network that was planning to carry out a series of terrorist attacks across the country. In such a situation, we must remain alert to protect the nation's honour, protect our borders, and preserve our unity and integrity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi also conveyed their felicitations through video messages to the Northern Command and the medical teams associated with the effort.

Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in J&K Legislative Assembly; Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, GOC-in-C, Northern Command; Surgeon Vice Admiral Aarti Sarin, Director General, Armed Forces Medical Services; Lt Gen CG Muralidharan, Director General, Medical Services (Army); Brig. Dr. Sanjay Mishra; Saloni Rai, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, senior officials, veterans, veer naris, and people from different walks of life were present.

LG To Chair Key

According to officials, the Lieutenant Governor will take stock of the security scenario in the Union Territory in the aftermath of the Delhi blast and will also review winter arrangements put in place by security forces. He is also expected to receive a briefing on the situation along the Line of Control in light of the heightened alert.

The review comes a day after Sinha chaired a meeting with the police and civil administration following the accidental blast at Nowgam police station that killed nine people and

injured 32. The explosion went off as an FSL team was handling explosives recovered earlier from Faridabad.

Sources said the Lieutenant Governor is likely to direct security agencies to maintain strict vigilance along the LoC and in the hinterland to deter any attempt by anti national elements to disturb peace. He will also be briefed on steps taken to dismantle the terror ecosystem in the region.

The security grid has been on alert since the November 10 explosion near Delhi's Red Fort, in which at least 15 people were killed and several others injured after an explosive laden car blew up. Since the attack, frisking and patrolling have been intensified across Jammu and Kashmir.

Security personnel have been deployed at strategic points, including along the Srinagar Jammu highway in Pulwama and at the Qazigund gateway, to regulate vehicle movement and maintain public order. Police have also stepped up checks at shops dealing with chemicals, fertilisers, explosives, hardware and automobile workshops.

The Delhi blast occurred hours after Jammu and Kashmir Police and Faridabad Police busted a doctors' module, recovering 2,900 kilograms of ammonium nitrate and other arms and ammunition. Six people, including Dr Muzamil, Dr Shaheen, Dr Adil, Molvi Irfan, Amir Ali and Jasir Bilal, have been arrested so far.

The National Investigation Agency is probing the attack and has said all arrested individuals played a key role. Amir Rashid Ali was held after it was found that the car used in the blast was registered in his name, while Jasir Bilal Wani alias Danish provided technical support to the suicide bomber. The agency said it is working with state police forces to identify and apprehend every member of the terror module.

PM Modi Proposes

Repository, the G20-Africa Skills Multiplier Initiative, the G20 Global Healthcare Response Team, and the G20 Initiative on Countering the Drug-Terror Nexus.

Acknowledging that the G20 Leaders Summit was being held in Africa for the first time, Modi said the focus on striking a balance between development and environment was more appropriate, given that the continent has been a victim of overexploitation of natural resources.

"Now is the right moment for us to revisit our development parameters and focus on growth that is inclusive and sustainable. India's civilisational values, especially the principle of Integral Humanism offers a way forward," Modi told the session on 'Inclusive and sustainable economic growth leaving no one behind.'

Recognising that many communities across the world preserve eco-balanced, culturally rich, and socially cohesive ways of living, the prime minister proposed the creation of a Global Traditional Knowledge Repository under the G20.

India's Indian Knowledge Systems initiative can form the base for this platform, he said.

The repository will document and share traditional wisdom that demonstrates time-tested models of sustainable living, ensuring that this knowledge is carried forward to future generations.

The prime minister proposed the G20-Africa Skills Multiplier with a train-the-trainers approach across sectors, supported and financed by all G20 partners.

"The collective target is to create one million certified trainers in Africa over the next decade, who will then help skill millions of young people," he said.

Voicing concern over the rapid spread of lethal synthetic drugs such as fentanyl, the prime minister warned of their grave impact on public health, social stability, and global security.

Modi proposed a dedicated G20 Initiative on Countering the Drug-Terror Nexus, aimed at unifying financial, governance, and security tools.

"The initiative will help disrupt trafficking networks, choke illicit financial flows, and weaken a major funding source for terrorism," Modi said.

He also proposed the setting up of a G20 Global Healthcare Response Team. "We are stronger when we work together in the face of health emergencies and natural disasters. Our effort should be to create teams of trained medical experts from fellow G20 nations who are ready for rapid deployment in case of any emergencies," the prime minister said.

Earlier, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa welcomed Modi at the Summit venue with a 'namaste'.

Modi was seen interacting informally with global leaders such as UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres among others.

SIA Picks Up

role in radicalising some of the accused doctors.

Police sources said the investigation trail eventually led to Al Falah University in Faridabad. Officials said that is where investigators arrested Dr Muzafar Ganaie and Dr Shaheen Sayeed and seized 2,900 kilograms of explosive material.

According to investigators, a core trio of doctors, identified as Dr Ganaie, Umar Nabi and Muzzaffar Rather, who is currently absconding, were running the module.

Key Details Emerge From Interrogations

According to officials familiar with the interrogation reports, accused doctor Dr Muzamil has told NIA investigators that he purchased an AK 47 rifle for about Rs 6.5 lakh. Officials said the weapon was later recovered from a locker belonging to Dr Adil at GMC Anantnag.

NDTV reported that Muzamil informed investigators that he, Dr Adil and Dr Muzaffar had travelled to Turkey in 2022 on what he claimed were instructions from their handlers. He reportedly stated that they were expected to be taken to Afghanistan from Turkey, but their contact refused to meet them after several days.

According to the inputs cited by investigators, Muzamil stated that another accused, Dr Umar, who is alleged to have triggered the explosive laden car in Delhi, watched bomb making videos and read related literature online. Investigators said Muzamil told them that Umar bought explosive materials from Nuh, while electronic components were procured from Bhagirath Palace and the NIT market in Faridabad.

Officials said Muzamil also told investigators that Umar had purchased a deep freezer which he used to store chemicals and explosive substances. According to the investigators, Umar was allegedly preparing a chemical based improvised explosive device.

Probe Traces Explosives and Finances

Based on the disclosures, officials said the plot to carry out blasts in Delhi and other cities was first hatched in 2023. According to the investigation, the accused spent nearly two years collecting explosives, remotes and triggering devices.

Investigators said Muzamil informed them that he was responsible for purchasing ammonium nitrate and urea. According to officials, he bought 26 quintals of NPK fertiliser from Gurugram and Nuh. The responsibility of converting the fertiliser into explosives was allegedly given to Umar, who was also tasked with arranging chemicals and remote devices.

Investigators said Muzamil bought the fertiliser for about Rs 3 lakh. According to the financial disclosures officials cited, the accused contributed about Rs 26 lakh in total to fund the plot. Muzamil allegedly contributed about Rs 5 lakh, Dr Adil about Rs 8 lakh, Dr Muzaffar about Rs 6 lakh, Dr Umar about Rs 2 lakh and Dr Shaheen about Rs 5 lakh.

Officials said six individuals, including Dr Muzamil, Dr Shaheen, Dr Adil, Molvi Irfan, Amir Ali and Jasir Bilal, have already been arrested in connection with the Delhi blast case. According to the NIA, each of them played what the agency has described as a key role in the conspiracy.

Officials said Amir Rashid Ali was arrested after investigators found that the car used in

the blast was registered in his name. The NIA has also stated that Jasir Bilal Wani, also known as Danish, provided technical support to the suicide bomber.

The Ministry of Home Affairs handed the investigation to the NIA shortly after the attack. The agency has said it is working with various state police forces to trace and arrest every member of the network.

Court Allows Accused's Plea To Meet Lawyer A Delhi court on Saturday allowed the plea of Jasir Bilal Wani, an accused in the Red Fort blast case, to meet his lawyer at the National Investigation Agency (NIA) headquarters, court sources said.

The plea was allowed by Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna of the Patiala House Court, they said.

On Friday, the Delhi High Court refused to pass an order to allow the accused's plea, saying he failed to show any order passed by the trial court rejecting his prayer.

The high court, in the alternative, granted Wani's counsel the liberty to approach the trial court concerned on Saturday for adjudication of his plea in accordance with law.

Industrial Checks

In Ganderbal, police conducted detailed inspections of industrial units to check stocks and the use of industrial chemicals. The drive focused on ensuring that no materials were being handled or stored in ways that could lead to misuse.

Teams interacted with unit managements, reviewed records, and inspected storage areas while stressing the need for strict compliance with safety and regulatory norms. Police said such preventive exercises will continue to block any possibility of diversion of industrial materials for unlawful activity.

In Awantipora, police attached property at Syedabad Pastoona, Tral, belonging to Mubashir Ahmad, son of Ghulam Nabi Dar. Ahmad is accused of being a terror handler linked to the Jammu and Kashmir National Operating from Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (JKNOP). Officials said he had been involved in promoting terrorism, supplying arms and ammunition, and activating local modules.

Security checks were also intensified in Doda and Kishtwar following the blast in Delhi. DIG DKR Range Shridhar Patil chaired a high level meeting with police, army, SSB, and intelligence agencies to review patrolling, checkpoints, and intelligence coordination. Officials said the public has been asked to remain alert and report anything suspicious.

A multi agency mock drill was also held at Jammu Airport to assess preparedness and response in case of an emergency. The exercise involved CISF, SOG, Indian Air Force, Airports Authority of India, J&K Fire and Emergency Services, GMC medical team, AAI Fire Services, and CISF BDDs and Dog Squad. Officials said the drill focused on strengthening coordination and refining operational procedures.

Police said preventive checks and CASOs are continuing across Kashmir, with teams conducting frisking and vehicle inspections to maintain public safety and ensure order.

Security Situation

tournament that the CRPF has been organising for the last three years. Teams from Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal are participating this year. Sharma said 123 nominations were received, with 16 teams shortlisted through a draw.

He said the aim is to engage as many young people as possible. "There is a tremendous interest in cricket in Kashmir. People play with a lot of enthusiasm. Through cricket, our attempt is to connect with the people so that peace and calm remain intact," he said.

Asked whether such events encourage young people to join the mainstream, Sharma said they have helped increase public support for the forces. He added that the CRPF has been working in the region for 35 years and that "everyone is doing a good job." The security situation in Srinagar has improved, and authorities have put the required measures in place

to maintain peace, CRPF Inspector General, Srinagar Sector, Pawan Kumar Sharma, said on Saturday, citing close coordination among all security agencies.

Responding to a query on the overall security scenario, Sharma said the CRPF, Jammu and Kashmir Police, the army and the civil administration are working jointly to ensure stability in the region.

"Every possible security measure has been taken in Srinagar and other areas," he told reporters. He said CRPF troops have been deployed across the city and adjoining zones, and the force "is doing a good job" in coordination with other agencies.

His remarks came days after the Counter Intelligence wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police conducted raids at multiple locations in a terror conspiracy case involving a doctor. Officials said the searches had no link to either the "white collar" terror module or the Delhi blast case. The raids took place in Srinagar, Anantnag and Kulgam districts.

While Srinagar has not witnessed a terror incident in recent months, an accidental blast at the Nowgam police station on November 14 killed nine people and left 32 injured. The explosion occurred as police and Forensic Science Laboratory teams were examining explosives recovered in the "white collar" module.

Sharma spoke on the sidelines of the inauguration of a cricket tournament that the CRPF has been organising for the last three years. Teams from Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal are participating this year. Sharma said 123 nominations were received, with 16 teams shortlisted through a draw.

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MGNREGA Work

Sinha expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan for increasing the MGNREGA work limit.

"I'm grateful to PM Narendra Modi and Union Minister of Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan for increasing number of person-days provided under MGNREGA to 150 days for J-K to enhance livelihood security in rural areas affected by natural calamity," the lieutenant governor said in a post on X late Friday.

He said 1,962 panchayats in Jammu and Kashmir were declared "flood-affected", causing adverse impact on the livelihoods of the people living there.

"Special relief was sought from the government of India, and today's decision will ensure stable income to vulnerable rural households, relieve the families from economic distress and create durable assets," Sinha said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday thanked the Centre for increasing the MGNREGA work limit for Jammu and Kashmir, and said this would play a vital role in helping vulnerable communities overcome economic distress in calamity-hit panchayats.

Omar thanked Union Minister for Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan for the decision and expressed appreciation for the Centre's swift support to J&K.

"This crucial decision will assist thousands of households impacted by recent floods and landslides by ensuring enhanced livelihood opportunities and timely relief," the chief minister said. The enhanced support would play a vital role in helping vulnerable communities overcome economic distress in the calamity-hit panchayats, he said.

Omar also congratulated Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Javid Ahmad Dar and his team for successfully pursuing the Union Ministry of Rural Development.



JUGAL KISHORE SHARMA, Member of Parliament, called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Saturday.



LEADER OF OPPOSITION (LoP) IN J&K LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, Sunil Sharma called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. He was accompanied by Members of Legislative Assembly- Sham Lal Sharma, Surjit Singh Slathia, Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal and Ranbir Singh Pathania.

Winter Visitors Return: Dal, Wular See Major Bird Influx

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With over a million migratory birds having already arrived in Kashmir this winter, the Department of Wildlife Protection has deployed multiple staff teams at Dal Lake and Wular Lake and other key wetlands to monitor the birds during their stay, officials said.

An official said that the teams supervise the birds and ensure human activity in and around the wetlands does not disturb their natural behaviour. As of now, the

highest number of birds has been recorded at Wular and Dal Lake, he added.

"Wular Lake is under strict CCTV surveillance to track bird movements and prevent potential threats," the official said.

He said the facilities for bird observation have been established, including designated ponds and observation points where birds can be fed and monitored.

The arrival of migratory birds coincides with the onset of colder temperatures in the valley.

Birds travel from Europe, Cen-

tral Asia, and parts of East Asia to spend the winter months in Kashmir, where lakes and marshes provide resting and feeding grounds.

Wetlands, including Dal Lake, Wular, Hokersar, Haigam, and Shalbugh, have begun hosting a wide variety of species, including the Black-headed Gull, Tufted Duck, Brahminy Duck, and Northern Pintail.

According to KNO, officials said the migratory season began in late October and will continue until March. The wetlands, still holding sufficient water after au-

tumn rains, provide ideal habitats for the birds.

The teams continue to monitor key areas and prevent poaching and habitat degradation. "Night patrols and coordination with local police units have been intensified, and awareness campaigns in surrounding villages aim to discourage illegal trapping," an official said.

The visiting flocks play a role in maintaining the wetlands' ecological balance and contribute to the food chain. Their presence also attracts photographers, bird

watchers, and environmental students documenting species and behavioural patterns.

According to the official, the valley's lakes and marshes, combined with conservation measures and surveillance, provide safe environments for the migratory birds.

Over a million migratory birds have arrived in Kashmir. The department said the number is likely higher now, and a formal official survey is currently underway.

DHSK Orders Mandatory Daily Display of Doctor Rosters

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Directorate of Health Services Kashmir has issued fresh directions to all District Hospitals and other healthcare institutions across the Kashmir Division, mandating the daily display of doctor rosters to improve transparency and ensure smoother delivery of services.

The circular, signed by the Director of Health Services Kashmir, instructs all Chief Medical Officers, Medical Superintendents, and Block Medical Officers to strictly adhere to the new guidelines. The roster must clearly list specialists, medical officers, emergency and casualty staff, and doctors placed on duty through leave arrangements.

According to the order, hospitals must update these rosters every day and display them prominently at key points within the premises, including the main entrance or reception, OPD block, casualty or emergency section, and the official hospital website or online portals where available. Each roster should include the doctor's name, designation, department, shift timing, and contact or extension number.

Medical Superintendents have been made personally responsible for ensuring accuracy and timely updates. The Directorate has warned that any deviation from the instructions will invite disciplinary action as per rules.

The order has been forwarded to the Secretary of the Health and Medical Education Department and other concerned officers for immediate implementation. The directions have come into force with immediate effect.

2,071 New HIV Cases, 66 Deaths In J&K Since 2019: RTI

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded 2,071 new HIV cases and 66 related deaths between 2019 and June 2025, according to data shared by the J&K AIDS Control Society (JKACS) in response to an RTI query.

Data shows that new HIV infections have continued to rise over the last six years. The UT reported 361 cases in 2019-20, 206 in 2020-21, 272 in 2021-22, 374 in 2022-23, 338 in 2023-24, and 403 cases in 2024-25. Between April and June 2025 alone, 117 fresh cases were recorded. Most of the deaths occurred among patients undergoing Antiretroviral Therapy (ART).

The RTI also reveals that JKACS received more than ₹10 crore in grants from the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) between 2020-21 and June 2025. The Society's expenditure has steadily increased, rising from ₹1,177.99 lakh in 2020-21 to ₹2,819.09 lakh in 2024-25.

NGOs working under JKACS for HIV prevention and awareness programmes received over ₹24 crore

during the same period. Annual allocations rose from ₹293.57 lakh in 2020-21 to ₹610.96 lakh in 2024-25. Officials said most of these funds were utilised for on-ground interventions.

According to the RTI, JKACS currently runs 48 centres across J&K, including 32 Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres (ICTCs), 2 State Reference Laboratories, 6 Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) centres, 3 ART centres, and 5 STI clinics. More than 140 personnel, including counsellors, technicians and nurses, are deployed across these facilities.

Officials said budgetary support for JKACS has also grown, from ₹82.55 lakh in 2019-20 to ₹205.20 lakh in 2024-25, covering awareness campaigns, treatment support and coordination with NGOs.

However, despite increased funding and expanded outreach efforts, the RTI data shows a sustained rise in HIV cases. Experts said the trend underscores the need for stronger community awareness, targeted interventions for high risk groups, and stricter monitoring of preventive programmes.(KNO)

CS for Creating Analytical Tools on PMGS Portal

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dullloo Saturday chaired a high-level meeting of all concerned Administrative Heads to review the status of data layers uploaded on the PM Gati Shakti (PMGS) Portal across Jammu & Kashmir and to assess progress in leveraging the platform as a comprehensive decision-support system for holistic and evidence-based governance.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the critical importance of developing innovative and user-oriented analytical tools on the PMGS portal to derive clear insights from the available datasets. He emphasized that accurate, granular and dynamic data is vital for informed policy formulation and efficient service delivery aimed at enhancing public welfare.

He took this occasion to urge all departments to move beyond conventional data uploading and focus on meaningful analytical integration to strengthen planning and monitoring mechanisms. He called for accelerating the creation of polygonal data instead of mapping point data only.

The Chief Secretary directed the Planning, Development & Monitoring Department to take the lead in uploading detailed data layers concerning youth engagement across all districts of the UT. He called for comprehensive datasets covering skilling initiatives, employment trends, entrepreneurial activities, sports participation and educational indicators of youth to facilitate the formulation of targeted and impactful youth-centric policies.

J&K UTLBC Holds Camp in Poonch for Unclaimed Financial Assets



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - The J&K Union Territory Level Bankers' Committee (UTLBC) organized a Mega Facilitation Camp at Dak Bungalow, Poonch under the nationwide initiative 'Aapki Poonji, Aapka Adhikar - Your Money, Your Right'. The objective of the programme was to help residents trace and settle unclaimed deposits and other long-pending financial assets.

Officials from the Reserve Bank of India, NABARD, district administration, banks, and insurance companies participated in the event.

Chief Agricultural Officer Poonch, Yograj Salathia, presided as the chief guest, alongside AGMO Poonch Charan Kamal, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Dr. Ashraf Malik, J&K Bank Cluster Head Ritesh Sharma, RBI Lead District Officer Amit Kumar, Lead District Manager Sanjeev Rasotra, and representatives from Financial Literacy and Credit Counselling Centre (FLCC).

Addressing the gathering,

officials stressed the importance of public awareness and timely claim settlement of dormant and unclaimed accounts. RBI's LDO Amit Kumar said that unclaimed deposits in Poonch district currently total around ₹12.90 crore, and encouraged people to use the UD-GAM portal to track such funds across banks. He also advised account holders to regularly update KYC details and maintain proper nominations to avoid future accumulation of unclaimed assets.

The Lead District Manager stated that help desks at various bank branches will continue assisting the public in resolving dormant accounts and completing required formalities.

Awareness sessions were also conducted on unclaimed deposits, financial fraud prevention, and government-backed social security schemes including PMJJBY, PMSBY, and APY.

During the camp, 52 cases were registered and processed, and approximately ₹21.65 lakh was handed over to beneficiaries on the spot.

Govt Issues Instructions for Constitution Day Celebrations

The Jammu and Kashmir government has issued detailed instructions for the celebration of Constitution Day on November 26, directing all government offices, autonomous bodies, PSUs and educational institutions across the Union Territory to organise Preamble reading ceremonies and a series of awareness activities.

In a circular issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), the government said Constitution Day, or Samvidhan Divas, is observed every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. The circular notes that the occasion carries great significance and calls upon citizens and institutions to celebrate it with due respect.

As per the order, Preamble reading ceremonies will be held across the country at 11 am on November 26, including in all offices and institutions in Jammu and Kashmir. Departments have been instructed to ensure similar ceremonies are conducted at their respective locations.

The government has also encouraged a wide range of activities to promote constitutional values. These include installing interactive walls or digital screens, organising community murals, quizzes, pledges, open debates, screenings of documentaries and films, art activities, exhibitions, webinars, Constitution themed runs, illumination of prominent government buildings, and cleanup drives. Departments have been asked to upload photographs and videos of the events on the official website constitution75.com. Participants have also been advised to check the MyGov portal for updates regarding celebration activities. (Observer News Service)

Army JCO, Agniveer Die in Poonch Accidents

Mendhar/Jammu: A junior commissioned officer (JCO) of the Army and an Agniveer died in separate incidents in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Saturday.

JCO Sajeesh K, a resident of Kerala, was leading a search party in the Seri Mastan area of Behramgalla on Friday evening when he lost balance while negotiating a steep slope and fell into a deep gorge, the officials said.

Army troops launched a rescue operation and recovered the body of the JCO, who died on the spot. The body was sent to his home town after completion of legal and medical formalities, they said. The Army's White Knight Corps paid tributes to the fallen soldier.

"General Officer Commanding White Knight Corps and all ranks pay solemn tribute to Subedar (Operator) Sajeesh K, who made the supreme sacrifice, while on an area domination patrol on Nov 21. We stand with the bereaved family in this hour of grief," the Army said.

According to PTI, in the second incident, an Agniveer died on the spot after he was hit by a bullet from his own service rifle during duty at a forward post in Mendhar sector of Poonch on Saturday, the officials said. (Observer News Service)


Terror Not Linked to Any Religion: BJP

Jammu and Kashmir BJP spokesperson Tahir Chowdhary on Saturday said the recent Delhi blast was a terror attack aimed at India, and urged people not to fall for narratives that divide people or demonise any community.


He appreciated the coordinated efforts of the security agencies investigating the November 10 blast that killed 15 persons in the Red Fort area, and said invoking the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and other stringent provisions against the culprits was not only justified but essential.

"Terrorists want chaos. They want mistrust. They want to weaken our social fabric. Giving this attack a communal colour is exactly what they want. We cannot allow that," Chowdhary said in a statement here.

He said the arrests, including individuals detained from Pulwama, indicate a wider conspiracy and show that the attack was neither random nor impulsive. He called the attack a "planned terror strike" aimed at a high-footfall area with immense national symbolism. Coming out strongly against what he calls "irresponsible and dangerous attempts" to give the incident a communal colour, he asserted that the explosion was a terror attack on India. (Observer News Service)



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA
Email: rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in
NO: T-1/EEA/7011-15
Dated: 22/11/2025



EXTENSION NOTICE
SUBJECT: -
1. Restoration of wearing coat on Zoonipora Bridge at pampore.
2. Construction of 02 Additional Classrooms at Middle School Showjan (civil part without Electrification)
REFERENCE:
1. This office e-NIT NO. FRESH-103/EEA/RNB of 2025-26/6086-96 Dated 31-10-2025
2. This office e-NIT NO. 118/EEA/RNB of 2025-26/6537-47 Dated 08-11-2025
The critical dates for the above noted NITs are hereby extended as under:

1	Bid Submission End Date	27-11-2025 upto 4.00 P.M
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	28-11-2025 upto 12.00 P.M

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NIT.
Sd/-
Technical officer

DIPK-8360-25
DT: 22/11/2025

sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR
NEAR J&K BANK. (ZALDAGAR)
Telefax No. 0194-2952696 e.mail Id: to-exenmidsrinagar@jk.gov.in

CORRIGENDUM
Sub: - Corrigendum to this office e-NIT No. 26 OF 2025-26, Dated: 18-11-2025 for below mentioned work: -
Revamping / Modernization of Marval Lift Irrigation Scheme, Pulwama
Ref: - JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No.: - 2025_IFC_295626_1
Intending bidders are requested to note the following change in the tender document

S. No.	Clause No.	Corrigendum
1.	Clause 4(part-c): Pg No. 13	The maximum No. of partners allowed in JV for this work shall be Three.
2.	Clause: Pre- qualification/ similar work experience Pg No. 38 & 39	The pre-qualification criteria for similar work experience require bidders to qualify either under Part A (Similar Composite Completed Works) OR under Parts B & C (Similar Non-Composite Completed Works). OR Part A, Parts B & C taken together.
3.	Clause 41: part e (ii) Part-Bill- Running Account Electro Mechanical Works: Pg No. 183	a). Shall be read as 60% instead of 55%. b). Shall be read as 25% instead of 30%. Rest of the conditions shall remain same.

No.MIDS/Ts/3897-99
Date: 21-11-2025
DIPK-8358-25
DT: 22/11/2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Irrigation Division
Srinagar

Bowlers Give India Upper-hand

South Africa End Day One at 247/6



Press Trust of India

GUWAHATI: Temba Bavuma paid price for his momentary indiscretion while Tristan Stubbs fell prey to Kuldeep Yadav's guile as bowlers put India on top in the second Test, reducing South Africa to 247 for six on an attritional opening day's cricket, here.

It was a track with a difference where survival, unlike Kolkata, wasn't difficult but at the same time, it wasn't a belter either where a team could just race away with a flurry of boundaries.

The Indian bowlers -- especially Kuldeep (3/48) and Jasprit Bumrah (1/38) -- displayed immaculate control and mastery on a track that was reasonably good for batting with no signs of variable bounce whatsoever.

Ravindra Jadeja (1/30) didn't get much help off the surface but dismissing Bavuma (41 off 92 balls) was one of the turning points of day one.

It was an over-pitched delivery and Bavuma wanted to play the lofted drive over mid-off. The ball stopped on him and hit slightly higher part of the bat and never got the

elevation required, Yashasvi Jaiswal pounced it smartly.

This was after his 84-run stand with Tristan Stubbs (49 off 112 balls) and South Africa were looking good to carry on with the momentum.

Following Bavuma's dismissal, Tristan Stubbs, playing his first innings of note in the series, also lost concentration.

It was a delivery from Kuldeep that was angled across Stubbs who wanted to play a non-existent steer as a practice catch went to KL Rahul at the first slip.

Stubbs did look good after some initial jitters as he used his big 6 feet 4 inch frame to come down the track, defend the deliveries based on length and attack when need be. Both his sixes off Kuldeep -- one over long-on and other over long-off -- were a result of picture-perfect footwork.

The two quick wickets resulted in a third as Wiaan Mulder (13) also repeated the mistake made by Bavuma. The bowler this time, though, was Kuldeep, who had tossed one up outside the off-stump, enticing him to go for an inside out drive over extra cover.

Afridi Rendered Doubtful for Sri Lanka

Press Trust of India

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan ODI captain and fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi is a doubtful starter for the T20 tri-series match against Sri Lanka on Saturday after sustaining a foot injury during training. An official of the team said Afridi is currently under observation with the medical team after sustaining a minor foot injury.

"His condition is being closely monitored, and any decision regarding his availability will depend on his improvement and subsequent clearance from the medical team," the official said.

A source that it is unlikely the team management will take any risk with the injury as Pakistan are playing only their second match of the tri-series that also involves Zimbabwe.

Australia Win Ashes Opener; Head Hits Brilliant Ton

Agenceis

PERTH: Travis Head flipped the narrative and dominated the England pace bowlers with one of the great centuries in Ashes cricket Saturday as Australia raced to an eight-wicket victory with three days to spare in the first Test.

Head turned England's attack-at-all-costs "Bazball" tactics back on the visitors, clobbering a century from 69 deliveries after being promoted up the order to open the innings when Usman Khawaja was injured.

"That innings from Travis Head was out of this world," Australia captain Steve Smith said.

In three innings across five sessions, fast bowlers were right on top as 30 wickets fell for 468 runs in 113 overs at Perth -- 19 on a chaotic Day 1 and 11 before the tea interval on Day 2.

Set 205 to win, Head plundered 123 from 83 balls, clobbering boundaries to all parts of the ground as he hit the rope 16



times and cleared it on four occasions. Australian media reported it was the first time since 1921 that an Ashes Test was won in two days. Head was eventually caught in the outfield, trying to rush the victory, with Australia just 13 runs short.

Marnus Labuschagne levelled the scores with a six and was unbeaten on 51 when Australia reached 205-2.

England captain Ben Stokes said his team was "a little bit shell shocked," and described Head's innings as "phenomenal."

The result, he said, "obviously hurts extremely, but then we've got to get our heads around it and move on." Australia extended its unbeaten run in home Ashes Tests to 16. England hasn't won a test in Australia since winning the 2010-11 series. (AP)

An explosive century
How Australia Turned the First Ashes Test on Its Head

Agenceis

PERTH: Australia needed a volunteer to replace an injured opening batter in the most hostile of scenarios. Enter Travis Head.

What ensued is already Ashes folklore. Given it's the oldest and most storied international rivalry in cricket, Head's hundred was a truly extraordinary achievement.

"Travis was like I want to do it. So I was like: Mate, go for your life!" captain Steve Smith said after Australia's remarkable eight-wicket win on Saturday.

And so the mustachioed left-hander replaced Usman Khawaja at the top of the order with Australia set a target of 205 to win on an apparently brutal pitch where neither the hosts nor England had accumulated more than 172 in an innings.

The highest individual score in

three innings before Head strode to the crease was 52, and 30 wickets had tumbled in the 1 1/2 days in an almost incomprehensible start to the five-match series.

Usually a middle-order batter, Head started cautiously and took three runs from the first 14 deliveries he faced. Then he erupted, plundering an England pace attack that had skittled Australia for 132 in the first innings for a century from 69 balls. It was the third-fastest test century by an Australian, and the sixth-fastest by anyone.

He hooked, pulled, ramped, cut and clobbered 16 boundaries and four sixes to all parts of the Perth Stadium for just over two hours before he was out for 123 with Australia just 13 runs from a famous win.

"Today was just incredible, wasn't it?" Smith said, talking

about the context of the game. "That innings from Travis Head was out of this world. He just played some outrageous shots.

"Even when he shanked it, he seemed to hit it in the gap. He was kind of toying with them."

No nonsense, though. When he hit the ball, it stayed hit.

In one over, Head clubbed Ben Stokes for four boundaries. And this was only 24 hours after the England captain had completed a five-wicket haul to curtail Australia's first innings.

At that point on Day 2, it was clear Australia was going to win with three days to spare.

"A little bit shell shocked there. That innings from Travis was, yeah, pretty phenomenal," Stokes said in his post-match interview. "It's quite raw, quite fresh at the moment. Jeez, that was some knock."

J&K to Host 17th ATOAI Adventure Convention in Dec



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir will host the 17th Annual Adventure Convention of the Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI) from December 17 to 20, 2025, marking a significant push to promote the Union Territory as a leading destination for adventure tourism.

The event is being organised in collaboration with the J&K Government and will convene tourism industry leaders, policymakers, experts and adventure operators from across the country. The theme for this year's convention is "Indian Adventure Tourism: Safe, Sustainable & Resilient".

Officials said the convention will emphasise strengthening safety frameworks, sustainability measures and skill development while revitalising India's adventure tourism sector post-security and economic disruptions.

Set against the scenic winter landscape of Kashmir, the event is also expected to reinforce the message that the region is "safe, open and ready" for tourism, especially adventure travel, which has seen notable growth in recent years due to improved infrastructure and increased regulatory oversight.

Key Sessions and Activities
The three-day programme will include:

- Keynote addresses and panel discussions on safety, innovation and sustainability in adventure tourism
- Workshops and master-classes focused on skill development and operational standards
- Awards of Excellence recognising achievements in the sector
- A field visit to Pahalgam, showcasing eco-sensitive tourism practices and

community engagement
ATOAI President Ajeet Bajaj said hosting the event in Jammu & Kashmir highlights the sector's confidence in the region. "It reaffirms our belief that adventure in India can be both safe and sustainable, and that J&K stands as a shining example of resilience, beauty, and potential," he said.

He added that the association's goal is to position India among the world's leading adventure destinations by prioritising safety and responsible tourism.

The convention will also follow net-zero event standards, with organisers aiming to reduce environmental impact through eco-friendly practices.

Organising Team
The leadership team for the convention includes:

- Paras Loomba – Convention Chairman and ATOAI Executive Committee Member
- Rauf Trambo – Co-Chair and President, Adventure Tour Operators Association of Kashmir
- Yog Chinmoy Dutt – Co-Chair, ATOAI Executive Committee
- Arvind Bhardwaj – Co-Chair, ATOAI Executive Committee

Loomba described Kashmir as "the crown of Indian adventure tourism" and said the convention would contribute to reviving its legacy as a top destination for trekking, skiing, mountaineering and other outdoor sports.

Tourism officials expect the event to boost business ties, community-led initiatives and national visibility for adventure operators in the Union Territory.

The convention is being viewed as a major milestone for adventure tourism in India and a strategic step to strengthen the sector's safety, sustainability and resilience in the years ahead.

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