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Youth Must Resist Radicalisation: LG

Urges Athletes To Drive Social Change Through Sports

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday urged the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to firmly oppose individuals and organisations involved in radicalisation, saying young people have a decisive role in shaping a peaceful and unified society.

He was speaking at the closing ceremony of the 69th National School Games 2025, organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports and the School Games Federation of India (SGFI), in Jammu.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor called on the youth to nurture a sense of oneness and build a society free from discrimination. He said the young athletes participating in the Games represent the nation's future and carry the responsibility to promote unity. "Young athletes are the



architects of the nation's destiny and they are responsible for promoting the spirit of national unity to build a golden future of this country. Youthful energy working for the national goals ushers dynamism into the society," he said.

"It is the duty of everyone to become an inspiration for the youth," he said, stressing that J&K's youngsters have immense potential to | **More on P6**



A vendor selling dried vegetables, locally known as Hokh Syeun, an essential part of Kashmir's traditional winter cuisine. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

Winter Vacations In Phased Manner From Today

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday announced the winter vacation schedule for schools of the Kashmir valley and the winter zone of the Jammu region.

School Education Department (SED) Secretary Ram Niwas Sharma in an order said that the vacations for Pre-primary (Balvatika) classes shall commence from November-26 to February-28-2026.

In case of middle classes upto 8th standard, Sharma said that the | **More on P6**

Cold Wave Tightens Grip On Kashmir

The cold wave sweeping across Kashmir intensified on Tuesday as night temperatures in most parts of the valley dipped well below the freezing point, officials said. | **More on P6**

6 PARTICIPANTS OF THE NATIONAL SCHOOL GAMES will return home not just with medals but also with the experience of witnessing a Naya Jammu and Kashmir

CM Dares BJP To Seek Minority Status for SMVDIME

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday challenged BJP leader Sunil Sharma to formally seek minority institute status for the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME) if the party wants to keep non Hindu students out of the newly established medical college.

Speaking to reporters after laying the foundation stone for an automated vehicle testing station, Omar said BJP leaders should remember this stance whenever they accuse



Muslims of being communal or intolerant.

"If you wanted it to be a minority institute, the status should have been granted when the college was established. Admissions are based on NEET and other entrance tests, not on religion," Omar said. Responding | **More on P6**

'Op Sindoor Shows India Never Bows Before Terrorism'

India Wants Peace But No Compromise On Security: PM

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday hoisted the saffron Dharma Dhvaj atop the Ram temple in Ayodhya, marking the formal completion of the temple structure and calling the moment the fulfilment of a 500 year old resolve. He said the event symbolised the "healing of centuries-old wounds" and the closure of a long historic struggle.

Modi performed the ceremony during the auspicious abhijeet muhūrta on Vivah Panchami, in the presence of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat,



Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The prime minister described the day as a rare spiritual convergence, noting that he had

begun the morning in Ayodhya, the land of the Ramayana, and arrived later in Kurukshetra, the land of the Gita.

Calling the saffron flag "divine and historic", Modi said its symbols — the Sun, Om and the Kovidara tree — represented truth, dharma and the protective strength of Sanatan tradition. "The entire nation and the world are immersed in Ram today. Centuries-long pain is finding closure as a 500 year old resolve reaches fulfilment," he said.

The construction of the temple followed the Supreme Court's | **More on P6**

Hoists Saffron Flag Atop Ram Mandir

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday hoisted the saffron Dharma Dhvaj atop the Ram temple in Ayodhya, marking the formal completion

of the temple and describing it as the fulfilment of a 500 year old resolve. He said the moment symbolised the "healing of centuries-old | **More on P6**

J&K Holds 1 Billion Tonnes Of Limestone: Official

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has estimated that Jammu and Kashmir holds nearly one billion tonnes of limestone reserves, a senior central government official has said.

Additional Secretary in the Union Ministry of Mines Sanjay Lohiya noted that the Union Territory also has significant potential for other key minerals, which the J&K government intends to explore and utilize for the benefit of the people of the region.

Expressing satisfaction over Jammu and Kashmir becoming part of India's mineral block auction map with the launch of the first limestone block auction and roadshow here, the official said the Centre would extend full support to accelerate exploration, development and investments in the sector.

Union minister G Kishan Reddy, J&K chief minister

Omar Abdullah and his deputy Surinder Choudhary jointly launched the e-auction of seven limestone mineral blocks, covering about 314 hectares, across the districts of Anantnag, Rajouri, and Poonch here on Monday.

"All other states had adopted the auction process which was brought under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act in 2015 and have successfully auctioned almost 600 blocks till now, J&K was left behind and we got in touch with the J&K Government.

"After some deliberations, it was decided that because the J&K Government has no past experience of auctioning, we will assist in the auction of these first seven limestone blocks in consultation with the officials in the J&K Government," the official said.

Asserting that J&K is on one end of the country and transporting cement becomes very costly, Lohiya | **More on P6**

3 New NC MPs To Take Oath On Dec 1

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Three recently elected Rajya Sabha members from National Conference will take oath on December 1, the opening day of the Winter Session of the Parliament.

According to the details, three MPs, Shammi Oberoi, Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo, and Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzan will be administered the oath by Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman C P Radhakrishnan.

The oath ceremony would mark the return of Rajya Sabha representation for Jammu and Kashmir after a gap of nearly five years.

The leaders | **More on P6**

J&K Tightens Checks On Vehicle Trade With New Guidelines

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a move aimed at curbing misuse and fraudulent transfer of vehicles, the Jammu and Kashmir government has issued fresh operational guidelines making authorisation mandatory for all dealers handling registered vehicles in the Union territory.

Officials said the Transport Commissioner's office has circulated new operational guidelines for the registration and authorisation of dealers of registered vehicles, following a notification issued by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

The new framework makes authorisation compulsory for



any entity dealing in resale, stock or handling of registered vehicles, with complete digital traceability ensured through the VAHAN platform. Key provisions include online

applications with mandatory verification of premises, five-year validity of authorisation, real-time reporting of transactions, secure custody of vehicles, and | **More on P6**

Codeine Seizure Case HC Refuses Bail, Upholds Strict NDPS Standards

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has rejected the bail applications of two accused in a contraband drug case, holding that it was not mandatory for the Investigating Agency to send samples from all 38 bottles allegedly recovered from them to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL).

"The question that arises for determination is whether, in these circumstances, it was obligatory for the Investigating Agency to send

samples from each of the 38 recovered bottles for chemical analysis. The answer is an emphatic 'no', as all the bottles contained a similar solution from the same batch.

Therefore, one sealed bottle from the recovered lot would, prima facie, constitute a representative sample of the entire seizure," observed a bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar

while dismissing the bail plea of Rouf Ahmad Ganie and Rayees Ahmad Wani.

The duo is in custody in connection with FIR No. 74/2023, | **More on P6**



Winter Sectt Duty Roster Notified

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday released the duty roster for Administrative Secretaries who will remain available at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar from December 2025 to January 2026.

According to the order issued by the General Administration Department under Government Order No. 1521-JK(GAD) of 2025, senior officials from various departments will attend Secretariat responsibilities in weekly rotations.

From December 1 to 5, Commissioner Secretary of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Saurabh Bhagat (IAS), and Commissioner Secretary of | **More on P6**

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Now I have applied for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Principal Govt Hr.Sec .School Boys Langate Distric Kupwara within a period of 7 days. After that no objection will be entertained.

Name :- Danish Manzoor Mir
S/O :- Manzoor Ahmad Mir
R/o:- Langate . Tehsil. Langate . Distric Kupwara

fko

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System and Refilling of all Types of Cartridges,
Toners Registered Government order Suppliers.

NOTICE

I, Fehmeeda W/o Mohamad Amin Dar R/o Pandach Ganderbal hereby inform that my father Mohd Shafi Dar who is the Registered Consumer of PDD having Electric Connection bearing Consumer no.0205010000871 intend to transfer the electric connection in my name "Fehmeeda". He is not feeling well and want to transfer on my name
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 Hawal within 7 (seven) days from the Date of Publication. No objection shall be entertained after stipulated Time Period.

Fehmeeda
W/o Mohd Amin Dar
R/o Pandach Ganderbal
Mob: 9419454915

Media line adst

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shaheena Akhter, W/o Bilal Ahmad Bhat, R/o Shivpora, intend to start a Guest House under the name The Velvet Nest.

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:9149877021

Media line adst

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in datwa to the License No.JK-042050000032 issued in favour of AMIR HAMEED GANIE Parent-age ABDUL HAMEED GANIE
Whereas an application has been recieved by one AMIR HAMEED GANIE Parentage ABDUL HAMEED GANIE wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as AMIR HAMEED GANAIE Parentage ABDUL HAMEED GANIE Which needs to be changed as AMIR HAMEED GANIE Parentage ABDUL HAMEED GANIE
Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shal reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

NOTICE PUBLIC

I Nida want to change my name in my adhaar card bearing no 9781 5895 5098 from shazia (old name) to Nida (new name) . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar centre Jammu/Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

jvd

NAME CHANGE

I have changed my name from Umbreena Zernil To Umbreen Zerneil . In future I will be known as UMBREEN ZERNEIL .If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact passport office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

MEDIA LINE ADS

CC:7645657

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR HEALTH & MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (Human Resource Management Branch) CIVIL SECRETARIAT J&K, JAMMU (NOTIFICATION)

Subject:- Tentative Seniority list of Dental Surgeons of J&K Health and Family Welfare (Gazetted) Service as on 01.11.2025.

WHEREAS, the Final Seniority List of Dental Surgeons of the J&K Health & Family Welfare (Gazetted) Service was issued vide Government Order No. 225-JK(HME) of 2021 dated 22.03.2021;

AND WHEREAS, subsequent to the issuance of the said seniority list, some doctors have retired on superannuation, some have been terminated or adjusted in other services/cadres and also some have either been appointed afresh or regularized in the department;

AND WHEREAS, after the re-organization of the State of Jammu & Kashmir into two Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir, vide SRO-695 dated 25.10.2019, the cadre of the Jammu & Kashmir, Health & Family Welfare (Gazetted) Service upon exclusion of posts of Union Territory of Ladakh was notified. The bifurcation of the posts among the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh was notified vide SRO-697 dated 25.10.2019, wherein, among others, various posts of Dental Surgeon of Health and Family Welfare Department, J&K were allotted to the Union Territory of Ladakh;

AND WHEREAS, in terms of Circular No. 09-JK(GAD) of 2022 dated 08.03.2022 issued by the General Administration Department, the Dental Surgeons apportioned to Union Territory of Ladakh vide SRO 697 dated 25.10.2019 read with Government Order No. 1212-JK (GAD) of 2021 dated 15.11.2021 are also required to be excluded from the Seniority list;

AND WHEREAS, the matter was examined in the Department, and it has been decided to issue a tentative seniority list of Dental Surgeons of Health and Family Welfare Department on the basis of their earlier seniority;

The reserved categories status reflected against the officers in the tentative seniority list shall be subject to its authentication and verification from the competent issuing authority and only after a valid reserved category certificate is submitted in the Health and Medical Education Department through their respective Directorates within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of said tentative seniority. The category status of those officers who fail to submit valid category certificate(s) within stipulated time period shall not be reflected in the final seniority list and shall be deemed to be treated as OM henceforth.

In case the Reserved Category Certificate(s) furnished by any officer is found to be false/fake later on, the same shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio and all the benefits which the officers (s) would have availed on the basis of such false/fake certificates shall stand withdrawn from the date of receipt of such benefits by him/her. Besides, appropriate action under rules shall be taken.

NOW THEREFORE, a Tentative Seniority list of Dental Surgeons, of Health & Family Welfare (Gazetted) Service as it stood on 01.11.2025, forming Annexure- A of this notification is notified for information of all the concerned. Any Dental Surgeon who is aggrieved with the position assigned to him/her can, if he/she desires, make an appeal/file an objection under the relevant provisions of J&K Civil Service (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956, within a period of 21 days in the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu/Kashmir. The date of birth recorded against the names in the seniority list shall not be taken as authentic and shall be subject to verification of service record.

The said Tentative Seniority List will be available on the official website of Health Department www.ikhealth.org. The list shall also be available in the Directorate of Health Services` Jammu/Kashmir.

(Dr. Murtaza Rashid)JKAS
Deputy Secretary to the Government

No: HME/HRM/72/2025
DIPK-8406/25
dated: 25-11-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Municipal Committee Qazigund

E-mail: eomcqazigund@gmail.com

-: O :-

Phone: 01931-295720

Subject: Tender Notice for hiring of machinery, vehicles, etc. for snow clearance and lifting if needed at MC Qazigund, w.e.f., 05-12-2025 to 31-03-2026.

TENDER NOTICE.

ORDER No: MC/QZD/2025-26/ 132 of 2025.
Dated: 24/11/2025.

For and on behalf of the Municipal Committee Qazigund, term e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited from the interested persons /agencies for hiring of machinery, vehicles, etc. for snow clearance/lifting, w.e.f., 05-12-2025 to 31-03-2026 at Municipal Committee Qazigund, for Snow Clarence/lifting on as and when required basis, within the Jurisdiction of Municipal Committee Qazigund, The rate should be quoted for the machinery , vehicles and other items as per the following details:

S. No.	Name of Item	Rate to be quoted
1.	JCB	Per Hour
2.	Dumper	Per trip
3.	Tipper	Per trip
4.	Tractor with snow leveler	Per day
5.	Labour	Per day
6.	Salt	Per KG

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

Date of issue of tender notice	24-11-2025
Period of downloading of bid documents	24-11-2025 to 30-11-2025
Bid submission start date	24-11-2025
Bid submission end date	01-12-2025 up to 02:00 PM
Date and time of opening of Bid (online)	01-12-2025 03:00 PM in the office of Executive Officer MC Qazigund
Tender Document Fee	Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand Only)
Submission of CDR	The bidder shall be bound to accompany his bid offer with Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) of Rs.4000/- (Rupees Four Thousand only) drawn from any Nationalized bank, pledged to the Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Qazigund, (without which offers shall be liable for rejection).

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per the above time schedule.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents.
 - The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
 - The Executive Officer shall have the right to accept or reject any bid offer without assigning any reason thereof.
 - Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Bank Receipt/challan in favour of Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Qazigund and Bid Securing Declaration must be uploaded with the bid.
 - The Bidder should upload the Tender Document Form along with the Bid (Optional).
 - The Bidder must have to upload (soft copies) of the following (photostat / original should be clearly seen in all respect with Ink signed and seal).
 - Valid Original Bank Challan/Receipt.
 - Call Deposit Receipt (CDR).
 - BID Security Declaration on stamp paper duly attested by Notary.
 - Valid GSTIN/ PAN Card No.
 - Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including BID Securing Declaration and tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. Any document(s) which has/have not been uploaded shall not be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
 - The successful Bidder will have to submit hard copies of all documents uploaded on e-tending portal before issuance of allotment.
- No.: MC/QZD/Gen/2025-26/2681-83.
DIPK-NB-2562/25 Dated: 25/11/2025.

Sd/-
Executive Officer
Municipal committee
Qazigund

Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Tangmarg

Subject: - Corrigendum to e-NIT No.104/R&B/Tangmarg of 2025-26.

Ref - This office endorsement No. Divn. / Tang/6188-98 Dated: 13-11-2025.

Kindly read as:-

- "The last five financial years are (2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25)"
Also read clause 4.6 of SBD/NIT as:-
- "M= Multiplying factor 2"

Instead of:-

- "The last five financial years are (2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24)"
- "M= Multiplying factor 2.5"

All other terms & conditions will remain same as already advertised.

No: R&B/Divn./Tang./6463-68
DIPK-8405/25
Dated: 25-11-2025

sd/-

Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Tangmarg

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore

Short term e-Tender

NIT No: PHE/MDNS/NIT/E-32 of 2025-26

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, sealed e-tenders in two covers are invited from experienced, reputed and registered firms/ genuine manufacturer/authorized distributors/ dealers / workshop holders / SSI Unit holders for the following work:

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of tender document	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest money	Time of completion	Programme Head	Technical Sanction No.	AAA No. and Date
1.	Electric repair works to be carried out at WSS Zaingeer Stage 2 nd (Clear Water) under M and R	Rs 100.00	Rs 1.003	02% of the estimated cost	02 Days	M and R	137 of 11/2025	Budgetary provision under M and R
2.	Repairs to 75HP VT motor of Raw Water Stage 1 st of WSS Khanpora Janbazwali Baramulla under M and R	Rs 50.00	Rs 0.543		--do--	--do--	138 of 11/2025	
3.	Repairs to 75HP VT motor of Raw Water Stage 1 st of WSS Kanispora Baramulla under M and R	Rs 50.00	Rs 0.543		--do--	--do--	139 of 11/2025	
4.	Repairs to 75HP VT motor of Raw Water Stage 1 st of WSS Khanpora Janbazwali Baramulla under M and R standby unit under M and R	Rs 50.00	Rs 0.543		--do--	--do--	140 of 11/2025	
5.	Repairs to 75HP VT motor of Raw Water Stage 1 st of WSS Kanispora Standby unit B under M and R	Rs 50.00	Rs 0.543		--do--	--do--	141 of 11/2025	
6.	Repairs to 60 HP VT motor of Raw Water Stage 1 st of WSS Kanlibagh Augmentation Baramulla under M and R	Rs 50.00	Rs 0.409		--do--	--do--	142 of 11/2025	
7.	Repairs to 150HP VT motor of Kanlibagh Stage 3 rd Zone 2 nd WSS Augmentation Baramulla under M and R	Rs 50.00	Rs 0.759		--do--	--do--	143 of 11/2025	
8.	Repairs to 60 HP VT motor of Raw Water Stage 1 st of WSS Kanlibagh Augmentation Baramulla standby unit under M and R	Rs 50.00	Rs 0.409		--do--	--do--	144 of 11/2025	
9.	Repairs to 150HP VT motor of Kanlibagh stage 2 nd Zone 2nd WSS Augmentation Baramulla under M and R	Rs 50.00	Rs 0.791		--do--	--do--	145 of 11/2025	

The tenders consisting of qualifying/eligibility criteria, technical specifications, general and commercial terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from **24-11-2025 (01:00 pm)**.

The bids shall be submitted in electronic format on the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from **24-11-2025 (01:00 pm)** to **01-12-2025 (6:55 pm)**.

Prequalification bids shall be opened online in the office of the **Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore** on **02-12-2025 at 02:00 pm** after which the financial bids of qualifying bidders shall be opened. In case offices happen to be closed due to holiday, or any other reason, on the schedule date of opening, the bids will be opened on the next working day.

The complete bidding shall be online.

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids.

No. PHE/MDNS/DB/4581-86
Dated: 24-11-2025

DIPK-8371/25
dated: 25-11-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North)
Sopore

Lal Chowk Now Reflects Peace, Progress: Punjab Governor

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Governor of Punjab, Gulab Chand Kataria on Tuesday walked through the streets of Lal Chowk in Srinagar, describing the iconic square as a reflection of India's unity and Kashmir's journey from uncertainty to progress.

Recalling the 'Ekta Yatra' led by senior BJP leader Murli Manohar Joshi, as a journey that culminated with the hoisting of the tricolour at the same spot, Kataria said it was an emotional moment to see the flag flying freely at the Clock Tower.

"The tricolour here is not just a piece of cloth. It represents our collective struggle, unity and pride as a nation. I always wanted to stand here, where the symbol of India's integrity waves proudly," he told reporters, at clock tower Lal Chowk, as per KNO.

Kataria, who arrived in Kashmir on a multi-day visit, said Srinagar's transformation into one of India's top tourist destinations was a matter of national pride. "There was a time when coming here wasn't easy. But today, tourists from all over India

are walking freely in Lal Chowk and enjoying the beauty of Kashmir. That is the biggest sign of peace and progress," he said.

The Governor also praised the Valley's cold weather and natural charm, saying both have helped boost winter tourism. "Kashmir's chill carries warmth and it brings people together. The more tourists visit, the stronger our emotional and cultural unity becomes," he added.

Referring directly to the recent Pahalgam terror attack, Kataria said occasional challenges should not overshadow Kashmir's enduring spirit. "Since 1947, border states have faced many tests. But the people of Jammu and Kashmir have shown unmatched resilience and faith in peace," he said.

Standing at Lal Chowk, Kataria described the moment as deeply personal and patriotic. "This place reflects India's unity, progress and shared spirit. It fills my heart with pride to see the tricolour flying high here," he said, adding that the scene of tourists, locals and business activity at the city centre was itself "a message of normalcy and confidence."

Four Accused Charge Sheeted for Fake Property Deal

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Economic Offences Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir filed a charge sheet before the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Srinagar against four accused persons involved in an alleged property fraud amounting to Rs 1.66 crore.

The accused have been identified as Abdul Wahid Khan son of Abdul Qayoom Khan of Khan Mohalla Baghat e Barzulla Srinagar, Mohammad Yousuf Malik son of Late Mohammad Ramzan Malik of Nai Sarak Habba Kadal Srinagar at present Natipora Srinagar, Mohammad Ashraf Mir son of Ghulam Nabi Mir of Hakhripora Pulwama, and Mohammad Maqbool Shah son of Late Shamas ud din Shah of Peerbagh Srinagar. The case followed a complaint filed by individuals who were seeking to purchase a house along with sufficient land in Srinagar.

According to the investigation, the complainants were approached by the accused posing as property dealers. They allegedly showcased a double storey house along with one kanal and five

marlas of land at Chinar Colony Baghat i Barzulla, claimed to be owned by Mst Koshaliya widow of Jawahar Lal Rafiz. Crime Branch Kashmir stated that the accused prepared forged documents and executed a false agreement to sell migrant property, persuading the complainants to pay an initial sum of Rs 1.16 crore.

According to KNT, the investigation further revealed that the accused later inflated the sale price and extracted an additional Rs 50 lakh. Despite receiving a total of Rs 1.66 crore, the accused neither handed over possession of the property nor refunded the money. Crime Branch Kashmir said the four accused were found to have entered into a criminal conspiracy and executed fraudulent documents to misappropriate the complainants' hard earned money.

A charge sheet in FIR No 14 of 2018 under Sections 420, 468, 471 read with 120 B of the RPC has been submitted for judicial determination. During proceedings, the Court remanded two accused, Mohammad Yousuf Malik and Mohammad Maqbool Shah, to judicial lock up.

Feed Community Animals Under New ABC Rules: SMC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) on Tuesday issued a public advisory, urging residents and community representatives to ensure the humane feeding and care of street and community animals across the city, in line with the revised Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023 notified by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.

According to the notice, issued by the Municipal Veterinary Officer, the duty of arranging feeding spots and schedules now rests with Resident Welfare Associations, Mohalla Committees, Apartment Associations and recognized animal wel-

fare activists.

The notice states the civic body said such spots must be designated through mutual understanding and kept away from areas frequented by children or senior citizens, such as playgrounds, staircases and main entry or exit points.

The notice further reads that feeders must ensure no littering occurs at feeding locations and all activity should remain in conformity with guidelines framed by local committees.

Moreover, the designated feeders have been permitted to assist SMC teams in vaccination drives, animal catching and release operations under the Animal Birth Control programme.



SKIMS Launches DNB Cardiac Anesthesia Programme

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) has introduced Jammu & Kashmir's first DNB Cardiac Anesthesia programme, marking a major academic and healthcare milestone for the Union Territory.

The newly launched three-year super-speciality course—equivalent to the national DM Cardiac Anesthesia programme—positions SKIMS as the only institution in J&K offering advanced training in cardiothoracic anesthesia. The institute, already recognized for managing some of the region's most complex and high-risk medical cases, described the development as a step toward strengthening specialized cardiac care and expanding academic capacity.

The DNB Cardiac Anesthesia programme is designed to train specialists in the full range of cardiothoracic and vascular anesthesia. Trainees will gain hands-on experience across:

Cardiothoracic operating theatres, Cardiac ICUs and high-dependency units, Cardiac catheterization laboratories, Interventional cardiology suites and Non-operating room cardiac procedures

The curriculum emphasizes haemodynamic management, transeophageal echocardiography (TEE), perioperative cardiac optimization, postoperative critical care, and the use of mechanical circulatory support—skills considered essential in modern cardiac anesthesia practice.



SKIMS officials stated that the new programme would help build a skilled medical workforce in a specialized field that has long required local training opportunities. The institute said the move aligns with its mission to offer world-class healthcare, promote high-end medical education, and support the growing demand for advanced cardiothoracic services in J&K.

Leadership Welcomes the Milestone

Congratulating the SKIMS University on achieving this milestone, Director SKIMS and Ex-Officio Secretary to the Government, Prof. Mohammad Ashraf


Ganie, said the programme would significantly strengthen subspecialty cardiac services in the region. He lauded the coordinated effort behind the programme's approval and accreditation.

Prof. Ganie also acknowledged Prof. GM Gulzar, Dean, Medical Faculty, for guidance and support, Prof. Ajaz A. Malik, Head of the SKIMS Accreditation Centre, and his team for ensuring full compliance with national standards, Prof. Showkat A. Guroo, Associate Dean and Head, Department of Anesthesiology, for advancing academic initiatives and Dr. Talib Khan, Additional Professor, Division of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Anesthesiology, for his contributions to the programme's development.

A Boost to Healthcare & Education

SKIMS officials stated that the new programme would help build a skilled medical workforce in a specialized field that has long required local training opportunities. The institute said the move aligns with its mission to offer world-class healthcare, promote high-end medical education, and support the growing demand for advanced cardiothoracic services in J&K.

The introduction of the DNB Cardiac Anesthesia programme is expected to reduce dependence on institutions outside the region and enhance the overall quality of cardiac care for patients in the Union Territory.

- 
 - 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

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- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
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- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBHERA: 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
04 Jumada al-Sani
1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 45
ZUHR	12:16
ASR	3: 46
Magrib	5:26
ISHA	6: 50

This Day In History

- 43 BC- Second Triumvirate alliance of Roman leader Octavian (later Caesar Augustus), Marcus Aemilius Lepidus, and Mark Antony formed 1580-French Huguenots & Roman Catholics sign peace treaty
- 1688- French King Louis XIV declares war on Netherlands
- 1688- King James II escapes back to London
- 1741- French & Beiers army occupies Prague
- 1778- British explorer Captain James Cook is the first European to visit Maui in the Sandwich Islands (now Hawaii)
- 1791- 1st US cabinet meeting, held at George Washington's home in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of War Henry Knox, and Attorney General Edmund Randolph attend.
- 1842- The University of Notre Dame is founded
- 1865 - "Alice in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll is published in America
- 1865 - Battle of Papudo: The Spanish navy engages a combined Peruvian-Chilean fleet north of Valparaiso, Chile
- 1901 - Italy and Britain sign an agreement fixing the frontier between their colonies of Eritrea and Sudan in East Africa
- 1924 - - Mongolian People's Republic proclaimed
- 1925 - Netherlands & Germany sign trade agreement
- 1940 - Nazi Germany began walling off the Jewish Ghetto in Warsaw
- 1941 - Japanese naval carrier force left its base & moves east toward Pearl Harbor
- 1942 - Anti-fascist Council for National Liberation (AVNOJ) forms
- 1948 - 1st polaroid camera sold for \$89.75 in Boston at the Jordan Marsh department store. The Land Camera model 95 becomes prototype for all Polaroid Land cameras for next 15 years
- 1949 - The Constituent Assembly of India formally adopts a new constitution
- 1956 - USSR single sculls winner Vyacheslav Ivanov wins Olympic gold medal in his excitement he jumps for joy, & loses his medal, it sinks
- 1963 - Explorer 18 spacecraft launched by NASA
- 1965 - France launches 1st satellite, 92 lb (42 kg) Al-capsule (Astérix), named after the popular French comic character
- 1984 - US & Iraq re-establish diplomatic relations
- 1985 - 23rd Space Shuttle Mission (61-B)-Atlantis 2-is launched
- 1985 - France performs nuclear test at Mururoa atoll
- 1989 - India's Congress Party led by then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi loses the general election to an opposition front led by V. P. Singh
- 1990 - Mikhail Gorbachev tells Iraq to get out of Kuwait
- 1998 - Tony Blair becomes the first Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to address the Republic of Ireland's parliament.
- 2003 - India accepts Pakistan's offer of a ceasefire in Kashmir
- 2003 - Supersonic airplane the Concorde makes its last ever flight, returning to Bristol, England.
- 2011 - NATO forces in Afghanistan attack a Pakistani checkpoint in a friendly fire incident, killing 24 soldiers and wounding 13 others
- 2017 - British Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton finishes 2nd in season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix at Yas Marina Circuit to claim his 4th F1 World Drivers Championship; wins title by 46 points from Sebastian Vettel
- 2018 - NASA's InSight mission lands on Mars after a 7 month voyage
- 2018 - Ukraine declares martial law in areas bordering Russia after Russia seizes three of its naval vessels
- 2018 - Chinese scientist He Jiankui claims to have made the first genetically edited baby
- 2018 - General Motors announces it will close five factories in North America, cutting 14,000 jobs
- 2018 - First multidrug randomized control trial to treat Ebola started in Democratic Republic of Congo announced by the WHO

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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✍️ KO VIEW

Kashmir’s
Mindful Winter

As the cold deepens across Kashmir, the focus is shifting to winter preparation and how people are safeguarding their mental spaces.

Winter is part of life here. It shapes how we live and think. It should not turn into a season of suffering. With a little preparation, families can protect their mental health and keep life steady even when the temperature drops and days turn short.

The first challenge is the break in routine. Schools close, outdoor life slows down, and evenings stretch longer. This change affects everyone, but it hits harder for people who already feel low or anxious.

Doctors at IMHANS see more patients in winter with panic attacks, disturbed sleep, and low mood. Less sunlight plays a big role. It lowers energy, affects sleep, and makes the mind feel heavy. That is why we must plan ahead.

Light is the easiest and most helpful tool. Even a few minutes in the sun can lift the mood. Families can step outside whenever sunlight appears. Elders can sit near a window in the morning. Offices can give short daylight breaks. Light gives the mind a gentle push and helps the body stay balanced.

Cold weather keeps people mostly indoors and still, and stillness makes the mind feel dull. Small exercises can change that. Ten minutes of stretching, slow indoor walks, or simple workouts help a lot. Moving together also helps people stay connected.

And connection is important. Winter isolates people. Roads freeze, evenings grow long, and many end up staying alone in their rooms. Families can break this by creating small rituals: shared meals, tea time, storytelling, or a weekly visit to neighbours. Young people can start study groups or craft circles. These little moments keep warmth inside the home and purpose in the mind.

Good sleep is another way to protect mental health. Winter invites late nights and lazy mornings, but this harms the body. Regular sleep times, fewer late-night screens, warm baths, and calm evenings keep the mind clear and strong.

Communities should look out for the vulnerable. Elders who live alone, people who carry old trauma, and families facing financial stress need extra attention.

A small knock on the door or a five-minute phone call can stop loneliness from turning into distress.

Kashmir cannot avoid winter. The cold season may slow life, but it does not have to break the spirit.

With a few steady habits, the valley can move through these months with comfort, clarity, and strength.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Scams Shape Sales

Fake deeds, multiple sales and emotional pitches continue to pull buyers into avoidable scams.

Irshad Mushtaq

Buying land in Kashmir often feels like entering a deal where the other side has already planned the trap.

Families save for decades and still fall into scams run by brokers, document forgers and small mafia networks. The cases of Ali, Muzamil, Ahmad and Nazir show a pattern that repeats across districts.

Ali trusted a broker who promised quick access to farmland. He paid in cash and waited for a meeting with the owner. The broker disappeared and the land vanished with him. Muzamil relied on clean-looking papers and handed over his savings. The documents belonged to a completely different plot. His “purchase” turned into an empty site and a long search for justice.

Ahmad bought land through a man who claimed to hold power of attorney. Later, the actual owner returned from overseas and learned his signatures were forged. Ahmad entered a legal battle that drained more than the original cost of the plot. Nazir paid for a so-called distress sale and received only paper slips. The same land had been sold to several buyers through duplicate agreements.

These scams survive because brokers operate without regulation, land offices struggle with outdated records, and corruption creates space for forged deeds. Many buyers trust emotional stories, rush into payments or depend on middlemen who work for hidden interests.

Safe buying in Kashmir needs slow steps. Every payment must be traceable and made only to the seller. Documents should be checked at the sub-registrar’s office and cross-verified on government portals. Buyers must inspect the land in person and consult experienced, independent legal help.

Strong due diligence costs far less than losing a lifetime of savings. In a risky market, caution remains the only real protection.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Mohammad Hanief

Work in Jammu and Kashmir is going through a real shift.

For years, most young people prepared only for government jobs. Now many of them are choosing a different road.

They are starting small ventures from their homes, rented rooms, shared offices, and even from the back corners of family shops.

These ideas are changing daily life and showing how wide opportunity can stretch in the valley and in the hills of Jammu.

This new wave did not grow in easy conditions. It took shape in the middle of tough realities.

The region’s young founders often begin with modest resources and limited networks. They start with hope more than certainty. Even then, they persist.

Their journey has turned into one of the most interesting economic shifts in recent years.

Connectivity improved and government programs widened the pool of options available to young people. Online platforms allowed products from Kashmir to travel across borders. Digital literacy grew across schools and towns. The sense of possibility expanded.

Progress, however, moves alongside daily hurdles that make entrepreneurship in J&K a tougher climb than in many other parts of the country.

The business environment carries a level of unpredictability that can unsettle anyone trying to build something from the ground up.

Heavy snowfall, blocked roads, sudden communication breaks, and sensitive political conditions can slow work without warning.

A café owner in Srinagar, for instance, may spend days waiting for supplies stuck on the Jammu-Srinagar highway. A small logistics firm may struggle to keep delivery schedules steady.

These disruptions affect customer trust, long-term planning, and investor confidence.

Entrepreneurs often source raw materials from outside the region, raising input prices. Sending finished goods back to large markets adds another layer of expense.

A young craft seller from Budgam shared that shipping a single parcel to Bengaluru sometimes costs almost as much as the product itself.

This imbalance cuts into earnings and

slows expansion.

Infrastructure gaps also hold back many promising ventures. Internet coverage has certainly grown, but several rural belts still face sudden drops in speed or breakdowns. This affects digital payments, online sales, and social media marketing. Warehousing facilities, cold storage units, and modern packaging services remain limited.

These gaps create real barriers for agribusinesses and handicraft exporters trying to reach competitive markets.

The administrative maze adds further strain. A first-time founder can spend weeks trying to understand licensing rules, tax requirements, and compliance procedures.

“J&K holds immense entrepreneurial energy. The region’s youth have already shown how far they can go with limited support.Their journey signals a shift in how Kashmir imagines work, aspiration, and identity.

Entrepreneurs from small towns say the process feels too layered and confusing. Even with improvements in government support, many schemes remain underused because people struggle to handle the paperwork or even learn about them in time.

Finance is another puzzle.

Loan programs exist on paper, though access can be slow. Many young people start with their own savings or borrow from family. A venture without collateral or a credit history faces long waiting periods for approval. Documentation demands and high interest rates on certain types of credit increase this pressure.

The shortage of skilled labour is another concern.

Startups in digital marketing, design, hospitality, and tech often find it hard to hire trained staff. Many founders end up training their teams from scratch, which adds time and cost.

Market linkages remain thin for sectors that carry deep cultural value.

Kashmir’s craft economy produces some of the finest work in the world, but artisans struggle to secure long-term contracts. Agripreneurs face uncertainty in large markets due to irregu-

strong sense of responsibility.

Many new ventures support rural workers, revive cultural crafts, create jobs, or improve local services.

These efforts turn entrepreneurship into a community project instead of a purely individual journey.

A stronger ecosystem can push this movement further.

Better digital infrastructure, smoother market access, simpler processes, and wider training programs can allow more young people to take the leap.

J&K holds immense entrepreneurial energy. The region’s youth have already shown how far they can go with limited support.

Their journey signals a shift in how Kashmir imagines work, aspiration, and identity.

Growth is no longer tied to one path. A new landscape is taking shape, led by people who believe they can build something meaningful on their own terms.

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

Hushed Lives of
Men in Kashmir

The story of empowerment remains incomplete without recognizing men’s challenges.

Raqif Makhdoomi

doubts their intentions.

Men love fully, but their efforts are dismissed as selfish or shallow. The affectionate words they whisper, the small gestures they make, often go unseen.

Men are expected to leave the family that raised them, abandon the people who shaped them, and bend completely to their partner’s wishes.

Society rarely questions the demands placed on men: earning a government job, supporting a family, managing emotions, and carrying responsibility silently.

Men make up half the population

“Feminism opened doors for women, and that matters. But society must also recognize men as humans with feelings, struggles, and limits.

but account for nearly 80 percent of suicides in India. In 2021, 118,979 men died by suicide compared to 45,026 women.

Men get diagnosed with depression less often, but they die from it more. Mental strength does not belong to any gender. It grows from experience, support, and resilience.

The Supreme Court has highlighted another concern: false domestic violence cases under Section 498A.

In 2022, the National Crime Records Bureau reported 34,662 complaints by women were false. Men face legal risks with little protection, while their voices remain unheard.

Feminism opened doors for women, and that matters. But society must also recognize men as humans with feelings, struggles, and limits.

Men need space to speak, grieve, and be heard.

Many men in mountains we call home carry silences that weigh heavy. We need to listen, truly listen, and let men be human too.

The author is a law student and a rights activist based in Kashmir.

✍️ Letter to Editor

Sawalkote Gives Ramban a Reason to Believe Again

The hills of Ramban rise and fall like long waves, carrying the Chenab River in their folds. Pogal, Paristan, and Neel sit deep inside these folds.

Life here has moved at its own pace, far from the attention that other parts of Jammu and Kashmir receive.

Roads remained incomplete. Bridges held on through storms. Electricity flickered more than it flowed. Many projects, from rail lines to highway upgrades, passed these valleys without touching them. Families learned to expect very little from the world outside.

A fresh sense of hope arrived recently when the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change cleared the 1856 MW Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project in village Tanger. The site stands miles away, but the impact reached these remote communities at once.

It felt like an acknowledgment that Ramban’s most distant villages matter.

I travelled through Maligam, a village that links Pogal and Paristan. Terraced fields stepped down to the Chenab. In the shade of a walnut tree, Bashir Ahmed rested after a long morning on his

land. His hands told the story of years of work.

“Projects came to other areas,” he said. “Our villages stayed cut off. Pogal, Paristan, Neel... we waited and waited. Sawalkote feels like a new sun rising here.”

He looked toward the hills and spoke of his son. “He dreams of work near home. Young people leave because they have no other choice. This time, I hope he will stay.”

This feeling repeats across these villages.

Sawalkote carries the promise of energy for the region, a dam and a powerhouse carved into the mountains.

For local residents, the true meaning lies elsewhere. It signals that development can reach villages long left outside the map of progress. The emotional impact is clear: the people feel seen.

In Neel Valley, children ran along the water as if sensing some shift. They imagine brighter classrooms and homes that stay lit at night.

Mothers in Paristan picture evenings when they can help their children study without worrying about a lantern running out.

Farmers in Pogal talk about irrigation pumps, reliable power, and tools that could ease the

weight of daily labour.

For decades, the four-lane expansion of NH44 passed them by, leaving dangerous stretches untouched. Promised rail lines stayed on paper. Every plan that skipped their villages deepened the sense of being forgotten.

Sawalkote changes that conversation.

Better roads, more stable power, and work opportunities may follow. Even the thought of these changes brings a spark that has long been missing.

There is caution as well. Residents understand what construction in hilly terrain can trigger: landslides, loss of forest cover, the chance of displacement. They hope for responsible planning, fair compensation, and a place at the table when decisions are taken. Their optimism rises from experience.

In Maligam, Ghulam Mohammad summed up the mood. “We want our children to build lives here. Sawalkote gives us that hope.”

Sincerely,

Er Navaid Runyal
navaidahmed10@gmail.com

Kashmir's Forgotten Rider, Found Inside a Photograph

An old picture from Handwara brings back the story of a tireless cyclist, a long week on the road, and the people who watched him ride through the dark.

Syed Nissar H Gilani

I have spent much of my life holding a camera, collecting small moments without thinking they would one day feel like windows to another time.

Many prints aged before I could protect them. A few disappeared during transfers from one posting to another.

The pictures that survived carry scratches and stains, though digital tools have given them new light.

One picture came back to life recently.

Silverfish had eaten its corners and the surface had turned dull. After restoration, the image opened like a fresh page.

The year was 1985.

I was living in my official residence in Handwara. The photograph shows a simple scene: four people sharing tea in a modest drawing room.

If you glance at it, the moment feels ordinary. When I look closely, I see the end of a long, extraordinary week.

The guest at the center of the picture was a cyclist who had taken on a challenge that still feels unbelievable.

His name has slipped from my memory, though his effort refuses to leave it.

He arrived from outside the region and set out to pedal for six nights and seven days. He wanted to test how far the human body can go on a simple bicycle.

I had heard of long-distance riders, from India's K2K challengers to global endurance legends, though watching someone attempt such a feat in a small Kashmiri town created its own sense of wonder.

He rode through the valley's



shifting weather. Days stretched into nights and nights into long hours of slow light. He ate little and drank carefully. His rest came in short spells inside a small tent that my team had set up.

I remember checking on him dur-

ing the early hours when the streets fell silent. His cycle light created a thin path on the road. My support team stood near the route with paramedics, watching his steady effort.

Every time I arrived, he was still

pedaling, his focus fixed on the next few meters.

My job was simple. I had to ensure his safety. This was an age without constant surveillance. Human vigilance was the only way to track the ride.

I assigned a dedicated group to monitor him and instructed them to stay alert through the long nights.

I visited at odd hours to make sure everything remained in order. We grew used to the sight of his silhouette moving through the darkness, hour after hour.

When he completed the challenge, we organized a small ceremony.

A medal, a certificate and a garland were presented. He looked exhausted and proud.

Later that day, I invited him home for tea. That moment is what the restored photograph captures.

I sit in a plaid shirt. A colleague stands nearby. A young boy watches the scene. The cyclist holds his medal with calm face. But his body was still carrying the strain of the long ride.



PHOTOGRAPHS OFTEN HIDE MORE THAN THEY REVEAL.

They wait for someone to remember the story behind the frame. This one brings back a cyclist who refused to stop and a group of people who stayed awake with him through the cold, long nights of Kashmir.

The picture feels alive again. It carries the smell of the damp Handwara air, the taste of that tea, and the steady excitement of an entire week.

It brings back the sense of shared duty that held the event together.

A small team in a small town helped a determined man accomplish something uncommon.

Photographs often hide more than they reveal. They wait for someone to remember the story behind the frame.

This one brings back a cyclist who refused to stop and a group of people who stayed awake with him through the cold, long nights of Kashmir.

— The author is a former civil servant. He can be reached at nisargilani57748@gmail.com



THE PICTURE FEELS ALIVE AGAIN. IT CARRIES THE SMELL OF THE DAMP HANDWARA AIR, the taste of that tea, and the steady excitement of an entire week. It brings back the sense of shared duty that held the event together.

The Cave Above the Saffron Fields

In a saffron village above Pampore, the Urs of Sheikh ul Alam unfolds like a calm conversation between land, memory, and Kashmir's first Sufi voice.



Er Aausyf ibn Farooq

In the last days of November, when the saffron fields around Pampore turn to a soft shimmer of purple and gold, Ladhoo prepares itself for a gathering that feels older than the village lanes.

The Urs of Sheikh ul Alam [R.A.] approaches, and the place begins to shift, as if stirred awake by the memory of a saint who once shaped the valley's spiritual breath.

Sheikh ul Alam, whom many call Nund Reshi, still lives deeply in the Kashmiri mind. His sayings show up in kitchen talk, in mosque gatherings, and in the gentle advice elders give to the young. His teachings move through homes from Pulwama to Srinagar with the same ease as winter light entering a room.

People think of him less as someone from history and more as a presence that returns whenever life becomes confusing or heavy.

Ladhoo carries this presence with a special kind of care.

The cave above the village, where the saint spent twelve years in seclusion, still carries the stillness of those

long hours.

Inside, a handprint rests on a stone wall. Villagers describe it as a sign of companionship, something that stands against time's slow erasure.

Visitors often pause before it, unsure whether they are looking at a relic or listening to a silence that has learned to speak.

As the Urs approaches, Ladhoo shifts into a different pace.

From 25 November onward, the evenings fill with recitations of Khatmat, Naat Khawani, and Manqabat. The voices rise without strain, settling into the night air in steady waves.

Pilgrims arrive from the south of the valley, from small hamlets beyond Shopian, from the outskirts of Srinagar, and from across Pulwama. They walk past saffron flowers set out to dry in courtyards.

The hours between the first prayer gathering and the closing moments after Isha on 28 November carry their own gentle cadence.

People sit in circles and listen. Some drift into meditative reflection, others watch the cave from below as if waiting for its stories to breathe again.

The village accepts them all with

the ease of a place used to arrivals.

Saffron season deepens the sense of belonging. The land glows, and the faint smell of crocus clings to clothes and hands. The colours seem to echo the saint's teachings: soft, steady, and shaped by patience.

The shrine's steps fill through the day, and the evenings open like slow petals, offering space for prayer, memory, and silent connection.

For many who come, the trip to Ladhoo is less a religious obligation and more a return to a path that feels familiar.

They speak of the saint as though he remains among them, guiding their thoughts and steadying their uncertainties.

By the time the last gathering ends, Ladhoo settles back into its usual pace.

The visitors leave in small groups, carrying saffron strands, whispered blessings, and a sense that something calm has passed through them.

The cave remains above the village, holding its handprint and stories.

— The author is a Kashmiri-born Automation and Control Engineer based in Saudi Arabia.



**THE VISITORS
LEAVE IN SMALL
GROUPS, CARRYING
SAFFRON STRANDS,
whispered
blessings, and
a sense that
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them.**

The Hill That Watches Over Love

A Kashmiri writer returns to Daresh Hill, where a saint's shrine and a sweeping view of the valley shape how people understand peace, memory, and beginnings.

Kaisar Ahmad Malla

I grew up hearing one invitation repeated across Magam and Beerwah: "Walsa Baab Soebun Gasow."

It always felt larger than its words. It pulled us toward a hill that seemed to hold something steady at its centre.

The shrine of Baba Hanneef U Din Reshi [R.A.] sits on Daresh Hill with a natural ease. People call him Baab Sob as if he were part of the family.

The mystic followed the path of Hazrat Zain Ud Din Wali [R.A.] of Ashmuqam, who followed Sheikh Noor Ud Din Noorani [R.A.].

That line of devotion travelled across the valley and settled on this rise in Rathsun Magam.

I often picture Baab Sob choosing the spot for its calm and letting prayer shape the place.

Reaching the hill feels simple. Roads curve up from Budgam, Beerwah, Radbugh, and Magam. The Budgam-Beerwah road glides along its slope, revealing the shrine as if introducing it. Srinagar is about an hour away. Magam and Beerwah sit close enough for a short detour after tea.

At the top, the world opens in clear lines. Srinagar lies to one side, Baram-

ulla and Bandipora in the distance, Gulmarg's hills resting like folded cloth. Tosamaidan and Doodhpathri stretch out in long swells, and the Pir Panjal stands straight across the horizon. Villages below look tucked into the land, their rooftops catching the light.

Seasons redraw the hill with confident strokes. Spring wakes the slopes with green and small flowers that seem to arrive without effort. Summer brings steady breeze under the pines where families settle with baskets and stories. Autumn deepens the sky and fills the ground with amber leaves. Winter lays a clean sheet of snow across everything, making the shrine seem even more certain.

Many of my earliest memories sit here. School picnics, steel flasks of tea, grass stains on trousers, and the sense that the hill would outlast our tiny worries.

Even now, the place holds the same pull. Families still climb up with food packed in newspaper, and children still race toward the trees as if the hill were made for them.

There is another tradition woven into the place.

Newly married couples visit Baab Soubun before they settle into their new routines. They stand on the slope

and take in the long view, and the air seems to steady them. The land spreads out in soft rises and sharp climbs, a reminder that life holds both.

Something in that sight brings a kind of courage.

Daresh has grown greener because of a plantation drive led by social activist Riffat Abdullah. Himalayan blue pine, deodar, and silver fir now rise along the slopes. These trees have changed the air and given the hill a deeper sense of care. Baab Soubun's resting place breathes easier.

People come here for many reasons. Some want to pray, some want fresh air, and others just need a break. The hill welcomes everyone in its own embracing way.

When I reach the top and feel the wind on my face, with the whole valley opening in front of me, something inside settles. I walk away feeling lighter.

"Walsa Baab Soebun Gasow."

The old call still works on me. Each visit feels like a small step toward clarity, a reminder that sometimes you rise in spirit by simply walking up a hill you have known all your life.

— The author can be reached at kaisarmalla94@gmail.com.



Ethiopia Volcano Ash Disrupts India Flights, No Weather Impact

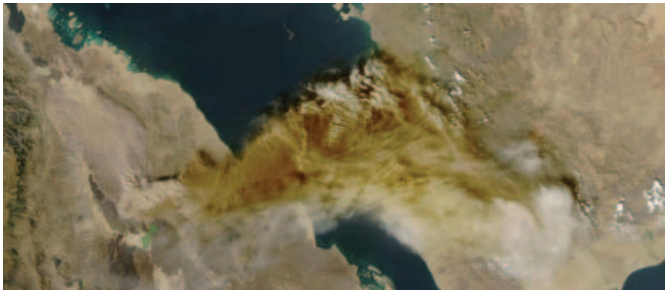
KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Ash clouds from a major volcanic eruption in Ethiopia drifted into parts of India on Tuesday, disrupting flight operations across several regions, though authorities confirmed there was no impact on local weather or air quality. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the ash plumes—currently moving eastward—are expected to clear Indian skies by 7:30 pm on Tuesday. The clouds, detected in the upper troposphere, affected aviation routes over Gujarat, Delhi-NCR, Rajasthan, Punjab, and Haryana.

IMD and the civil aviation ministry said they are maintaining continuous monitoring as precautionary measures were activated across airports and airlines.

Flight operations saw significant disruption, with seven international flights cancelled and 12 delayed at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport alone. Air India cancelled 13 flights since Monday after seven of its aircraft that flew through affected air corridors were taken for precautionary checks. These aircraft was cleared for service on Tuesday.

The disruption followed the eruption of the Hayli Gubbi shield volcano in Ethiopia's Afar region



on Sunday, which sent ash plumes rising nearly 14 km (45,000 ft) into the atmosphere. Strong winds carried the ash across the Red Sea, Yemen, Oman, and the Arabian Sea, eventually reaching western and northern India.

IMD said its Met Watch offices in Mumbai, Delhi, and Kolkata issued ICAO-level SIGMET warnings, advising airports and airlines to avoid affected airspace and altitude levels. Continuous satellite monitoring, dispersion models, and advisories from Volcanic Ash Advisory Centres (VAAC) informed route adjustments and fuel planning.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation assured that there was “no cause for concern” and that coordination between ATC, IMD, airlines, and global aviation agencies was underway. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) also

issued a NOTAM alerting pilots and operators.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) instructed airlines to strictly avoid ash-affected zones, adjust flight paths, and immediately report any suspected ash encounters, including engine anomalies or cabin odour. It further directed airports to inspect runways and taxiways for contamination should ashfall reach ground level. IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra reiterated that the ash was confined to higher altitudes.

“The volcanic ash is being seen only in the upper troposphere... It has no impact on weather or air quality,” he said.

As the ash cloud continues drifting toward China, authorities expect a gradual normalisation of flight operations through the evening.

SC: Nation Won't Tolerate Custodial Violence, Deaths

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said custodial violence and death is a “blot” on the system, and the country will not tolerate this.

While hearing a suo motu case concerning lack of functional CCTVs in police stations, a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta referred to its order passed in the matter and said 11 deaths were reported in police custody in eight months in Rajasthan.

“Now this country will not tolerate this. This is a blot on the system. You can't have deaths in custody,” the bench said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said nobody can even justify or attempt to justify custodial deaths.

The bench also questioned the Centre as to why it has not filed compliance affidavit in the matter.

“The Union is taking this court very lightly. Why?” Justice Nath asked.

Mehta said he was not appearing in the suo motu matter but nobody can take the court lightly.

He said the Centre would file the compliance affidavit within three weeks.

In September, the apex court

had taken suo motu cognisance of a media report which stated that 11 lives were lost in police custody in Rajasthan in the first eight months of 2025, of which seven incidents occurred in the Udaipur division.

In a separate matter, the apex court had in 2018 ordered installation of CCTV cameras in police stations to check human rights abuses.

During the hearing on Tuesday, the bench also heard the submissions of senior advocate Siddhartha Dave, who is assisting the apex court as an amicus curiae in a separate matter in which the top court had passed an order in December 2020.

In that order, the top court had directed the Centre to install CCTV cameras and recording equipment at the offices of investigating agencies, including the CBI, the Enforcement Directorate and the National Investigation Agency.

Dave told the bench on Tuesday that he has filed a report in the case in which order was passed in December 2020.

“On the last date, we had made certain specific queries from all the states and Union Territories (UTs). Have they responded?” the bench asked.

The bench was informed that in the suo motu case, only 11

states have filed their compliance affidavits.

Dave said in the earlier case also, many of the states have not filed their compliance affidavits.

The bench observed that Madhya Pradesh has given a positive response and each police station and outpost in the state is connected to centralised work station at district control room.

“That is something remarkable,” the bench said.

Dave said CCTVs were installed in three central probe agencies but the other three are yet to comply with the apex court's direction.

“It's a judgement of the court, we are bound. But having CCTV inside the police stations also is something which can be counter productive to investigation. Now there is a judgement, we can't argue,” Mehta said.

The bench observed that in America, they have live streaming of the footage.

“America has even private jails where you can get almost resort level facilities,” the solicitor general said.

He said there was a suggestion from one of the benches that “why don't you persuade the industrialists, who are suppose to spent some money of CSR (corporate social

responsibility), to create private jails”.

The bench said it is already seized of a matter concerning open air prison.

“You don't need any other system. That is one of the best resolutions to so many problems of overcrowding and regular complaint of violence in jails,” the bench said, adding it would also help in reducing the financial burden.

Dave flagged that there was no budgetary allocation done for installation of CCTVs for three central agencies.

“We find that only 11 states have filed their compliance affidavits in the suo motu writ petition. The remaining states and Union territories have not filed their compliance affidavits which includes the Union of India also,” the bench noted in its order.

It granted three weeks time to the states and UTs, which have not yet filed their compliance affidavits, to do so and posted the matter for hearing on December 16.

The bench said if by the said date, the compliance affidavits are not filed by the remaining states and UTs, their principal secretary in the department of home will remain present before the court along with their respective explanations for not complying with the orders.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Youth Must

shine on national and international platforms. “In the coming times, people would like to see the youth of J&K carrying the tricolour and winning medals for the country.”

He added that sports teach discipline, strengthen resolve, and help individuals overcome challenges. “Sports has a lot of strength. It provides a clear message of unity, determination, and resilience,” he noted.

Expressing confidence in the young athletes, the LG said he sees them as a “powerful democratic force—innovative, idealistic, and capable of resolving challenges.”

He said participants of the National School Games will return home not just with medals but also with the experience of witnessing a Naya Jammu and Kashmir—a Union Territory that is not only beautiful but also capable of becoming a key driver of India's growth engine. “You represent the spirit of a modern India. Your achievements today will shape the India of tomorrow,” the LG said.

Congratulating the winners and participants, the Lieutenant Governor encouraged them to pursue excellence with confidence and purpose. “Dream big and have the courage to make those dreams come true. As role models, you hold a special place in society and have a huge responsibility to inspire the coming generations, both on and off the field. From the sports field to the grassroots level, you must continuously strive for progressive policies and social transformation through sports,” he told the young athletes.

The Lieutenant Governor presented trophies to the top performing teams and athletes and released a compendium of the Department of Youth Services and Sports.

The 69th National School Games featured four disciplines: football, wushu, taekwondo, and table tennis, drawing participation from 34 states and union territories.

Commissioner Secretary Yasha Mudgal, Director General Youth Services and Sports Anuradha Gupta, senior officials, sports personalities, and a large number of young athletes attended the event.

CM Dares BJP

to Sharma's demand that admission of the first batch be cancelled and reserved only for those who “have faith in the deity”. Omar said the principle must be applied openly. “If you do not want Muslims admitted, then declare it a minority institute. The Muslim and one Sikh student who have secured admission on merit can be accommodated elsewhere,” he said.

He cautioned that the BJP should not accuse the Muslim community of sectarian behaviour while simultaneously pushing children away from institutions where they seek education. “When children choose to study at Mata Vaishno Devi College without caring about its name or funding, and you deny them admission because of their religion, what message are you sending?” he asked.

Referring to recent arrests linked to a “white collar” radicalisation network at Al-Falah University, Omar questioned the hypocrisy. “You ask why Kashmiri doctors went to institutes where they became radicalised. But when they want to study at an institute like Mata Vaishno Devi, you want to shut the door. If tomorrow they go somewhere else and get radicalised, will Sunil Sharma take responsibility?” he said.

Omar urged the BJP not to “push Muslim children to the wall,” adding that students denied admission locally may simply go abroad for studies. “If you want Muslim students not to study there, change the status and our children will get admission elsewhere — even in Bangladesh or Turkey,” he said.

The SMVDIME has been allotted 50 MBBS seats this year. Admission of 42 students belonging to one community in the first batch triggered controversy, with right wing groups demanding the institute be declared a minority institution. Officials maintain that admissions were strictly merit based as the institute does not have minority status.

Later reacting to Omar's remarks, Sharma said the BJP was not opposed to merit but

insisted that faith must be respected. He said Vaishno Devi is a revered religious place and mixing students of other religions could lead to “clashes and law and order issues.”

He further accused Omar of benefiting from “family merit”, saying, “Your merit is that you are from the Omar family.”

Winter Vacations

vacations shall be observed from December-01 to February-28.

It also said that the winter break for 9th to 12th standard shall commence from December-11 to February-22.

SED also said that all Teaching faculty shall remain available for any academic activity during the vacation period.

“The Teaching staff shall report back to their respective schools on February-20-2026 for making arrangements regarding opening of schools,” reads the order.

SED said that any default on the part of the Heads of Institutions or Teaching staff in observance of the above schedule shall attract strict action under the Rules.

Cold Wave Tightens

Srinagar recorded a minimum of minus 3.1 degrees Celsius, marking the second coldest night of the season. The city had witnessed its coldest night on Monday when temperatures touched minus 3.2 degrees, according to MET officials.

In south Kashmir, Shopian remained the coldest location with a low of minus 5.4 degrees, followed by Pulwama which settled at minus 5.0 degrees.

Pahalgam registered a minimum of minus 4.4 degrees, while the ski destination Gulmarg in north Kashmir recorded minus 1.2 degrees.

The high altitude Zojila Pass, which connects the valley with Ladakh, experienced extreme conditions as temperatures dropped to minus 16 degrees.

The region has been reeling under a prolonged dry spell since October. The MET Office has forecast dry weather for the coming week, offering no immediate relief from the deepening cold.

India Wants Peace

unanimous 2019 verdict and the establishment of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. Modi laid the foundation stone in 2020, the idol was consecrated in January 2022, and the Ram Darbar opened to devotees in June 2025.

The prime minister urged citizens to “awaken the Ram within” as India strives to become a developed nation by 2047. He stressed that the next decade must focus on shedding the “mentality of slavery” inherited from colonial rule. “Macaulay sowed the seeds of separating India from its roots. We achieved Independence but not freedom from inferiority,” he said.

Modi also said India's democratic values were indigenous, citing ancient inscriptions in Tamil Nadu that documented early democratic institutions. “India is the mother of democracy. It is in our DNA,” he said.

Ayodhya transformed into a massive cultural arena for the ceremony, with folk dancers, musicians and devotional troupes from across Uttar Pradesh performing at multiple locations — from the airport to Ram ki Paidi. Artists showcased Brij, Awadhi, Bundelkhandi, Purvanchali and Terai traditions, along with classical instruments like sarangi, shehnai, pakhawaj, sitar and flute.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath called the flag hoisting “the beginning of a new era”, saying the temple embodied the faith and dignity of 140 crore Indians. RSS chief Bhagwat said generations who had struggled for the temple would “find peace today”.

Earlier, thousands of devotees poured into the temple town chanting “Jai Shri Ram” as rituals began for raising the 22 by 11 foot saffron flag atop the 161 foot spire. Among the invitees was Iqbal Ansari, son of Hashim Ansari, one of the earliest litigants in the Babri Masjid case.

Security in Ayodhya was tightened with nearly 7,000 personnel, including ATS commandos, deployed across the city.

Hoists Saffron Flag

wounds” and the triumph of truth.

Modi performed the ceremony in the presence of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The event, held during the auspicious abhijeet muhurta on Vivah Panchami, turned Ayodhya into a vast cultural stage with folk and devotional performances from across Uttar Pradesh.

Calling the saffron flag “divine”, Modi said it bore the symbols of the Sun, Om and the Kovidara tree, reflecting dharma and righteousness. He urged citizens to “awaken the Ram within” as India moves towards becoming a developed nation by 2047 and stressed the need to shed the “mentality of slavery” inherited from colonial rule.

Modi said India's democratic ethos predated Western influence, citing ancient inscriptions that recorded local self governance. He added that Ayodhya was emerging as a model that blended heritage with modern development.

RSS chief Bhagwat said those who had sacrificed for the Ram temple would “find peace today”. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath called the ceremony the beginning of a new era and said the temple represented the faith and dignity of 140 crore Indians.

Thousands of devotees thronged the temple town chanting “Jai Shri Ram” as the 22 by 11 ft saffron flag was raised atop the 161 foot spire. Among the invitees was Iqbal Ansari, son of the late Hashim Ansari, one of the earliest litigants in the Babri Masjid case.

The city hosted large scale cultural performances across two days, showcasing folk traditions from Brij, Awadh, Bundelkhand, Purvanchal and Terai. Security was tight, with around 7,000 personnel including ATS commandos deployed. PTI

J&K Holds 1 Billion

said, “it will be very good if we are able to meet the increasing demand of cement in this area through local production of cement.”

“The GSI has estimated almost one billion tonnes of limestone reserves in J&K. More blocks will be auctioned in the second round which will lead to a drastic change in the mining scenario in J&K,” he said, adding mining not only leads to employment in the sector, it also leads to industrial growth and a significant increase in revenue for the government.

He said the challenge before the ministry and the mining and geology department of the J&K government is how “we should, in a planned manner and in a time-bound manner, explore all potential areas and put those blocks on auction as early as possible”.

The official said some other deposits which have been discovered by GSI in J&K include lithium, copper, titanium and iron and coal besides gold, but how much of those minerals are economically viable is yet to be assessed.

Asking the J&K government to ensure hand-holding of the successful bidders for the seven limestone blocks, he said the ministry will extend support to the UT.

Anil Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, J&K Mining Department, said the pioneering initiative of e-auction of seven limestone blocks is expected to bring in approximately Rs 500 crore revenue for the Union Territory.

“The transparent electronic bidding process will boost investor confidence, open new opportunities for entrepreneurship, ensure setting up of cement and other mineral-based industries and generate substantial employment opportunities for the local population,” he said. He said they are also in the process of processing 24 new landform blocks which will be brought to e-auction by March next year with an estimated revenue of around Rs 1,500 crore for the UT, further accelerating economic growth and development.

Singh said J&K has embarked on a new horizon in mining by introduction of Integrated Mining Surveillance System (IMSS) which employs satellite imaging monitors to keep a watch on illegal mining activities.

The department is also conducting a trial run of various advanced technology within a fortnight to make mining operations fully

transparent and accountable, he said, adding the system would become fully operational by early January 2026.

He said citizens would soon be able to register complaints directly through mobile applications, further strengthening public participation.

For future roadmap and mineral explorations beyond the edge zone, the department is driving exploration of other critical minerals, including lithium and sapphire, which are under dedicated study and set to be pre-auctioned in the coming financial year.

Active consideration is being given to scientific exploration and extraction of graphite, granite, copper, metal and shallow gas in identified zones, he said.

He said detailed geological mapping, relay and feasibility assessments are going on to ensure responsible and sustainable mineral development in J&K.

He thanked the Ministry of Mines for recommending J&K mining department for financial assistance of Rs 100 crore for development of command and control centres, rapid response infrastructure to curb illegal mining and for ensuring scientific and sustainable mining.

The operationalisation of district mineral foundation trust ensures that mining revenues directly benefit local area development and welfare initiatives, he said.

Singh said his department is in the final stages of establishing the Mineral Exploration Trust, which will promote viable and scientific and environmentally safe mineral exploration in J&K.

Winter Sectt Duty

the Social Welfare Department, Sarmad Hafeez (IAS), will be stationed at the Secretariat.

Between December 8 and 12, Principal Secretary of the Finance Department, Santosh Dattatraya Vaidya (IAS), along with Zubair Ahmad (JKAS), Commissioner Secretary of the Floriculture, Parks and Gardens Department, will be available.

From December 15 to 19, Principal Secretary of the Home Department, Chandrakar Bharti (IAS), and Administrative Secretary of Labour and Employment, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan (IAS), will attend office in Srinagar.

Between December 22 and 26, Secretary of the Public Grievances Department, Niraj Kumar (IAS), and Administrative Secretary of the Transport Department, Avny Lavasa (IAS), will remain on duty.

The final rotation from December 29 to January 2 will include Secretary of the Tribal Affairs Department, Prasad Ramsawmy G (IAS), and Secretary of the School Education Department, Ram Niwas Sharma (IAS).

HC Refuses Bail

registered under Sections 8/21 and 29 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Qazigund. The trial is underway before the Court of the Special Judge (NDPS Cases), Anantnag.

According to the prosecution, on April 25, 2023, a police patrol near Nasoo Badragund Crossing intercepted two individuals moving suspiciously with a polythene bag. On noticing the police party, both allegedly attempted to flee but were apprehended. A search of the bag led to the recovery of bottles of codeine, the prosecution stated. The arrested individuals were identified as the petitioners, Rouf Ahmad Ganie and Rayees Ahmad Wani.

According to the prosecution, on April 25, 2023, a police patrol near Nasoo Badragund Crossing intercepted two individuals moving suspiciously with a polythene bag. On noticing the police party, both allegedly attempted to flee but were apprehended. A search of the bag led to the recovery of bottles of codeine, the prosecution stated. The arrested individuals were identified as the petitioners, Rouf Ahmad Ganie and Rayees Ahmad Wani.

“When it comes to offences punishable under NDPS Act, particularly those which involve possession of commercial quantity of contraband substance, the court has to keep in view something more,” the court said, adding, “Section 36C of the NDPS Act makes Code of Criminal Procedure applicable to the

proceedings before a Special Court which includes the provisions as to bail and bonds. However, Section 37 of the NDPS Act stipulates additional conditions before a person accused of committing an offence involving commercial quantity of contraband substance is released on bail.”

Finding that the accused had failed to demonstrate reasonable grounds that they were not guilty of the alleged offences, the court refused to extend the concession of bail.

“Since the provisions contained in Section 37 of the NDPS Act are mandatory in nature, the petitioners cannot be granted bail,” the court said.

J&K Tightens Checks

proper maintenance of KYC and digital records of buyers and sellers.

Authorities have directed regional transport officers, assistant RTOs and enforcement teams to conduct inspections, verify entries on VAHAN and take strict action against unauthorised dealers. After 21 days, district police and state taxes authorities will also step in to seize vehicles found being sold without valid authorisation. Existing dealers have been given 30 days to obtain the required approval, officials said. No vehicle transaction will be allowed through non-authorised dealers.

Transport Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan said the new guidelines will curb fraudulent transactions, prevent misuse of vehicles by anti-social elements and bring greater transparency to the resale ecosystem across Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, Transport Secretary Avny Lavasa has called for effective implementation of the Registered Vehicle Scrapping Policy, which targets vehicles 15 years or older and those unfit for road use due to accidents, disasters or general wear and tear.

She said the scrapping process will follow scientific standards to promote recycling and reduce environmental impact under the Environment Protection Rules. The policy, she added, is expected to create a thriving business ecosystem in scrapping and recycling, generating employment in areas such as dismantling, processing and logistics.

To support the rollout, the government plans to offer incentives and provide land bank support for setting up scrapping facilities across the UT. Lavasa said the policy is a forward-looking initiative that will benefit vehicle owners and boost the regional economy, and stressed the need to engage the public and businesses for successful implementation.

3 New NC

were elected last month in the maiden Rajya Sabha polls in the Union Territory since the re-organization of the erstwhile state and the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

The polls were held for four seats of which NC won three, while the BJP secured one seat, with its candidate Sat Sharma having already taken the oath.

Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzan is a former minister and MLA who has served multiple terms in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo is also a former minister from Kishtwar, and Shammi Oberoi, the party treasurer, will join the Upper House representing the NC.

The previous Rajya Sabha members from Jammu and Kashmir completed their six-year terms on February 2, 2021. These members included Ghulam Nabi Azad (INC), Nazir Ahmad Laway (PDP), Fayaz Ahmad Mir (PDP), and Shamsheer Singh Manhas (BJP).

Their seats remained vacant as Jammu and Kashmir did not have an elected legislative assembly, which is required under Article 80 of the Constitution and the Representation of the People Act, 1951 for conducting biennial elections to the Upper House.

The elections and oath-taking mark the significant step in restoring Jammu and Kashmir's representation in Parliament following the changes to its political structure.

The newly elected MPs will now assume responsibilities in the Rajya Sabha and participate in the legislative work of the Winter Session. (KNO)

CM Omar Reviews Key Revenue Department Projects

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday reviewed the progress of infrastructure projects taken up by the revenue department.

As many as 18 major building projects -- including tehsil and niabat offices, residential quarters, mini secretariats, and revenue complexes -- are currently being executed across Jammu and Kashmir.

These projects -- located in Ramban, Kathua, Poonch, Doda, Udhampur, Reasi, Bandipora, Anantnag, Pulwama and Srinagar -- form a critical part of the administration's efforts to strengthen building infrastructure and grassroots governance,



a government spokesperson said.

He said the review highlighted certain bottlenecks, including delays in fund disbursement, pending approvals and legal issues in a few locations.

Abdullah directed officials to coordinate and clear pending approvals, resolve legal impediments, and synchronise financial

planning with project timelines to avoid cost escalation.

Reiterating the government's focus on building a modern and efficient revenue administration, the chief minister said timely completion of these projects is essential to improve citizen-centric service delivery.

According to PTI, he called for enhanced monitoring, proactive inter-departmental coordination, and strict adherence to deadlines.

Abdullah assured full government support for smooth execution of the pending works.

THESE PROJECTS -- LOCATED IN RAMBAN, KATHUA, POONCH, DODA, UDHAMPUR, REASI, BANDIPORA, ANANTNAG, PULWAMA AND SRINAGAR -- form a critical part of the administration's efforts to strengthen building infrastructure and grassroots governance, a government spokesperson said.

Quota Issue: Ruhullah Threatens Fresh Protest

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Member of Parliament Aga Ruhullah Mehdi has urged the party-led government in Jammu and Kashmir to resolve the reservation issue before the Winter session of Parliament concludes, warning that he will join quota protests if the delay continues.

The Winter session is scheduled from December 1 to 19, with 15 working days. Mehdi has backed general category aspirants who seek a review of the existing reservation policy, accusing the Union territory administration of turning a blind eye to the frustration of educated youth.

In a sharp post on X, the Budgam MP asked the government what it would take to acknowledge the "agony and hopelessness" young aspirants are facing. Referring to the recent controversy at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, where merit-based admissions sparked debate, he said, "Doesn't today's case open their eyes? Don't they feel the urgency to give our youth some relief?"

Mehdi had earlier joined student protests outside Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's residence in December last year, demanding



rationalisation of the quota system. The Omar government later set up a Cabinet sub-committee to study grievances and submit a report within six months.

On October 16, Omar announced that the Cabinet had accepted the sub-committee's report and sent it to the lieutenant governor for approval. Mehdi, however, said the timeline has stretched far beyond what was promised. "Last year, they said six months. Those six months have turned into a year," he said, adding that assurances given before the recent Budgam bypoll have also not materialised.

He said even a future resolution would not compensate job aspirants for the time and vacancies already lost. "Now even if they solve this sometime in future, what will compensate for the years gone by?" he asked.

Mehdi warned that if the government does not act by December 20, he will again sit with the protesters. "And this time it will not be for a day," he said.

The MP also criticised the BJP for questioning the high number of Muslim admissions in the first MBBS batch at SMVDU's medical institute. Right-wing groups have demanded minority institution status for the new institute after 42 out of 50 seats went to students from one community.

Mehdi asked how the BJP could object to Muslim enrolment at a state-backed institution while supporting the appointment of non-Muslims to Waqf boards. "What principle is at work here?" he asked, calling it a selective use of religion. Chief Minister Abdullah also reacted strongly, pointing out that the law establishing SMVDU does not permit religion-based admissions. Officials said the institute has no minority status and therefore could only admit students on merit.

The SMVDU medical institute received approval for 50 MBBS seats this year. While officials maintain the admissions were merit-driven, the controversy has added to the rising tensions around reservation, merit, and representation in the UT.

Raise issues in Parliament, Not on Streets: Dy CM Advises MP Ruhullah

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advising Member Parliament Aga Ruhullah Mehdi to raise issues in the Parliament and not on streets, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary on Tuesday said the senior leader should focus on working for people rather than looking for opportunities to remain in the limelight.

Talking to reporters, the Deputy CM, as per KNO, said that the Chief Minister has made it clear that there is no proposal to hike the electricity tariff. "Nobody has stopped Aga Sahab from protesting. He is an Honorable Member Parliament and should raise issues there," he said.

Choudhary added that the MP has his own protocol. "He should speak to the Chief Minister. He should speak to the Prime Minister. But, it doesn't suit an MP to speak on the streets to be in the limelight," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister stated that the media should avoid giving hype to the people who are trying to be in the limelight.

Replying to a query on Ruhullah's resignation, Choudhary said if he has tendered the resignation, let him show the copy of his resignation. "If he (Ruhullah) wants to serve the people then he should meet the honourable Chief Minister to discuss the issues, rather than speaking



ing on the streets," he added.

Pertinently, the estranged National Conference Lok Sabha MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi has asked his party-led government in Jammu and Kashmir to resolve the reservation issue before the winter session of Parliament ends, saying he will join the quota protests if no action is taken.

Moreover, Choudhary stated that there are no plans to increase the electricity tariff, saying that the rumours are media creation and far from the truth.

The Deputy Chief Minister while reacting to the controversy over the enrolment of Muslim community students in SMVDU, said, "The education must be kept away from politics, religion and other things. Students must get admissions on the basis of merit irrespective of the caste and religion."

GMC Anantnag Ophthalmology Dept Performs 7,700 Cataract Surgeries in 3 Years

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Ophthalmology at Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag has achieved a remarkable milestone, performing thousands of critical eye surgeries and procedures over the past three years, solidifying its position as one of the most efficient eye-care units in south Kashmir.

According to official data accessed by KNO, the department conducted 7,728 cataract surgeries and 1,850 intravitreal injections between January 2023 and October 2025.

These figures exclude hundreds

of other major eye procedures, including trauma, lid, glaucoma, squint, and retina surgeries, which together total 1,558 operations during the same period.

Associate Professor Dr Rayees Ahmad said the department's achievements reflect its dedication to public health and the objectives of the National Programme for Control of Blindness as well as the Ayushman Bharat initiative.

He said Anantnag district caters not only to its own population but also to patients from neighbouring regions. "GMC Anantnag is the first among the new medical colleges to start



intravitreal injection services. Earlier, patients had to travel to Srinagar or even outside the

Valley for such procedures. This has been a major relief for thousands," he said.

Head of the Department Dr Mohammad Yousuf highlighted the department's commitment to both quality eye-care and medical education.

"We receive a heavy inflow of OPD as well as IPD patients. Despite limited manpower—two permanent faculty members, one consultant on deputation, a senior medical officer, and resident staff—the team has maintained exceptional service delivery," he said.

Dr Yousuf added that the department runs postgraduate

courses in ophthalmology with students from across India and proudly maintains an almost zero referral rate, except in rare cases requiring highly specialised interventions.

The department expressed appreciation for Principal Prof Dr Rukhsana Najeeb for her continued encouragement, focus on upgrading equipment, and strengthening diagnostic and surgical facilities.

Faculty members expressed hope that the remaining infrastructural and equipment requirements will be addressed soon to further enhance patient care.

PSAJK Seeks Stable & Long-Term Education Reforms

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Private Schools Association of Jammu & Kashmir (PSAJK) on Tuesday urged the government to introduce stable, transparent and long-term reforms in the education sector, asserting that predictable policymaking is essential to safeguard the academic future of lakhs of students enrolled in private institutions across the Union Territory.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, PSAJK President Baba Nazrul Islam said the present situation demands "clarity, consistency and long-term planning," emphasising that private schools—described by him as the backbone of J&K's education ecosystem—must be supported through a fair and transparent regulatory framework.

"We need policies that are predictable, scientific and secure for the future of our children," he said. "Private schools cannot function under uncertainty. They require stability to deliver quality education."

Islam highlighted the

need to upgrade JKBOSE textbooks to national and international standards, while ensuring that the Board receives adequate funding for the purpose.

He said the system should also allow the use of NCERT books aligned with NEP-2020, besides permitting an expert committee to finalise recommended books from reputed private publishers.

"Curriculum reforms must be transparent, consultative and scientifically designed," he said. "Arbitrary decisions only harm the academic environment."

The Association reiterated the need for an autonomous and independent regulatory body—free from political or bureaucratic interference—to oversee both private and government schools.

"Fair regulation is essential, but it should not come at the cost of institutional rights or parent choice," Mr. Islam remarked.

He called for a modern, development-oriented approach centred on capacity building, digital integration and academic excellence.

"Evaluations must encourage learning, not fear,"

he said.

PSAJK pressed for comprehensive strengthening of JKBOSE through curriculum upgrades, improved printing standards, better infrastructure, empowered expert committees and long-term financial sustainability.

"A stronger JKBOSE means a stronger school ecosystem," Mr. Islam said, adding that the Board must also provide "handholding support for capacity building of all stakeholders."

Expressing dismay over what he described as arbitrary notices, investigations and undue pressure, Mr. Islam said schools that have served society for decades should not be subjected to "suspicion-based actions."

Calling for the recall of penalties imposed "without due justification," he demanded restoration of all pending or withheld affiliations.

To ensure long-term stability, Mr. Islam proposed a 30-year Education Policy for J&K covering infrastructure, teacher training, curriculum diversification, technology integration, assessment reforms and financial planning.

CS Stresses Accountability, Speed in Power Sector Reforms

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday undertook an in-depth review of the reforms being implemented by the Power Development Department (PDD) across Jammu and Kashmir with a focus on enhancing operational efficiency, strengthening infrastructure and substantially reducing power losses under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

The review meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, PDD; Managing Director, JPDCL/KPDCL; Chief Engineers of the Corporations; representatives of NTPC and PESL, besides other senior officers.

Emphasising the need for strict adherence to timelines, the Chief Secretary directed that all ongoing reform works aimed at loss reduction must be completed within the sunset period prescribed under RDSS by the Government of India.

He stressed on fixing daily and weekly targets for all components of loss reduction works, including LT cable replacement, augmentation and replacement of



the distribution system, HT line cabling, replacement of HT conductors, feeder segregation and installation of electric poles.

He further underlined the importance of improving feeder-wise billing and revenue collection efficiency and called for stringent action against officials found negligent or lax in discharging their responsibilities. The Chief Secretary instructed the Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir to conduct monthly reviews and identify field-level staff failing to perform responsibly.

To prevent delays during the harsh winter season, especially in snow-bound and remote areas, the Chief Secretary underscored the need for advance dumping of essential material in difficult terrains to ensure uninterrupted execution of works despite road closures.

He also directed senior officers and Deputy Commissioners to maintain continuous oversight for timely resolution of bottlenecks and to keep the pace of implementation up to the mark.

The ACS PDD, Shailendra Kumar urged all Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) to submit comprehensive action plans for accelerating progress on the ground. He encouraged parallel execution of multiple components immediately after the erection of electric poles and sought detailed information on transportation and delivery of materials to remote areas like Marwah, Wadwan, Gurez and Tangdhar.

He also emphasised the need for immediate regularisation of illegal connections to augment government revenue and provide uninterrupted supply to consumers.

Mysterious Death of 3 Relatives:

Bereaved Family Starts Indefinite Hunger Strike

Nearly nine months after the mysterious death of three relatives, some members of their bereaved families on Tuesday started an indefinite hunger strike, accusing the police and the administration of failing to ensure justice. According to PTI, they demanded that the case be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for an impartial investigation.

Bodies of Varun Singh (15) of Dehota, his uncle Yogesh Singh (32) and maternal uncle Darshan Singh (40) were recovered from a waterfall in Ishu Nallah in the remote Malhar area, three days after they went missing on March 5 while going for a marriage ceremony.

Three members of the grieving families, led by Chamail Singh, who lost his son and brother in the incident, sat on an indefinite hunger strike inside the premises of Shiv Temple in Malhar area of Kathua district.

The protest commenced after a 'havan' (special prayer) for the deceased, with locals of Madoon, Deota, Machhedi, Lohai and Kund villages joining the grieving families to press for an impartial probe into the incident.

"The delay amounts to denial of justice," Singh said, vowing to continue the struggle until the truth comes out and the guilty are punished.

He said it was unfortunate that despite the "brutality of the crime," the government had failed to conduct a fair probe.

"My son, my brother, and my brother-in-law were murdered in a planned way, and their bodies were thrown into Ishu Nallah on March 4. They were found after several days," he said, blaming terrorists for the murder.

He said the families have been waiting for the final police report for nine months, yet no conclusive findings have been shared. "The police have failed to submit their report, and even the special investigation team (SIT) constituted for the probe has produced no outcome. We have knocked on every door, from the local police station to the office of the inspector general of police, but there has been no justice," Singh said, taking a pledge to continue fasting until justice is served. (Observer News Service)

J&K's First Digital Land Bank Added to PM Gati Shakti Platform

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Tuesday launched the land bank on the PM Gati Shakti (PMGS) portal.

This pioneering initiative marks the first such exercise in the Union Territory, where land parcels exclusively defined as 'State Land' were jointly surveyed by the forest and revenue departments, an official spokesperson said.

He said only verified parcels, free from all encumbrances, have been mapped and integrated into the PM Gati Shakti portal, ensuring accuracy and reliability in land identification for developmental purposes.

Termining the initiative as a highly useful and forward-looking exercise, the Chief Secretary said the availability of clearly identified and geo-tagged land on a single digital platform would significantly smooth and expedite the development process across districts.

He urged the deputy commissioners to take proactive measures to safeguard these identified patches from any encroachment and misuse.

According to PTI, Dulloo also directed the Remote Sensing Wing of the Forest Department to institutionalise a mechanism for continuous and regular monitoring of these land parcels. He emphasised that any change in occupancy status should be immediately detected and acted upon to maintain the integrity of the land bank.

The secretary also pitched for capacity-building sessions to be organised with district administrations, to ensure a comprehensive understanding and effective utilisation of the system. (Observer News Service)

Three Arrested as NCB Unravels Drug Network

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Srinagar Zone, has successfully dismantled a narcotics supply module active in the Baramulla–Pulwama belt with the seizure of 2,730 kilograms of charas and the arrest of three accused persons, including the main supplier.

"Acting on specific intelligence, on 20.11.2025, a team of NCB Srinagar intercepted Bashir Ahmad Malla, R/o Dhoibwan, PS Kunzer, District Baramulla, and recovered 2,730 kg of charas from his possession," an official statement issued to Kashmir Observer reads.

During sustained interrogation and prompt follow-up action with the help of Baramulla Police, i.e., Kunzer Police Station, the NCB team arrested his close associate, Mansoor Ahmad Wani, R/o Dhoibwan, PS Kunzer, District Baramulla, who was actively involved in the supply chain, it reads.

NCB Srinagar appreciated the strong cooperation and timely support extended by Baramulla Police, whose proactive assistance played a vital role in the successful execution of the operation and further strengthened inter-agency coordination in the region.

"Based on the disclosures of both the accused and subsequent operational intelligence, the main supplier, Abdul Rashid Dar, was apprehended from Pulwama, thereby unearthing the complete trafficking chain. All accused have a previous criminal history in connection with NDPS cases," the statement added.

With the arrest of the mastermind, associate and supplier, the entire module involved in the procurement, transportation and distribution of the seized contraband has been dismantled, it reads, adding that further investigation is ongoing to identify backward and forward linkages, financial trails and any inter-state connections. (Observer News Service)

Govt Seeks Nominations for 2026 Awards

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has opened the nomination process for the 2026 J&K Government Awards, which will be conferred on the eve of Republic Day next year.

According to a notification issued by the General Administration Department, the annual honours will recognise outstanding contributions across a wide spectrum of fields, including bravery, literature, performing arts, art and crafts, social reforms, public service, lifetime achievements, sports, media, environment, and industrial entrepreneurship.

The government has called for nominations from social and sports organisations, NGOs, universities, the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Administrative Secretaries for meritorious public service, as well as Divisional Commissioners. The deadline for submitting nominations has been set for December 15, 2025. (Observer News Service)

South Africa Close In as India Face Whitewash

Press Trust of India

GUWAHATI: India stared down the barrel as a ruthless South Africa slowly tortured the home side by posting an improbable victory target of 549 that has all but ensured the visitors' first series triumph here in 25 years at the end of the fourth day of the second Test.

After South Africa declared their second innings at 260 for 5, India were reeling at 27 for 2 at stumps on Tuesday, having lost openers Yashasvi Jaiswal (13) to Marco Jansen and KL Rahul (6) to Simon Harmer respectively.

Sai Sudharsan (2 batting) and night-watchman Kuldeep Yadav (4 batting) were at the crease but it will take a herculean effort from the remaining batters to save the game on the final day and avoid the ignominy of a 0-2 whitewash.

The only saving grace for them could be the fact that light fades quickly in this part of the world after 3:45 pm and not more than 80 odd overs have been possible on any of the past four days.



Head coach Gautam Gambhir will certainly prefer a 0-1 series defeat over a 0-2 result which would be the second series debacle at home against a SENA nation in the past 12 months.

On the fourth day, the reigning World Test Champions had two targets. First was to set a target that would be virtually out of reach.

Secondly, the more time Proteas spent batting on the fourth

day, stronger became the chances of the red soil track crumbling on the fifth day.

Tristan Stubbs (94 off 180 balls), who missed out on a half-century in the first innings by a solitary run, this time fell short of a Test ton by only six runs.

Once Stubbs became Ravindra Jadeja's (4/62 in 28.3 overs) fourth victim, skipper Temba Bavuma declared the second innings having knocked the stuffing out of

the Indian team by making them bowl for 78.3 overs.

Stubbs enjoyed a 101-run stand for the fourth wicket with Tony de Zorzi (49) and another 82 for the fifth wicket with Wiaan Mulder (35 not out). This was after a 50-plus opening stand between Ryan Rickleton (28) and Aiden Markram (35).

Bavuma, an experienced captain, looked tactically superior compared to India's stand-in skipper Pant, who looked bereft of ideas in his debut in the leadership role, albeit in a one-off game.

Bavuma could have jolly well called his men in after they their lead swelled to 450. But he perhaps wanted to ensure that the SG Test remained relatively new when his men come out to bowl in the morning.

They would try to exploit any help available from the surface before it all flattens out.

The pitch still looks solid even though the degree of turn from less than three on the first day, has now gradually increased to 4.6 on the fourth day.

That was evident when Jadeja,

who hardly gets any purchase in helpful batting conditions, tossed one up to Aiden Markram and lured him into playing a forward defensive stroke.

The ball pitched on the middle stump, turned sharply away from Markram's outside edge while clipping the off-stump. A few overs later, it was Bavuma, who fell for a leg-side trap set by Washington Sundar as he got one bouncing and turning into his rib cage.

The tinkle was taken down at leg-slip by Nitish Reddy.

However, after that dismissal, both Washington (1/67 in 22 overs) and Jadeja stopped getting any appreciable turn and once the ball went soft, Stubbs and De Zorzi farmed the strike with ease.

Pant's tactical calls and field placements also left a lot to be desired as he would constantly switch between "in-out" field (half close in and a few in deep) to five fielders in the deep to save boundaries.

There was a point after which it felt that the Indian team was just playing the waiting game looking for Bavuma to declare the innings at some stage.

Olympic heartbreak sapped motivation: Lakshya

Newly crowned Australian Open champion Lakshya Sen says the heartbreak of finishing fourth at Paris Olympics drained his motivation and planted a seed of doubt but renewed focus on physical conditioning and mental clarity helped him rekindle his love for badminton.

The 24-year-old from Almora endured a difficult spell after returning from Paris, where he narrowly missed a medal last year.

"Post the Olympics, it was a little bit hard for me to find motivation again to train really hard. I took a break for some time. I was not doing so well," Lakshya told a select media after arriving home from Sydney. "I think there was a lot of first round exits as well. A lot of the things I was dealing with mentally, I was still competing in a few tournaments, but I was not really 100% there."

His downward spiral deepened when a back issue persisted through the Singapore-Indonesia leg.

"There were a few niggles here and there. It was not a major injury but I was getting some back spasms because of high match intensity or the loads in the back," he said.

Lakshya spent time in hospitals and later visited the Athlete Performance Centre in Salzburg, Austria to strengthen the affected areas. The physical strain was accompanied by mental fatigue.

"There were a lot of things throughout the year, there were a lot of doubts that were there in my mind. And a lot of people had a lot of different opinions about training, about tournaments, about playing," he said. (PTI)

SA Coach Shukri Conrad Creates Stir 'We Wanted India to Grovel'

Press Trust of India

GUWAHATI: South Africa head coach Shukri Conrad wanted his men to make India "grovel" on the fourth day by setting them the mammoth 549-run target that the embattled hosts are currently chasing to save the second Test and an imminent series whitewash.

Conrad's expression could well stir tensions in what has been a fairly amicable series, but he did mention that he was "stealing a phrase" from the infamous interview by late England skipper Tony Greig before the 1976 home series against Clive Lloyd's West Indies which his team lost 0-3.

"We wanted India to spend as much time on their feet out in the field. We wanted them to really grovel, to steal a phrase, bat them completely out of the game and then say to them well come and survive on the last day and an hour this evening," Conrad literally rubbed it in at the post-play press conference when asked why South Africa batted for nearly 80 overs when



they had already acquired a sizeable lead.

To "grovel" means to "lie or crawl abjectly on the ground with one's face downwards", something that Greig, who was of white South African heritage, had said in reference to the Caribbean players, their painful history of slavery and the apartheid in the Rainbow Nation.

Whether Cricket South Africa has a quiet word with their coloured coach making an objectionable reference at an opposition national team, that has its own history of facing racism, is not yet known.

Wanted pacers to use fading

sunlight

Conrad was asked to explain why they delayed the declaration and whether it could affect the final outcome of the match with India getting away with a draw.

"There were a few factors. We obviously were looking at how best we are going to use the new ball, so that in the morning we still get a newish, hard ball," Conrad said.

He then gave an interesting insight into his tactical nous.

"We felt that when the shadows come across the pitch in the evening, there's something in it for the quick bowlers. So we didn't want to declare too early and not be able to use that (with hard ball).

"And then obviously we wanted India to spend as much time on their feet out in the field."

India bat till number 8 and Conrad knows that the hosts would try their best not to get skittled out.

"So far so good but we also know they are just not going to roll over. We have to be at our very best tomorrow but those are the factors that we considered here."

2026 T20 World Cup: India, Pakistan in Same Group

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Traditional rivals India and Pakistan have been clubbed in Group A for the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup and will play each other in Colombo's R Premadasa Stadium on February 15, as per the schedule unveiled here on Tuesday.

Pakistan will play all their games in Sri Lanka as per the agreement reached between the BCCI and PCB for the tournament.

Reigning champions India will open their campaign against the USA in Mumbai on February 7 before facing Namibia in Delhi on February 12. They will then head to the Sri Lankan capital for the high-voltage clash against Pakistan before concluding their league engagements against the Netherlands in Ahmedabad on February 18.

The showpiece will be held across eight venues (five in India and three in Sri Lanka) from February 7 to March 8.

The tournament will feature



55 matches in Delhi, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Mumbai, Colombo and Kandy.

ICC chairman Jay Sharma made the announcement while unveiling the tournament's schedule.

Group B features Australia, Sri Lanka, Ireland, Zimbabwe and Oman while Group C will have England, West Indies, Bangladesh, Nepal and Italy.

Group D comprises New Zealand, South Africa, Afghanistan, Canada and UAE.

India Lose to Belgium 2-3 in Azlan Shah Cup Hockey

A determined India fought bravely but lost to Belgium 2-3 in a rain-affected Sultan Azlan Shah Cup hockey match, here on Tuesday. Abhishek (33rd) and Shilanand Lakra (57th) got themselves on the scoresheet for India, while Roman Duvekot (17th, 57th) and Nicolas De Kerpel (45th) were on target for Belgium.

The defeat comes after India, led by defender Sanjay, won the opening game in the six-team event against three-time champions South Korea 1-0 on Sunday.

A determined India weathered the early pressure with Pawan doing a good job in the cage.

Belgium had their first real opportunity from a penalty corner 10 minutes into the contest, and soon followed it up with another. But the Indian defence stood firm to ensure they stayed level at the end of the first quarter.

Belgium took the lead against the run of play, breaking Pawan's resistance courtesy a goal from Roman Duvekot in the 17th minute.

India came out firing on all cylinders in the second half and earned the breakthrough when Abhishek (33rd) finished off a superb move to restore parity.

Belgium wrested back the lead with Nicolas De Kerpel (45th) converting a penalty corner.

They soon extended their advantage with Roman Duvekot (46th) scoring early in the fourth quarter, giving Belgium some more breathing room. (PTI)

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