

RED FORT BLAST

Madrassas, Mosques Inspected In Srinagar



KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Police in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday carried out inspections of madrassas and mosques across Srinagar as part of an intensified crackdown on individuals and

networks suspected of aiding terrorist organisations. The drive aims to dismantle the terror support ecosystem and strengthen de radicalisation efforts in the Valley.

Police raids have increased following the | [More on P6](#)

Raids in Kashmir Over Jel Links

Observer News Service

Police on Thursday carried out raids at multiple locations across Kashmir as part of an ongoing crackdown on the banned Jamaat e Islami. Officials said searches were conducted in Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam, Kulgam, and Kupwara. The raids targeted residential premises and | [More on P6](#)

NC Working Committee Meet

Rebel MP, Budgam Setback & Cabinet Expansion Discussed



Agencies

Srinagar: On the first day of the National Conference's two-day Central Working Committee (CWC) meeting, the issue of strengthening the party organisation dominated the discussions, even as other issues such as the electoral setback in Budgam and the rebellion by Member of Parliament (MP) Aga Ruhullah Mehdi also figured in deliberations.

Sources said that the meeting was chaired

by NC president Dr. Farooq Abdullah and attended by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, all cabinet ministers, Members of Parliament, MLAs, and senior leaders of the party.

During the meeting, Dr. Farooq Abdullah stressed the need to strengthen the party at all levels. "We should work for strengthening NC at every level - from the grassroots, to the districts, and up to the party

headquarters," Dr. Farooq was quoted by an NC legislator as saying during the meeting.

The NC president told party leaders that strengthening the organisation would also strengthen the government. "A strong party means a strong government," he told the participants. He further directed the leadership to take all necessary measures and reforms to strengthen the organisation.

Chief Minister and NC vice president | [More on P6](#)

Not Invited To Meet: Ruhullah

KO Web Desk

Srinagar MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Thursday said that since 2002, this was the first time that he was not invited to the National Conference's Central Working Committee meeting by the party leadership. Speaking with reporters, Ruhullah said that he was unaware as he doesn't know which meeting is going on. "If the working committee meeting is going on, I am a permanent member of it. This is the first time since 2002 that I have not been invited," he said. 'No Plans To Form Separate Party' Replying to a query on reports of him flouting a political party, he said he has not distanced himself to build a | [More on P6](#)

Op Sindoor A Defining Moment: Murmu



KO Web Desk

Srinagar: President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said the success of Operation Sindoor was a "defining moment" in India's counter terror and deterrence strategy, adding that the world had taken note of both the country's military capability and its "moral clarity to act firmly, yet responsibly" in the pursuit of peace.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the third edition of the Chanakya Defence Dialogue in New Delhi, she said India's approach, guided by the civilisational ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, shows that "strategic autonomy can coexist with global responsibility". She added that India seeks peace but is fully prepared to protect its borders and citizens "with strength and conviction".

Murmu praised the armed forces for their professionalism and patriotism, saying they had shown "remarkable adaptability and resolve" | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir Records Coldest Nov Night Since 2007

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir witnessed a sharp drop in night temperatures on Thursday, with several parts of the Valley recording their coldest November minimums since 2007, signalling an early intensification of winter conditions.

According to data shared by weather expert Faizan Arif, Srinagar, Qazigund and Kupwara recorded their lowest November night temperatures in more than a decade, along with widespread sub zero readings across the region.

Srinagar recorded a minimum of | [More on P6](#)

Director Motor Garages Booked For 'Illegal Assets'

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Anti Corruption Bureau on Thursday booked a senior government officer and carried out searches at four locations in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. The agency also seized incriminating material during the raids.

The action followed a specific input that led to a secret verification into allegations that Malik Tahir Gani, Director of State Motor Garages, had amassed assets far beyond his known sources of income, an ACB spokesperson said.

Gani, originally from Sanat Nagar in Srinagar and currently living in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, has previously served as ARTO in Anantnag and Pulwama. Verification found that he had allegedly acquired plots, houses, shops, shopping complexes, and several bank accounts in his name and in the names of family members and relatives. Officials said these assets were disproportionate to his known income.

Based on the findings, a prima facie case of criminal misconduct was established and a | [More on P6](#)

J&K Bank Clears ₹1,250 Crore Capital Raise for Expansion

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir Bank has approved a capital raise of up to ₹1,250 crore as the lender seeks to reinforce its balance sheet and accelerate its growth strategy amid improving financial metrics and a strengthening regional economy.

In a statement following its board meeting on 26 November, the Srinagar-based bank said the fundraising plan includes ₹750 crore in equity capital through a Qualified Institutional



Placement (QIP) and ₹500 crore via privately placed, unsecured, non-convertible Tier-II bonds compliant with Basel-III norms.

The move remains subject to regulatory clearances.

The equity component through QIP signals the bank's intention to tap institutional investors as it prepares for a new expansion phase. The Tier-II issuance, meanwhile, is aimed at bolstering its capital adequacy ratio, allowing the lender to absorb future risk while supporting credit growth.

Managing Director and Chief Executive Amitava Chatterjee said the decision reflects the board's | [More on P6](#)

Assam Assembly Passes Bill to Ban Polygamy

Enforces Penalties, Jail Terms For 2nd Marriage

KO Web Desk

New Delhi: The Assam Assembly on Thursday passed a bill to ban polygamy, making it an offence which may lead to a maximum of 10 years of imprisonment, barring some exceptions.

It kept people belonging to the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category and areas under the

Sixth Schedule out of the purview of the legislation.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) will be implemented in Assam if he becomes the CM again after the assembly polls next year.

During the passage of the Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025, the chief minister, who | [More on P6](#)

2020 Fire Services Recruitment Violations Govt Blocks Firm From All Future Bids

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has black-listed LMES IT LLP and its key stakeholder Maharaj Krishan Wali, barring them from participating in any recruitment related tenders across the Union Territory. The decision follows a series of irregularities uncovered in the controversial 2020 Fire and | [More on P6](#)

FOLLOW TRAFFIC RULES
Save Your Future

- Watch for pedestrians
- Use seat belts
- Avoid distractions
- Obey speed limits
- Don't drink and drive
- Signal when turning

Don't be like them

- Wear Helmet
- Say No to Tripling
- Obey Traffic Norms

Issued in Public Interest:
Department of Information and Public Relations
& Department of Transport, Govt of Jammu and Kashmir

DIPK-8483/25 Dt:

KO Classifieds

PLACE YOUR
AD TODAY!

You can
do it all
here

• PUBLIC NOTICES • NAME CHANGE • SALE/ PURCHASE • BIRTHDAY WISHES • OBITUARIES



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Srinagar | Friday | 28-11-2025

2

One In Four Indian Adults Obese, Claims New Report

Press Trust of India

Nearly one in four Indian adults is now obese, a study inaugurated by the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change in Delhi on Tuesday claimed, adding that India is at a turning point as obesity-driven diseases rise sharply across both urban and rural areas.

The report says national data already shows how serious the problem has become. Quoting the National Family Health Survey 2019-21, the study says that in Delhi, 41 per cent of women are obese compared to 12 per cent in Meghalaya. Further, 22.8 per cent of children aged 6 to 16 in Delhi are obese compared to 13.6 per cent in Maharashtra. The paper titled 'Building on success to secure India's future health' said that 24 per cent of women and 23 per cent of men in India have either overweight or obesity, almost five times higher than 30 years ago. Rates are much higher in cities and vary widely across states.

The report adds that this pattern is part of a wider global trend. Worldwide healthcare spending has doubled in the last two decades but people are spending fewer of their added years in good health. Health systems built mainly to treat illness are now under pressure from rising demand and shrinking resources. Global obesity rates have doubled since 1990 and now affect almost one billion people. If trends continue, more than half of all adults worldwide could be overweight or obese by 2050, it added.



“By combining technology, data and community-driven action, India can not only reduce the growing burden of obesity but also build a stronger, more resilient health system for future generations

The report warns that obesity is already increasing India's disease burden and placing pressure on the economy. Obesity costs India about USD 2.4 billion every year in healthcare spending and reduces the country's economic output by roughly USD 28.9 billion, close to one per cent of GDP, it said. Initiatives such as Eat Right India and the Fit India Movement are helping improve diets and physical activity. A "sin tax" on sugary drinks introduced this year and work on national obesity guidelines show further action on prevention, it said.

At the roundtable held in the national capital, experts stressed the need to make preventive health a central part of India's growth strategy, the statement added. Vivek Agarwal, Country Director at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, said India is well placed to lead in prevention. "By combining technology, data and community-driven action, India can not only reduce the growing burden of obesity but also build a stronger, more resilient health system for future generations," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my passport bearing no Passport No. Y9613242 . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Jahangeer Ahmad Lone
R/o Zalura Sopore Jammu & Kashmir

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my passport bearing no Passport No. AF742974. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shabnum Bashir
D/o Bashir Ahmad Lone
R/o Lone Mohalla Logri Pora Sopore

fko

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (U T) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Machinery Division Kashmir, Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department, Kashmir.

Fax No: 0194-2497093 website: www.medkashmir.org

Corrigendum 03

Name of work: - Restoring functionality through repairs / maintenance of 8 No.Bore Wells (17,19,54,58,60,61,91 and 96 (under priority-II Culuster-2) of department of Agriculture in District Pulwama under implementation of National Mission of Saffron

Reference:- This office e-NIT No.: - MDSK/TS /2025-26/54 Date:29-10-2025 (Tender ID: 2025_PWDJK_293574_1)

Due to no response , the critical dates of the above referred e-NIT is extended as under: -

S.No.	Description	Previous Dates	New Dates.
01.	Last date of downloading/ submission of bids	25-11-2025 upto 06:55 PM	10-12-2025 upto 09:00AM
02.	Date of opening of bids online	26-11-2025 at 02:00 PM	10-12-2025 at 02:00 PM

All other terms, conditions and specifications as stipulated in the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.

No: MDSK/TS/4037-40
DIPK-8446/25
Date: 27-11-2025.

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Machinery Division, Kashmir.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Department of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir Srinagar OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM

AUCTION NOTICE

E-NIT No: MC/BUD/2025-26/ 07 of 2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, e-tenders are invited from eligible individuals/firms for the auction and outsourcing of advertisement hoardings at 15 designated sites within the municipal limits for a period of three (03) years. The Minimum reserved bid is fixed for Rs. 6,00,000/- (Rupees Six Lacs Only) per year with 15% escalation for each successive year, to be deposited before the start of the second and third year.

Further details and complete reference for proposal (RFP) can be accessed from the NIC portal /Website https://jktenders.gov.in under Tender ID:- 2025_HAUDD_296260_1 Further any query relating to the process of online bid submission in general may be directed contacted to Chief Executive Officer Mc Budgam.

DIPK-NB-2591/25
dated: 27-11-2025

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Municipal Council
Budgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his/he adhaar card as Raida Shabeer While his/her correct name is Shahzadi Raidah Shabeer. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained..

Shabeer Ahmad Ganie
F/O Shahzadi Raidah Shabeer
R/o Moolu Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my JK Bank account details Taja Banoo while my correct name is Taja Begum . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Branch Manager J&K Bank Magam within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained..

Taja Begum
W/o Ali Mohd Mir

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his/he adhaar card as Hoor Ul Ain While his/her correct name is Emaan Binti Wakeel. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained..

Ab Wakeel Malik
F/o Emaan Binti Wakeel
R/o Batapora District Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my vehicle Auto bearing regd no: jk04d-3372. now i have applied for duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned ARTO within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Jan Mohd Mir
S/o Gh Mohd Mir
R/o Roshanabad Tehsil Magam

BMG

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Gulmarg Development Authority

Tele/Fax No:01954254625

e-mail: ceo-gdagmg@jk.gov.in

E-Bid Document (Auction ID:27797)

Out-sourcing of Space for Igloo near Ice Skating Rink at Gulmarg on “As Is Where Is, Whatever Basis” through GeM Portal for a period of 03 years

Reference: GDA/F-159/2025/1841 Dated: 14/08/2025

In pursuance of the decision taken by the Outsourcing Committee of Gulmarg Development Authority, for and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, bids are hereby invited from reliable, resourceful, and experienced persons/firms through the GeM Portal for outsourcing Space for Igloo near Ice Skating Rink at Gulmarg, on an “As Is, Where Is, Whatever Basis” for a period of three (03) years (three seasons), subject to satisfactory performance and adherence to the terms and conditions prescribed herein.

AUCTION SCHEDULE

SN	Particulars	Date/Amount
1.	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission Start Date	26-11-2025 02:00 PM
2.	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission End Date	03-12-2025 04:00 PM
3.	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Assessment Date	04-12-2025 05:00 PM
4.	EMD Start Date	05-12-2025 10:00 AM
5.	EMD End Date	10-12-2025 04:00 PM
6.	EMD (Bid Security) Amount (To be pledged to Accounts Officer Gulmarg Development Authority)	Rs 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only)
7.	Bid Submission/ Auction Start Date	11-12-2025 10:00 AM
8.	Bid Submission/ Auction End Date	12-12-2025 03:00 PM
9.	Minimum Opening Bid Amount (Per anum with 10% escalation for each successive year)	1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lac Only)

PRE –QUALIFICATION (PQ) CRITERIA (TO BE UPLOADED ON GEM-PORTAL)

- GST Registration Certificate
- PAN/ Adhaar Card
- Valid Character Certificate duly certified by concerned Police Station/ Tehsildar/ ADC Concerned
- Certificate of Registration for Hotel or Restaurant if any duly issued by the Tourism Department/any Govt. Agency competent to issue one and/or Relevant qualification (Degree/Diploma/Certificate Course) in the Hospitality sector and/or having experience in the Hospitality sector with documentary Proof be uploaded.

SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- The minimum reserve bid for the asset is fixed at 1,00,000 (Rupees One Lakh only) per annum, for a contract period of three (03) years, subject to satisfactory performance by the bidder and on-time payment of dues. A compound escalation of 10% shall apply for each successive year. The bid amount shall be deposited annually in advance before the commencement of each allotment year.
- The asset is auctioned on “As is Where is, Whatever” basis. All prospective bidders must physically inspect the asset before participating in the e-bidding process. No claims regarding major deficiencies, rectifications, or alterations in the asset shall be entertained thereafter.
- The bid amount shall be on account of hire charges for use of land near Ice Skating Rink, effective from the date of allotment till the conclusion of the snow season or 31st March 2026, whichever is earlier, for the first year. For subsequent seasons, the period shall be reckoned from 1st December or from the first major snowfall, whichever is later, till the conclusion of the snow season or 31st March of the respective year, whichever is earlier.
- No permanent construction shall be allowed in the given space. The construction, installation, or erection of the Igloo shall be purely temporary and seasonal, composed exclusively of eco-friendly and biodegradable materials.
- The Igloo shall be designed and operated in accordance with approved structural and safety standards suitable for snow-based installations, ensuring adequate load-bearing, ventilation, and fire safety measures.
- The snow collection and water drainage arising from construction and melting of the Igloo shall be scientifically managed by the bidder to prevent environmental degradation or damage to surrounding public property.
- The bidder shall display safety and conduct guidelines for visitors at a conspicuous location at the site. GDA reserves the right to suspend operations if public safety norms are found to be violated.
- On conclusion of each season, the bidder shall ensure complete removal of all material, debris, fixtures, or waste, restoring the site to its original condition to the satisfaction of the Authority. Failure to do so shall attract forfeiture of EMD and cost recovery by GDA.
- The bidder shall independently arrange any additional furniture, electrical backup, etc for service operations.
- The bidder shall maintain and operate the asset in a professional, hygienic and aesthetically pleasing manner. Any structural facelift, cladding, or modifications shall be carried out only by the advice and design of a recognized architect and upon obtaining written permission from this authority.
- Failure to maintain the premises in sanitary, operational, or secure condition as required under the contract shall attract a penalty of 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) per day without prejudice to the Authority's right to terminate the contract.
- The bidder shall make independent arrangements for staffing, stationery, and all other operational needs. Only professionally qualified and trained personnel shall be employed by the bidder for service delivery.
- The bidder shall provide uniforms and ID/name plates to the staff. The bidder shall be vicariously liable for any misconduct or unlawful acts by his/her staff.
- The bidder shall ensure courteous and satisfactory service. Any complaints of misbehavior or substandard service shall attract penal action including cancellation of the allotment and termination of agreement.
- All equipment must be eco-friendly and shall be installed only after prior approval.
- The bidder shall make adequate arrangements for the safe disposal of solid and liquid waste and shall ensure compliance with all pollution control/environmental protection norms.
- The bidder shall be solely responsible for the security and maintenance of the property, lawns, and landscape, if any. No departmental staff shall be posted for the same.
- The premises shall be subject to inspection by authorized officials of GDA. In case of unsatisfactory performance, the contract may be cancelled summarily.
- Sub-letting of the premises is strictly prohibited. In case of premature vacation, a three-month prior notice and payment of full lease amount for the remaining year is mandatory.
- Daily cleaning, sweeping, and general upkeep shall be maintained by the bidder. Any failure may result in enforcement of remedial action at the bidder's risk and cost.
- The bidder shall prominently display approved tariffs for all services within the premises particularly at the entrance.
- The bidder shall maintain proper record of all collections made from users, including issuance of printed or digital receipts for each transaction for tax purposes. The bidder shall also provide a facility for online and cashless payments, including UPI, QR code, etc approved by the Government, to ensure convenience for users.
- The record of daily collections shall be made available for inspection by authorized officials of the GDA or relevant government agencies as and when required. Any discrepancy, non-issuance of receipts, or concealment of revenue shall be treated as a serious breach of contract, inviting penal action and possible termination of the allotment.
- The bidder shall be solely responsible for the safety, upkeep, and maintenance of the asset throughout the contract period. The bidder shall ensure adequate safety measures, including availability of first aid and fire-fighting equipment.
- Any proven case of negligence or poor performance shall lead to immediate termination of contract without notice.
- Upon expiry of the lease, GDA shall retake possession of the premises without any further notice. In case of overstay beyond the contract period, charges shall be levied at 10,000 per day for the first 10 days and 20,000 per day for the next 10 days. Thereafter, legal proceedings for eviction shall be initiated.

Tariq Hussain (JKAS)
Chief Executive Officer
Gulmarg Dev. Authority

No: GDA/F-03/2025-26/3961-63
DIPK-NB-2572/25
Dated: 27/11/2025

Dr Darakhshan Inaugurates Sheesh Khana at Hazratbal

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A modern, state-of-the-art Multipurpose Sheesh Khana was inaugurated on thursday by Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi at the revered Dargah Hazratbal in Srinagar.

Dr. Andrabi was accompanied by Board Member Dr. Ghulam Nabi Hal- eshm, Executive Magistrate Ishtiyag Mohiuddin, Imam of Hazratbal Molvi Riyazul Haq, Sajjada Nisheen Ghulam Mohiuddin Bandy, Imam Khateeb Maulana Syed Mushtaq Khospuri, and civil society representatives including Shakeel Ahmad Khan, Mohammad Shafi Qureshi and Abdul Hamid Nayeemi.

According to KNS, before the inauguration, the Waqf Chairperson offered prayers at the shrine, participated in Majlis-e-Dua, and prayed for peace and prosperity. Addressing a large gathering afterward, Dr. Andrabi reaffirmed the Board's dedication to uninterrupted development across J&K.

“Waqf Board is syn-

onymous with development and transformation. We don't believe in hollow statements—we believe in work. We work without breaks, without holidays, and that is why we see huge transformation everywhere,” she said.

Highlighting the spiritual importance of the shrine, Dr. Andrabi added: “Hazratbal is the heart of our faith, and making it more beautiful is our shared duty. Every shrine holds sacred value, but this place connects every heart. Our priority is to preserve and uplift these blessed sites across Jammu and Kashmir.”

She emphasized that the Board's progress stems from keeping politics away from religious institutions. “We could work because we never politicized our work or our places of worship. The Prime Minister trusted us and gave us the opportunity to serve in the first-ever Waqf Board of J&K formed under the Central Act. We respected our constitutional mandate and put in our full strength as a potent team,” she said.

Police Bust Drug Module in City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police in Srinagar have busted a narcotics module operating in the Nowhatta and Rainawari areas with the seizure of over five kilograms of charas-like substance and the arrest of three accused persons in connection with FIR No. 57/2025.

According to police officials, a naka checking point was established at Malkha Chowk by Police Station Nowhatta at about 5:30 pm on November 16. During checking, a person approaching from Tujgari Mohalla towards Malkha Chowk attempted to flee after noticing the police party while carrying a white bag. He was chased and apprehended on the spot.

The accused disclosed his identity as Hyder Javaid, son of Javaid Ahmad Wani, a local of Kathidarwaza, Rainawari. Upon checking the bag, officials recovered 3.40 kilograms of charas-like powder and 12 Tramadol injections. Subsequently, a case under different sections of law was registered and investigation was initiated.

On November 20, during further investigation and on the disclosure of the first accused, police acted on backward and forward linkages and arrested another accused identified as Altaf Sheikh, son of Hameed Sheikh, a local of Sheikh Mohalla, Nowhatta. From his possession, 722 grams of charas powder was recovered and seized as per due legal process.

DC Reviews Eidgah Tehsil Office Construction

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Thursday inspected the progress of ongoing construction works for the new building for Tehsil Office Eidgah, aimed at modernizing and augmenting the revenue setup to enhance public service delivery.

The DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Tehsildar Eidgah, Mohammad Iqbal Zargar; Executive Engineer R&B (Core), Arif Rehman Hazari, Executive Engineer Water Works Division, Aijaz Ahmad, besides other officers and engineers of the

concerned departments.

During the visit, the DC reviewed the quality and pace of work on the upcoming office complex. The new Revenue Office building is being constructed by the R&B Department.

The Officers apprised the DC that the new Tehsil Office will include a Tehsildar Room, Tehsildar Court Room, Waiting Hall, Naib Tehsildar Room, Staff Room, Meeting Hall, Computer Room, Establishment Room, and a modernized Record Room. It was further reported that brickwork for the ground floor of the G+1 structure has been completed, while soakage and septic works are currently in progress.

الہیہ پروفیسر محمد یاسین قادری رحلت کر گئیں

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ الہیہ پروفیسر محمد یاسین قادری سابق وائس چانسلر یونیورسٹی آف کشمیر سائنس ٹیچنگ ٹیچنگ فرینڈس کالونی ہارون سرینگر 26 نومبر 2025ء بروز بدھوار رحلت کر گئیں، اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جوار رحمت میں جگہ دے اور لواحقین کو یہ صدمہ برداشت کرنے کی توفیق عطا کرے۔ مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 30 نومبر 2025ء بروز اتوار صبح 11.00 بجے اُن کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع ریاض نیگ غانیار میں انجام دی جائے گی۔

سوگواران: پروفیسر محمد یاسین قادری، ڈاکٹر الطاف احمد کنٹر (فرزند نسی)

اشتیاق یاسین قادری، اطہر یاسین قادری (فرزند ان)

فون نمبر ات 919419079193, 919419095058



KU's Youth Festival ‘Sonzal-2025’ Concludes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The University of Kashmir's (KU) annual youth festival Sonzal-2025, organised by the Division of Youth Affairs under the aegis of Department of Students Welfare (DSW), concluded with a valedictory and prize distribution ceremony on Thursday. Held at the varsity's Convocation Complex, the event marked the closure of a week-long showcase of student talent and creativity.

This year's edition brought together hundreds of students from varsity's main and satellite campuses, alongside participants from affiliated and constituent colleges across the Valley. Over the past seven days, students engaged in a range of cultural, literary, and creative competitions, turning the festival into a space for expression, collaboration, and artistic exchange. It featured events including quiz, debate, elocution, collage-making, poster-making, painting, rangoli competition, cartoon-making, clay-modelling, Indian and Western vocals and other activities.

Speaking at the valedictory ceremony, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, applauded the dedication shown by students throughout the festival.

“Sonzal is both a festival and a

meeting ground for diverse voices and emerging talent. Our students have participated with exceptional energy. We must now aim to scale it into a national-level event by inviting universities from across the country,”

meeting ground for diverse voices and emerging talent. Our students have participated with exceptional energy. We must now aim to scale it into a national-level event by inviting universities from across the country,” she said.

She also congratulated participants, jury members, and organisers for the smooth conduct of the festival and noted that platforms like Sonzal help youngsters articulate ideas, share experiences, and discover new strengths beyond academics.

Vice-Chancellor, Cluster Uni-

versity Srinagar, Prof. Mohamad Mobin, highlighted the significance of cultural forums in shaping confident and socially aware youth. Additional Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Ideel Saleem (JKAS), appreciated the artistic range displayed by the participants and reaffirmed the Academy's support for such initiatives.

Earlier, Dean Students Welfare KU, Prof. Pervez Ahmed, in his welcome address, spoke about the festival's role in nurturing emerging talent and expanding opportunities for students to learn and lead.

The ceremony also witnessed the presence of heads of various departments, faculty members, scholars, and students.

The event featured a melodious musical performance by noted Kashmiri singer Irfan Bilal, adding vibrance to the valedictory session.

The event concluded with the distribution of awards and certificates to winners, participants, and jury members.

Dr. Shahid Ali Khan, Cultural Officer DSW KU and organising secretary of Sonzal-2025, conducted the proceedings of the valedictory session. The festival was sponsored by J&K Bank, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, and Cemtec Cements.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MACHINERY DIVISION KASHMIR MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR

Fax No: 0194-2497093 website: www.medkashmir.org

GIST of e-Tender

e-NIT No:	MDSK/TS /2025-26/66
Date	26.11.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited from ARAI certified Fabricators, firms having collaboration with ARAI certified fabricators for the below mentioned work: -

Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In rupees)	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	Bid security (EMD) in Rs	Position of AA	Position of TS
1	2	3	4	5	6
Fabrication of Heavy Duty Platform With Flooring & Lifting Ramp on MAHINDRA BLAZO X M DURA 35 GVWTon , 8x4 Cab Chassis (Cab chassis is available with the Department)	500.00	23.50 Lacs	47000.00	Accorded vide No. MHED/K/TS/18; dated:-09-10-2024 under CAPEX 2025-26	Accorded vide No. MHED/K/TS/102; dated:-01-09-2025

The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website

www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below: -

01	Publish date	26-11-2025(18:00hrs)
02	Period of downloading of bidding document	26-11-2025(18:30hrs)
03	Bid submission start date	26 -11-2025(18:55hrs)
04	Bid submission end date	11-12-2025(18:55hrs)
05	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	12 -12-2025(14:00hrs)

No: MDSK/ TS/ 4057-61
Date: 26.11.2025

DIPK-8462/25
dated: 27-11-2025

Sd/
Executive Engineer,
Machinery Division, Srinagar

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- 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
06 Jumada al-Sani
1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 45
ZUHR	12:17
ASR	3: 47
Magrib	5:27
ISHA	6: 50

This Day In History

- 587 - Treaty of Andelot: King Guntram of Burgundy names cousin Childebert II as heir
- 1443 - Albanian George Kastrioti Skanderbeg and his forces liberate Kruja in Middle Albania from the Ottomans and raise the Albanian flag.
- 1520 - Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan begins crossing the Pacific Ocean
- 1660 - The Royal Society is formed at Gresham College, London, after a lecture by Christopher Wren, Gresham Professor of Astronomy
- 1785 - The Treaty of Hopewell is signed between the Confederation Congress of the United States of America and the Cherokee people
- 1814 - The Times of London first printed by automatic, steam powered presses built by German inventors Friedrich Koenig and Andreas Friedrich Bauer - makes newspapers available to a mass audience
- 1821 - Panama declares independence from Spain
- 1843 - Ka Lahui: Hawaiian Independence Day - The Kingdom of Hawaii is officially recognized by the United Kingdom and France as an independent nation.
- 1862 - Battle at Cane Hill, Arkansas (475 casualties)
- 1862 - Battle of Hooly Spring, MS
- 1864 - 3rd day of Battles at Waynesboro/Jones's Plantation, Georgia
- 1875 - British explorer Verney Cameron reaches East Africa
- 1879 - Battle at Lydenburg South Africa: Gen Wolseley beats Sekhukhenes Pedi-Zulu
- 1899 - Battle of Mud River (Boer general Cronjé beats British gen Methuen)
- 1911 - Zapata proclaims Plan of Ayala Mexico
- 1912 - Ismail Qemali declares Albania independent from Turkey in Vlorë
- 1914 - World War I: Following a war-induced closure in July, the New York Stock Exchange re-opens for bond trading.
- 1939 - Soviet government revokes Russian-Finnish non-aggression treaty
- 1958 - Chad becomes an autonomous republic within French community
- 1958 - Congo & Mauritania become autonomous members of French Community
- 1960 - Mauritania gains independence from France (National Day)
- 1962 - Telegraph between Netherlands & Indonesia restored
- 1967 - 1st radio pulsars detected by British postgraduate Jocelyn Burnell and her supervisor Antony Hewish at Cambridge University
- 1973 - Arab League summit in Algiers recognizes Palestine
- 1975 - Democratic Republic of East-Timor proclaimed
- 1983 - 9th Space Shuttle Mission-Columbia 6-is launched
- 1986 - OPEC reaches oil production accord
- 1987 - South African Airways Boeing 747 crashes into Indian Ocean, 159 die
- 1990 - Conservative Party chooses John Major to succeed Margaret Thatcher as leader and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- 2012 - 54 people are killed and 120 are injured by two car bombs in Damascus, Syria
- 2016 - Plane carrying Brazilian Chapecoense football team crashes near Medellin, Colombia killing 71 players and journalists.
- 2017- India's Supreme Court rejects appeal to block global release of controversial film "Padmavati"
- 2017- Uhuru Kenyatta sworn in for a second term as president of Kenya
- 2019- European parliament declares a climate emergency
- 2019- Iraqi security forces open fire on protesters killing at least 25 in Nasiriyah a day after the Iranian embassy in Najaf is burnt down
- 2019- Zimbabwe on the brink of man-made starvation according to the UN
- 2020 At least 110 people killed in attack on Koshobe village in north-east Nigeria by Boko Haram jihadist group
- 2020- Thousands of farmers begin entering Delhi to protest proposed agriculture reforms

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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

KO VIEW

Kashmir’s
Lancet Love Test

Last month, a 26-year-old schoolteacher in Budgam brought sweets to her fiancé’s house. The family asked for one more gift: a fresh blood-sugar report. She returned with an HbA1c of 6.4, just below the diabetic line. The wedding is off. The mother explained, “We cannot bring a sick girl into the house.” The girl now checks her glucose each morning and wonders if love comes with a lancet. Endocrinology out-patient departments in Kashmir have doubled in five years. Government data show 2.4 lakh registered diabetics in 2025, up from 1.1 lakh in 2020. Doctors blame the shift from home-cooked mutton and turnip to city-bought snacks and cola, plus winters spent around the firepots instead of the cricket ground. Whatever the cause, the number is public, and it is deciding who is marriage-ready. Matrimonial notices in a local newspaper used to list height, job, and whether the girl covers her head. Now twenty percent end with “non-diabetic only.” A pathology lab owner in city has even started a “bridal package”: full blood count, thyroid profile, and glucose tolerance test, all for two thousand rupees. Business is brisk. The test itself is harmless. A drop of blood, a three-minute wait, a figure between four and six is normal. The meaning attached to the figure is not. Families treat the printout as a character certificate. A number above six is read as proof that the girl will cost money in metformin, insulin, or maybe kidney failure. Boys are given more room. An overweight groom can still negotiate, especially if he works in the Gulf. The health department has no policy on pre-marital screening. Private labs are happy to fill the gap. They hand out colour-coded charts that list glucose values but leave out the line that says diabetes can be managed, even reversed. The chart sticks to the fridge like a verdict. A number produced by a machine is being used to decide who is worthy of family life. The machine does not ask what the girl teaches, how she behaves, and whether she can calm a crying child. It only knows glucose. If the same number can block a wedding, it can also block a job, a visa, and a place in college. The line from blood to bias is short, and Kashmir is walking it in full view.

CASH COURSE
Read This Before You Buy Anything

Loan Apps Harvest
Apple Valley

A Rs 15,000 salary, one wedding, and a house full of broken hopes

Irshad Mushtaq

The boy who sells apples near Lal Chowk earns exactly Rs 15,000 a month. Last autumn he married. He served over 100 tramis of wazwan at the cost of Rs 3.8 lakh he borrowed from a micro-finance app that charges 22% interest. Today half his pay vanishes before dawn on the EMI due date. The math is cruel: Rs 7,500 gone, Rs 7,500 left to feed five mouths. Inside his single-storey house in Natipora, the mood shifts daily. His mother skips diabetes tablets because the chemist asks for Rs 480. His old father keeps wondering about debt. Doctors at the Government Psychiatric Hospital in Srinagar say financial stress is the fastest-growing reason for male outpatient visits, up 42 % in five years. Hypertension clinics report the same curve. Debt is not only counted in rupees. It is measured in sleepless hours and skipped meals. The solution is not another loan-rescue scheme. It is a lesson plan. Kashmir’s school boards still treat commerce as an optional subject taken by “weak” students. Parents who can recite the verses of Mehjoor cannot read a bank statement. If a tenth-grade pupil were taught that Rs 3.8 lakh at 22% becomes Rs 5.6 lakh in two years, the wedding guest list would shrink faster than the snow on Afarwat. Community centres run by masjid committees and self-help groups can host Saturday classes: how to budget, compare interest, and say no to a cousin’s demand for a bigger marquee. Kashmiris survived decades of discord by sharing firewood and rice. We can survive the age of easy apps by sharing knowledge.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Zoom Nikah in Kashmir

Dating apps are deleting the three-day wazwan courtship that once buffered nerves and blood sugar. The marriage is done before the stew is stirred, and mental-health workers are picking up the pieces.



Fiza Masoodi

“The bride I watched on the phone closed the laptop and walked into a banquet hall where two hundred guests were waiting. She had never met her husband in person. She had never tasted his family’s cooking. She had never heard his laugh bounce off the walls of a crowded kitchen. She carried a small bouquet and a big question: who is the man I just married?”

Last month, I stood in the bride’s room at a Srinagar marriage hall while a young woman pressed refresh on her phone. The screen showed a man in Muscat repeating Quranic verses after a cleric. The entire ceremony lasted eight minutes. The groom’s family had sent a plate of honey sweets by courier. The bride’s family had not cooked a single meatball. This is the new Kashmiri wedding, marketed as halal speed-dating. Matrimonial apps boast thousands of Kashmiri profiles. Their dashboards filter by height, salary, skin tone and visa status. If both sides swipe right, the app books a cleric and opens a Zoom link. In 2025, at least three hundred and twenty marriages have been contracted online, double last year’s count. The companies call this progress. They do not pay for the counselling sessions that follow. For centuries, a Kashmiri wedding began with a three-day wazwan feast. Relatives tasted rice from the same copper plate, judged the family’s generosity, and watched how the boy’s parents treated the girl’s family. The food was rich but the scrutiny was richer. Young people absorbed the gravity of marriage while surrounded by aunts who had survived bad ones. The feast worked like a social vaccine: it provoked mild anxiety and produced long-term immunity against hasty decisions. The app replaces that feast with a forty-five-minute video call. The couple discuss job location, future children, maybe favourite colour. Then the screen goes dark. Two weeks later, they are pronounced husband and wife. Psychologists say the average waiting time for a post-wedding anxiety appointment has dropped from eight months to four. One Srinagar-based mental health specialist sees newlywed women who cannot sleep because they shared their first meal with a stranger. She sees men who tremble while describing the first night they spent with someone whose laugh they had never heard in person. There are clear consequences of these speed marriages. When you remove extended family oversight, you also remove the safety net. A swipe cannot replicate the aunt who notices the groom’s hands shake when he speaks, or the cousin who reminds the bride that divorce is not a curse word. The app model adds a fresh pressure: performance metrics. One mother told me she approved a match because the boy’s profile showed “response time: three minutes.” She assumed quick replies meant good character. The cleric who officiated the Zoom nikah told me he now spends half the call explaining that Islam permits the bride to say no even after yes has been typed into a chat box. Health data show Kashmir already carries one of the highest female anxiety rates in India. The National Mental Health Survey put lifetime prevalence at twenty-two percent. Adding marital stress to that load is like pouring boiling water on a healing burn. The companies could build in safeguards for free. A mandatory four-session video counselling package before the nikah screen

unlocks. A fee of two thousand rupees paid into a joint mental-health fund. A pop-up that lists emergency hotlines the moment the word divorce is typed. These tweaks cost less than the price of one sponsored Instagram post. Some clerics demand a forty-eight-hour cooling-off period between video consent and online nikah. The apps refuse, fearing users will migrate to rival platforms. The government refuses to intervene, calling matrimony a private contract. The families refuse to slow down, dazzled by Gulf salaries and Roman-script romance. Meanwhile, the wazwan cooks sit idle. One chef told me his booking diary lost forty entries since January. He now drives a taxi and listens to passengers describe weddings that ended before the rice was boiled. The bride I watched on the phone closed the laptop and walked into a banquet hall where two hundred guests were waiting. She had never met her husband in person. She had never tasted his family’s cooking. She had never heard his laugh bounce off the walls of a crowded kitchen. She carried a small bouquet and a big question: who is the man I just married? Kashmir taught the world that patience can be a form of resistance. Patience in choosing a life partner should not be the next casualty of speed.

— The author is a Srinagar-based scribe and startup founder. She can be reached at fizamasondi2001@gmail.com.

Letter to Editor

Polyester Pherans Are Giving Kashmir a Winter Rash

Last week, a 19-year-old girl from Srinagar sat in an outpatient room with her back covered in red spots. She thought bed bugs had attacked. The culprit was the new pheran she bought from a street vendor for 450 rupees. The wrap looked bright, but the fabric was plastic. Dermatologists report growing cases of skin infections. Most patients are young women who wear the cheap printed pherans that flood the market when the cold season begins. The garments feel warm for the first hour because plastic traps heat. After that, the skin begins to sweat, pores block, bacteria grow, and the itch starts. For six hundred years, the pheran was made from local wool. It breathed, absorbed moisture, and carried the faint smell of sheep and smoke. Woollen yards still sell for 800 rupees a metre, out

of reach for many families. A printed polyester wrap looks like a bargain. It is not. Patients spend more on creams and bus fare to hospital than they saved on the fake dress. The law already requires every textile seller to display fibre content in both English and Hindi. Few vendors bother. I asked three shopkeepers in Lal Chowk what their pherans contained. One said: “silk touch.” Another said, “warm cloth.” The third waved me away. None knew that polyester is plastic. We cannot ban imports, but we can demand that the label carry the warning in Kashmiri: “This cloth does not absorb sweat. It may cause skin infection.” The same rule that forces cigarette packs to show a cancer photo can force a clothing tag to tell the truth. Some will argue that a warm look is better than no new coat at all. I argue that a government which spends crores on promoting local wool should not look away while plastic replaces it on the street. If the heritage dress becomes linked to rash and ridicule, the next generation will drop it altogether. The solution is simple: Give the buyer knowledge. Let every imported pheran carry a clear tag in the language people read at home.

Sincerely,

Rafia Hassan
rafia.hassan740@gmail.com

Postdoc Turned Professor Brings Smart Tech Home

From apple orchards to avalanche zones, the valley-born engineer explains why data is the new crop and privacy is the fence around it.

Ashiq Hussain Andrabi

Picture this: a farmer in south Kashmir wakes up to a phone alert that the soil under his apple trees is one sip away from drying out, while a traffic cop in Srinagar watches live data that tells him exactly when to let cars roll out of Lal Chowk.

These scenes are not lifted from a Silicon Valley pitch deck. They are snapshots from a future that Dr. Syed Rameem Zahra believes can bloom in her own backyard.

Born and raised in Srinagar, Zahra earned her doctorate at NIT Srinagar, polished her skills at IIT Delhi and now teaches future engineers at Netaji Subhas University of Technology.

She has spent the last decade coaxing tiny sensors to speak clearly and safely on crowded networks, work that matters as much to an apple orchard in Shopian as to a metro line in Delhi.

In a long conversation with Kashmir Observer, she argues that the valley's tough terrain, patchy roads and fragile ecology are not road-blocks but reasons to embrace the internet of things.

Cheap, battery sized chips can track snowfall on the Sinthan Pass, warn drivers of black ice, guide ambulances through traffic snarls and tell a farmer when to water, spray or pick.

The same data streams, she warns, can leak personal habits or open doors to hackers if households keep default passwords and ignore software updates.

Let's begin on a lighter note. Could you share a bit about your journey into the world of data science and IoT, and what drew you to these exciting fields?

My journey into IoT began in 2016 when I read about Kevin Ashton and his idea of the "Internet of Things." He believed IoT could change the world, even more than the Internet. This idea seemed crazy then, but now we see its impact in various aspects of life, from baby monitors to military tech. This inspired me to pursue research in IoT to make a difference.

Since Kashmir is known for its rich cultural heritage, how do you envision blending technological innovation like IoT with the preservation of this legacy?

The Kashmir Valley indeed boasts a rich cultural heritage. Preserving this legacy while integrating technological innovations like IoT presents a unique opportunity. In the digital era, where internet access is growing in Kashmir, language barriers hinder participation and knowledge sharing.

To blend technology with cultural preservation, we can initiate efforts to document key aspects of Kashmiri culture, such as stories and oral traditions, through audio and video recordings. These digital resources can serve as building blocks for language and cultural preservation tools.

Furthermore, we can create pronunciation libraries for Kashmiri words, enhancing accessibility through text-to-speech and speech-to-text technologies. Utilizing open-source software like Kathabbhidhana, Lingualibre, and Pronuncify, we can facilitate the recording and preservation of pronunciations.

While these initiatives may not immediately revive the Kashmiri language, they will progressively increase access to information in the native tongue, ensuring that the cultural heritage of Kashmir continues to thrive in the digital age.

Kashmir's landscape poses unique challenges and opportunities. How can IoT-driven insights help local farmers optimize their agricultural practices and yield better harvests?

The fact that nearly 70% of the regional population relies on agriculture highlights its significance. Now, with modern technology like IoT, there's a chance to revolutionize farming practices.

The introduction of the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) in Jammu & Kashmir is a promising step. It's bringing in technology-driven projects and

setting up 142 AI and precision farming centres, which can drive innovation and sustainability in agriculture.

IoT solutions, with their sensors collecting data, hold immense potential for local farmers. These insights are like a compass in the complex world of agriculture. With climate change and limited arable land, we need to make the most of every inch of farmland. IoT, through smart agriculture, provides real-time information that helps in making decisions. This not only cuts down on labour costs but also improves crop health.

IoT sensors, for instance, can monitor crucial factors such as nutrient levels, disease outbreaks, and soil moisture. This data is gold for Kashmiri farmers. It empowers them to optimize their harvests and manage their farms efficiently. These initiatives indeed paint a promising picture for the future of agriculture in our region.

Picture a futuristic "smart" Kashmir city. How might IoT-enabled infrastructure transform everyday life, considering both convenience and sustainability?

When we think about a futuristic "smart" Kashmir city, it's exciting to see how IoT-enabled infrastructure can transform everyday life, offering both convenience and sustainability.

Smart city planning heavily relies on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to monitor and optimize various aspects of urban living. This includes essential lifelines like roads, bridges, tunnels, railways, seaports, airports, electricity, water, and communication networks. In a "Smart" Kashmir city, we'd witness the integration of features like Smart Energy, Smart Mobility, Smart Healthcare, Smart Economy, Smart Homes, Smart ICT, Smart Infrastructure, Smart Governance, and Smart Citizenship.

The real magic happens when these systems work together, fuelled by IoT data. For instance, IoT can help manage home appliances like refrigerators and washing machines more efficiently, leading to better energy management. Additionally, IoT can monitor natural elements like trees, plants, air quality, and the environment, creating an optimal and sustainable living and working environment.

Kashmir's natural beauty already attracts many people, and envisioning it as a smart city only adds to its allure. With more people coming in, there will undoubtedly be challenges in managing city resources and services. However, the key to addressing these challenges lies in smart and innovative resource management strategies.

A smart Kashmir city powered by IoT has the potential to make everyday life more convenient and sustainable. It's not just about embracing technology but also about creating a harmonious and efficient urban environment that complements the region's natural splendour.

The region's topography can be challenging for connectivity. How can we use IoT to solve and address traffic & connectivity-related issues in the state to ensure that even the most remote areas benefit from IoT advancements?

Absolutely, considering Kashmir's diverse topography, addressing traffic and connectivity challenges with IoT is essential. Let's break it down:

You see, our region is divided into four zones, each with its unique geographical features. We often face traffic issues, especially during harsh winters, highway closures, congestion in cities, and connectivity problems in remote areas like Gurez and Leh.

But here's where IoT can step in as a game-changer. IoT-based smart roads, combined with ICT, can collect and analyze data for traffic management. Imagine smart roads equipped with sensors, cameras, radars, and 5G devices. They can provide real-time data to streamline traffic and enhance safety. Plus, cloud-based data analysis can offer insights for sustainable mobility and reducing emissions.

Currently, we have limited tech involvement in transportation management, so there are plenty of opportunities. We can deploy IoT for intelligent road infrastructure,



like adaptive traffic signals that respond to real-time sensor data.

Additionally, we can integrate weather monitoring systems, digital signage, and more into our existing infrastructure to transform our city into a smart one. IoT can lead to less congested streets, improved safety, extended connectivity, better services, and quicker emergency responses.

Moreover, roadside network deployments can expand wireless connectivity, making it possible to gather almost real-time road data. This can help us proactively tackle issues, improve reaction times, and enhance overall road safety.

I have every reason to say that IoT holds immense potential to address traffic and connectivity challenges across Kashmir, ensuring even the most remote areas benefit from advancements in technology.

Privacy is paramount, especially in a sensitive area like Kashmir. Could you delve into strategies that allow us to reap the benefits of data science while safeguarding individual privacy?

As wearable devices and smart home products become commonplace, privacy issues creep in. IoT devices not only collect information such as pulse, blood pressure, etc. but also tend to record the environmental conditions like the places you have visited, the temperature of the room, etc. The sensors deployed on the roads to measure the levels of noise can record the conversation of two individuals and thus pose a threat to their privacy. Similarly, when people give consent to save their credentials to allow the smart TV to automatically download the content of your choice, a strong security and privacy breach can happen just by hacking into that TV.

It is important for people to know their network, change the passwords from the default ones, run an in-depth analysis of the network if critical information can be at stake, and give out permissions cleverly.

Some additional tips that we can follow to protect our IoT devices will include the use of a VPN when connecting your IoT devices to the internet. This will help to encrypt your traffic and protect it from prying eyes. Disable remote access to your IoT devices unless you need it. This will make it more difficult for hackers to gain access to your devices. Monitor your IoT devices for unusual activity. If you see anything suspicious, such as a device sending a lot of data or connecting to a strange network, take action immediately.

In essence, it's about striking a balance. We can enjoy the benefits of data science and IoT while safeguarding our privacy through awareness and smart security practices.

Educating communities about

data science and IoT is crucial. How can we make these concepts relatable and exciting for people who might not be familiar with the tech world?

As we are nearing the time when every individual in the world will be surrounded by a minimum of 10 IoT devices, it becomes extremely important to educate the masses about the implications that this may have. IoT devices would soon be seen everywhere, human beings would find themselves dependent on these devices just like air and water.

Moreover, due to their rapid proliferation, the amount of data that IoT devices produce, send, and use will go to astronomical figures. As such, if something is going to be everywhere, remaining oblivious of what it is and how it functions is not going to work.

Therefore, educating communities about data science and IoT is essential for ensuring that everyone can benefit from these technologies and stay away from its wrath. We can do this by creating educational resources that are accessible and engaging. We can also work with local schools and community organizations to incorporate data science and IoT into their curriculum.

Imagine you have access to real-time data during a natural disaster in the region. How could this information be leveraged to enhance emergency response and minimize impact?

Certainly, having access to real-time data during a natural disaster is a game-changer. Let's dive into how this information can supercharge emergency response and minimize the impact.

You see, real-time data is abundant in our digital world. It's a powerful tool for disaster management. Firstly, it helps predict disasters early by monitoring weather conditions, seismic activities, and other indicators. This early warning system allows authorities to prepare better, like evacuating high-risk areas and mobilizing emergency services. For example, Cyclone Biparjoy in 2023 was predicted early, enabling timely evacuations and saving lives.

Once a disaster hits, data like satellite images and drone footage becomes invaluable. It helps assess the damage, giving authorities a clear picture of the extent of the loss. This, in turn, aids in making informed decisions and targeting relief efforts where they're needed most. For instance, during the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo in 2021, satellite images tracked lava flow and identified danger zones.

Real-time data also plays a critical role in search and rescue operations. Heat signatures and signals from mobile devices help locate displaced and injured individuals, making rescue efforts more effective. Information on road closures

and safe zones can be shared with the public to keep them out of harm's way. In the case of the Nepal earthquake in 2015, mobile phone data was used to track people's locations and assess population displacement.

The era of real-time data has revolutionized disaster management. It allows for proactive measures through early prediction and planning, as well as rapid, data-driven responses during a crisis. Whether it's assessing damage, detecting hazards, or directing rescue operations, real-time data is an indispensable tool that enhances our ability to protect lives and communities during disasters. It's not just a technological breakthrough; it's a lifeline in times of need.

Collaboration fuels progress. How do you envision data scientists, IoT experts, and local communities working together to build a stronger, more resilient Kashmir?

Certainly, collaboration between data scientists, IoT experts, and local communities is key to a stronger Kashmir. They can share knowledge and resources, educate locals, and develop tailored solutions to address specific needs, such as monitoring water levels or livestock tracking. Moreover, this partnership can empower communities by providing training and opportunities for active participation in their own development.

We've seen how IoT devices can make our lives more convenient, but they also open the door to potential security risks. Could you shed some light on how these devices might inadvertently expose users to scams like phishing and even physical security breaches? How can individuals protect themselves in this ever-connected landscape?

You are right. IoT devices, while making life convenient, can also expose users to security risks like phishing and physical breaches.

The core problem lies in the interdependence of IoT devices. As their numbers grow, so does the complexity of their communication. They not only communicate explicitly but also implicitly, which can create ambiguity.

For instance, a smart home might simultaneously detect smoke and an intruder, causing confusion. Similarly, a hacker can compromise one device to trigger a physical breach, like opening windows by manipulating the thermostat.

To protect against such threats, one should regularly conduct in-depth network analysis, especially for valuable data. Use strong, regularly changed passwords, and limit online information sharing. Keep devices' firmware up-to-date to patch vulnerabilities. Apply security patches promptly and download from trusted sources. Know your IoT network, track devices

and permissions. Secure all network points. Maintain critical data backups. Be cautious of unsolicited emails or messages requesting personal information.

These measures can help individuals safeguard their IoT-connected lives in an ever-connected landscape.

Given your keen interest in smart transportation, can you walk us through the exciting ways IoT and data science can team up to design transportation solutions that perfectly fit the unique mobility challenges of Kashmir?

Let's get to the heart of the matter. Kashmir's traffic management needs a balance between increasing capacity and controlling traffic effectively. Traffic cops play a crucial role in controlling traffic, but they can't handle the technical aspects of managing road capacity and supply-and-demand dynamics.

With a population of over 13 million and a million cars, mobility is a big challenge. Gridlocks in places like Ganderbal, Budgam, Srinagar, Anantnag, and Baramulla are common due to road development and traffic management issues.

To improve, we can explore shared mobility options like efficient public transportation with smart ticketing. Startups and entrepreneurs could offer innovative solutions for traffic management and congestion, focusing on eco-friendly and resource-efficient approaches. It's about finding a blend of capacity expansion and smart traffic management for a smoother Kashmir commute.

Kashmir's road infrastructure can be intricate due to its landscape. How might Intelligent Transportation Systems offer innovative solutions to enhance road safety, traffic management, and overall transportation efficiency in this dynamic environment?

I think improving Kashmir's road infrastructure is crucial for transportation efficiency. Encouraging cleaner fuels and non-motorized transport like smart bicycles can help reduce pollution.

Modern vehicles are now digital marvels, offering real-time information and control through smartphones. Traffic navigation apps, automated signals, and real-time updates on road conditions can combat congestion and enhance safety.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) like Automatic Vehicle Location, Real-time Passenger Information, and contactless ticketing can transform the transportation experience. ITS enables precise scheduling, efficient routes, and enhanced passenger comfort.

To boost road safety, ITS assists in avoiding common driving errors like accelerating instead of braking or exceeding speed limits. It's about creating a smart and efficient transportation system tailored to Kashmir's unique needs.

As we wrap up, let's gaze into the future. Can you paint a picture of what life might look like in the Kashmir Valley a decade from now, with data science and IoT as integral components?

In the very near future, we are going to witness IoT-driven automation in every sector ranging from the management of items with trivial importance like thermostats to the management of life-saving medical implants. The application spectrum of IoT will run from monitoring the dampness in crops to auditing the flow of items through a production line, to remotely observing patients with interminable illnesses and overseeing their restorative devices.

It is to say that the potential application areas of IoT in Kashmir are innumerable and diverse, percolating into all the spheres of individual lives as well as into enterprises and society as a whole.

Your refrigerator will have the ability to contact the retailer on its own when it runs low on milk but the same refrigerator may be used by black-hats to break into your home. In conclusion, life in Kashmir will definitely become a bit more enjoyable with IoT but at the same time, we will need to be a bit more cautious as well.

— The interviewer is a senior scribe from Pukwama.

4 More Trains To Resume Operations In Jammu From Dec 1

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Four trains will resume operations in the seventh phase from December onwards in Jammu division, a senior official said on Thursday, indicating gradual normalisation of train services after the heavy rainfall in August.

The trains being restored from December 1 include train no. 14662 (Jammu Tawi-Barmer), train no. 22462 (Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi) and train no. 74907 (Pathankot-Shaheed Captain Tushar Mahajan). Train no. 74906 (Shaheed Captain Tushar Mahajan-Pathankot) will be re-operated from December 2.

"These trains are being reinstated after ensuring the safety and continuity of the railway tracks. They are being operated in the seventh phase, following the resumption of six earlier phases," said Uchit Singhal, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu division.

He said train operations in the division are gradually being normalised. "To avoid any inconvenience, passengers are advised to check the train schedules on the Northern Railway website or through relevant helpline numbers."

Over 50 trains were suspended or terminated before their destinations on August 26, following damage to many tracks and bridges owing to heavy rainfall.

Divisional officials are periodically reviewing various sections, ensuring safety, and reinstating trains from time to time.

Mull Stringent Law To Deal With Derogatory Remarks Against Disabled: SC To Centre

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Highlighting the need for a stringent law to protect the dignity of the disabled, the Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Centre to consider framing a statute to make derogatory remarks ridiculing persons with disabilities and rare genetic disorders a penal offence on the lines of the SC-ST Act.

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 criminalises casteist slur, acts of discrimination, humiliation, and violence against the members of SCs and STs and makes offences non-bailable.

"Why can't you bring a stringent law on the lines of the SC-ST Act which criminalises casteist remarks - there is punishment if you demean them," a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, appreciated the observation and said humour cannot be at the cost of someone's dignity.

The bench also said that there was a need for a "neutral, independent and autonomous" body to regulate obscene, offensive or illegal content in online platforms.

On the issue of framing guidelines or putting in place a mechanism to deal with derogatory remarks and ridicule against persons with disabilities (PwD), the bench was informed by the Ministry of Broadcasting that certain guidelines are in the process of making.



The bench asked the ministry to bring the guidelines in public domain for discussion and listed the matter after four weeks.

The top court was hearing a petition filed by M/s SMA Cure Foundation, which works for individuals affected by rare Spinal Muscular Atrophy disease. The plea flagged jokes made by "India's Got Latent" host Samay Raina and other social media influencers, Vipun Goyal, Balraj Paramjeet Singh Ghai, Sonali Thakkar, and Nishant Jagdish Tanwar.

Asking them to be careful about their conduct in future, the bench also directed comedians Raina and others to hold two programmes or shows per month about the success stories of PwDs to generate funds for the treatment of disabled persons, especially those suffering from SMA.

The bench said it is part of social

penalty and they are spared of other punitive measures.

They have been asked to do so as a reparation for their insensitive jokes about the disabled.

CJI Kant said the influencers can invite specially-abled persons on their platforms to promote the cause of generating funds to provide timely treatment to those suffering from rare diseases such as SMA.

The bench refused to consider the plea for recall of the direction on the ground that they are not hosting shows that regularly.

"This is a social burden we are putting on you," it said.

In the hearing, senior advocate Aparajita Singh, appearing for Cure Foundation, said many children, suffering from SMA have, achieved great accomplishments in their lives.

She said the parents of these SMA

patients are managing funds for their treatment through crowdfunding.

Singh said the foundation refused to accept the offer of Raina to pay Rs 2.5 lakh to them as the question was of their dignity.

"You and your team need to be very careful in the future...whether within the country or outside...someone was making comments in Canada also...we know all of this," the CJI said, referring to some comments made by one of the influencers abroad.

"They have mocked this court," the solicitor general said.

Taking note of the foundation, the bench said. "It has been rightly suggested that there should be a dedicated fund/corpus that may be created by the concerned ministry, or if it is already created, the same can be given wide publicity, inviting corporate entities and individuals to generously donate in that fund which is exclusively meant for the treatment of the specially abled persons, like those suffering from SMA.

"The respondents 6 to 10 (comedians) have also volunteered to organise at least two events in a month to generate funds for the corpus. They also seek permission of this court to invite the persons whose success stories whose details are brought on record by Singh," the bench noted.

The bench asked the comedians to "persuade and invite" the specially abled persons on their platforms to promote the cause of generating funds to provide timely and quality

treatment to the specially abled like those suffering from SMA.

"We are quite sure that respondent 6 to 10 are repentant and show their sincerity and commitment to the cause, the specially-abled persons who have made landmark achievements in life will also accept to come on the platforms for the purpose of wider publicity in the cause. We hope and expect that such few memorable events will take place before we hear matter on the next date," it said.

Attorney General R Venkataramani and the solicitor general apprised the bench that Centre has proposed some fresh guidelines and the consultation process was on.

The solicitor general said that the issue was not just confined to "obscenity" but "perversity" in user-generated content, which are published by individuals in their own YouTube channels or other platforms.

"Freedom of speech is an invaluable right but it cannot lead to perversity," he said.

Referring to self-regulatory mechanisms, the bench said, "self styled bodies will not help. Some neutral autonomous bodies which are free from the influence of those who exploit all of this and the state also are needed as a regulatory measure."

If the self-regulation mechanism were so effective then why were instances of violations repeating, the CJI asked.

Earlier, the bench said commercial and prohibited speeches are not covered under the fundamental right.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Madrassas, Mosques

November 10 blast in a car near the Red Fort in Delhi and the subsequent busting of a "white collar" terror module. Two religious preachers, Molvi Irfan from Shopian and Molvi Ishtiaq from Haryana's Mewat, have already been arrested in connection with the case.

A police spokesman said teams inspected madrassas and masjids across all zones of Srinagar. Search teams, accompanied by executive magistrates and independent witnesses, examined digital devices, documents and other material to trace any terror linked or radical activities prejudicial to national security.

The spokesman said the checks are part of a continued effort to prevent any conspiratorial or unlawful acts aimed at disturbing peace and public order. All searches were carried out in accordance with legal procedures to ensure transparency and accountability.

Police said such operations will continue wherever credible inputs indicate the presence of individuals or material connected to terror or radical activity.

Raids in Kashmir

other locations linked to members and associates of the outfit. Officials said the action followed credible inputs suggesting that some individuals connected to Jamaat e Islami were involved in activities deemed anti national.

Electronic devices, documents, and literature were seized from several houses. Officials said all recovered material has been taken for detailed examination.

In Kupwara, police also searched the Jamia Islamia Institute in Waripora, Handwara, after receiving information about suspected unlawful activities and possible links with the banned organisation.

Officials said the drive is part of wider efforts to dismantle support structures linked to the group in the valley.

Rebel MP, Budgam

Omar Abdullah opened the floor for discussion, urging legislators to express their views and suggestions freely. Omar also intervened intermittently, explaining the challenges faced by the government in governance due to the dual power structure in the Union Territory.

The issue of the electoral debacle in Budgam as well as the rebellion of Aga Ruhullah also came up for discussion.

Some leaders maintained that the party should not tolerate indiscipline at any cost and that nobody is above the organisation. "The party should take a decision on him," one MLA told the meeting.

The legislators reiterated the need to empower them and expand the cabinet to improve the government's outreach. "We should fill the vacant cabinet slots to increase the government's visibility," one MLA suggested.

Sources said that the National Conference (NC) could pass some resolutions on statehood, Article 370, and the harassment of Kashmiris in other states on the second day of the session tomorrow.

"The party is also expected to take some action against MP Ruhullah Mehdi tomorrow," they said.(KNO)

Not Invited To

separate political platform. "I have not kept a distance from any party, nor have I spoken to anyone to form another party," he said.

He also reiterated his disagreement with the National Conference on the reservation issue and promises made during the 2024 Assembly elections.

"We made promises to the people that we will fight for the return of protections linked to Article 370. We received votes on that. We cannot switch to a different language after getting that mandate," he said.

'NC Risks Losing Public Trust'

Ruhullah criticised the NC for failing to

advance key agendas, including Article 370, the Waqf Bill, and reservations.

He further said that the failure of mainstream parties to honour public trust would damage the entire political system. "If the party does not follow its own manifesto, it will lose people's trust, and losing trust is the biggest loss," he said

"The party should not adopt the language of the BJP," Ruhullah said while speaking to reporters during his visit to central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, where he interacted with locals to discuss their issues.

Warns of Sitting With Students Again

On the reservation issue, Ruhullah said that students are losing opportunities due to delays. "More than a year has passed. If this matter remains unresolved after a month, I will again sit with the students until the issue is settled," he said.

Responds to Remarks by Deputy Chief Minister

Ruhullah said his political stance is driven by principles and not positions of power, a day after Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary advised him to raise his voice in Parliament and stop seeking the limelight.

He said that people who lack discipline, principle, honesty, and loyalty in their politics are not even worthy of a response. "The Deputy CM left the PDP, and yet he advises me about principles and party. My fight is for principles, not for the chair. I have not changed the party and principles for the chair," he said.

He added, "Two years ago, the Deputy CM was not in the National Conference, and sometimes aligned with the BJP, sometimes with the PDP. Wherever he gets the chair and opportunity, he goes there. Such people have no principles, no values, and no direction in their lives. My politics and my efforts are based on principles and values. That is why, if I have expressed disagreement with the party, it is based on principles, and not for the chair."

Seeks Compensation for Victim of Delhi Blast

The Member Parliament also demanded immediate compensation and a government job for the family of Bilal Ahmad Songoo, the sole breadwinner of his household, who was killed in the recent Delhi blast. He called the incident "a murder of humanity", saying that people from different religions, including Kashmiri Muslims, lost their lives and that no tragedy should be communalised.

Ruhullah said he has written to the Union Home Minister seeking compensation and jobs for victims' families in recent incidents and will continue to pursue the matter.

Criticises Demolition Drives

He also criticised recent demolition drives, claiming that even those who committed no violations were targeted. Referring to it as a "bulldozer model", the MP urged the administration to stop such actions and protect the rights and property of the people.

Op Sindoor A

during conventional, counter insurgency and humanitarian challenges.

Recalling Operation Sindoor, the President said the action taken in May after the Pahalgam attack marked a turning point. "The world took note not only of India's military capability but of India's moral clarity to act firmly, yet responsibly in the pursuit of peace," she said. India launched the operation on May 7, targeting multiple terror infrastructure sites in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir. The exchanges ended on May 10 after both sides reached an understanding.

Murmu said the armed forces continue to play an important role in national development by contributing to connectivity, tourism, education and infrastructure in border areas. She also noted the rapid changes in global geopolitics driven by technology, shifting alliances and new domains like cyber, space and information warfare.

Highlighting the Army's 'Decade of

Transformation' reforms, she said the force is modernising structures, doctrines and capabilities to remain future ready. These reforms, she added, would strengthen India's defence self reliance.

The President praised the Army's efforts to invest in youth through education, NCC expansion and sports. She said the increasing participation of women officers and soldiers promotes inclusion and inspires more women to join the armed forces or pursue other professions.

Murmu expressed confidence that discussions at the Chanakya Defence Dialogue would offer useful insights to policymakers. She said she was confident the armed forces would "continue to strive for excellence" as the country moves toward the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Kashmir Records

minus 4.4 degrees Celsius, its coldest November night since 2007, when the city logged minus 4.8 degrees. The all time lowest November temperature in Srinagar remains minus 7.8 degrees, recorded in 1934.

Qazigund also saw its coldest November night since 2007 at minus 4.0 degrees. The town had last touched similar temperatures in November 2007, when it recorded minus 5.5 degrees.

Kupwara dipped to minus 4.4 degrees, its lowest November minimum since 2009. The district had last recorded minus 4.6 degrees in November that year. Its all-time lowest November reading is minus 5.5 degrees, recorded in 2007.

The cold wave extended across South and North Kashmir. Pahalgam recorded minus 5.0, Pampore minus 5.5, Budgam minus 4.6, Bandipora minus 4.5 and Awantipora minus 4.0 degrees. Anantnag and Pulwama dipped to minus 5.7 and minus 5.8 degrees. Shopian remained the coldest in the Valley at minus 6.5 degrees. Gulmarg recorded minus 1.0 degrees, while Zojila reported the lowest overall reading at minus 16.0 degrees.

In Jammu region, temperatures also dropped but mostly stayed above freezing. Jammu recorded 8.7 degrees, Katra 8.5, Batote 4.0, Bhaderwah 0.4 and Rajouri 2.0 degrees. Jammu Airport logged 10.1 degrees, the highest minimum across J and K.

In Ladakh, the cold spell was more intense, with Leh at minus 8.6 degrees, Kargil at minus 9.5 and Nubra at minus 7.7 degrees.

Faizan said mostly dry weather is expected across Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh over the next 10 days. A weak Western Disturbance on November 30 may bring light snowfall to higher reaches, followed by another weak system around December 5. (KNO)

Director Motor

case under the Prevention of Corruption Act was registered.

Search warrants were obtained from the Court of the Special Judge Anti Corruption, Jammu. Raids were then carried out at four locations, including his residential houses in Sanat Nagar and Hyderpora in Srinagar, his government quarter in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, and his official premises at New Plot, Jammu.

Further investigation is underway, the ACB said.

J&K Bank Clears

confidence in the bank's performance trajectory.

"The approval to raise fresh capital underscores the Board's confidence in the Bank's trajectory and strengthens our ability to pursue calibrated growth," Chatterjee said. "The infusion will enhance capital adequacy, support expansion across key sectors, and reinforce our long-term commitment to improved asset quality, profitability, and shareholder value."

He added that the bank remains focused on building a "strong, resilient and future-ready

institution" equipped to meet evolving business and regulatory requirements.

The capital-raise initiative comes as J&K Bank continues to consolidate gains from recent clean-up efforts, stronger recoveries, and improving asset quality trends, positioning it to expand lending in strategically important sectors across its core markets.

Assam Assembly

also holds the portfolio of the home and political departments, said the law is "irrespective of religion and not against Islam as being perceived by a section"

"The Hindus are not free from polygamy. That's also our responsibility. This bill will cover people from Hindu, Muslim, Christian and all other societies," he added.

While the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 made polygamy illegal and a criminal offence for Hindus, Muslims in India are still legally permitted to practise it.

Despite the CM's request to all opposition members to withdraw their respective amendments to send a message from the House that the bill is passed unanimously to empower women, AIUDF and CPI(M) went ahead with their modification suggestions, which were defeated by voice vote.

CPI(M) MLA Manoranjan Talukdar demanded that the bill be sent to the Select Committee of the Assembly for a detailed discussion on the clauses.

On the issue of UCC, Sarma said it will be implemented in Assam if he becomes the CM again after the assembly polls next year.

Assembly elections in Assam are likely to take place in March-April in 2026.

"I assure the House that if I return as CM, the UCC bill will be tabled on the first session of the new government and will be implemented," Sarma said.

He said that the ban on polygamy is a direction towards the implementation of the UCC.

The CM also said, "A bill against deceptive marriage will be brought in during the session by the end of February. So, whatever we have spoken about love jihad, we will do that."

The term 'love jihad' is used by right-wing organisations to claim that Muslim men lure women of other religions and marry them in order to convert them to Islam.

Earlier this month, he had said that the government would ban love jihad and introduce a bill against this.

The bill defined 'polygamy' as the act of marrying or being married to another person when either of the parties already has a subsisting marriage or a living spouse from whom he/she is not legally divorced, or their marriage is not legally annulled or declared void.

It proposed that any person going for polygamous marriage will be held guilty of an offence punishable with imprisonment up to seven years and a fine, as laid down by law.

Anyone who commits a subsequent marriage while hiding an existing one shall face 10 years of jail and a fine, it added.

A repeat offender under the proposed act will be handed down double the prescribed punishment for every subsequent offence, the bill proposed.

A village head, qazi, parent or legal guardian who dishonestly conceals facts or intentionally participates in the conduct of a polygamous marriage may face up to two years in jail and a fine of up to Rs one lakh.

Any person who knowingly solemnises a marriage in violation of the proposed law may be punished with up to two years of imprisonment or a fine of up to Rs 1.50 lakh.

The bill further proposes that a person who enters into a polygamous marriage and has been convicted by a court under this new legislation shall not be entitled to any public employment or appointment which is funded or aided by the state government.

Moreover, the person cannot be a beneficiary of any scheme funded or aided by the state

government, and also cannot contest in any election for Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies, etc.

The proposed legislation seeks to provide compensation to the victim women, as they have to suffer immense pain and hardships due to polygamous marriage.

Islam upholds monogamy, not polygamy: Himanta

Earlier, taking part in the discussion in the Assam Assembly, the Chief Minister asserted that "In Islam, monogamy is the rule and polygamy is the exception."

Citing interpretations of the Quran, Sarma said that the widespread belief that Islam inherently promotes polygamy is "factually incorrect".

Speaking during the discussion on the Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, Sarma referred to historical accounts from the time of Prophet Muhammad. He said that during the Prophet's spiritual period, some men reportedly entered into as many as 50 marriages. The Prophet then regulated the practice and limited it to four wives under strict conditions.

According to the Chief Minister, this historical shift demonstrates that the Prophet's intent was to curb excesses, not encourage multiple marriages.

"His line of thinking was not in favour of polygamy. In his time, he reduced it from 50 to four. That itself shows the direction," Sarma said.

He further claimed that under Islamic law, a man cannot take a second wife without the explicit consent of the first. "If someone marries without that consent, the marriage is not legally valid in Islam," he told the House.

Sarma added that several Muslim-majority nations have restricted or banned polygamy because the strict conditions laid down by the Prophet are not followed in today's society. "Nobody follows the Prophet's diktat 100 per cent, and people end up misusing the law," he said.

Govt Blocks Firm

Emergency Services recruitment process.

The move comes after a multilayered inquiry that began in 2022, starting with a committee set up to probe allegations in the selection of Firemen and Firemen Drivers. The committee submitted its report in February 2024, after which the matter was referred to the Anti Corruption Bureau for a detailed investigation.

Following verification, the ACB registered an FIR against LMES IT LLP and examined the role of M. K. Wali in the tendering and selection process. The investigation found that LMES was ineligible under several mandatory conditions of the e NIT. Despite being the L 2 bidder, quoting Rs 179 per candidate, the firm was awarded the contract over the L 1 bidder, UMC Technology, which had offered a significantly lower rate of Rs 107.50. The L 1 bidder was neither called for negotiations nor formally accepted or rejected.

The ACB also found that LMES lacked the required experience of conducting similar recruitment exercises for two police or paramilitary forces. The firm failed to meet the criteria of a reputed vendor and did not provide three years of its own financial records. Instead, it submitted documents from another company.

The report further highlighted a conflict of interest, noting that Wali, who owns 99 per cent of LMES, had previously been associated with a firm whose earlier recruitment process for the same department had been scrapped. Despite this, LMES was still awarded the contract, giving him undue leverage, the ACB said.

Based on these findings, the Home Department recommended blacklisting under Rule 151 of the General Financial Rules. After reviewing all reports, the competent authority approved the proposal.

The government has ordered that LMES IT LLP and Wali be barred from all future recruitment related bids in Jammu and Kashmir.

President Releases First-Ever Kashmiri Translation of Constitution

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: The University of Kashmir has prepared the first Kashmiri translation of the Constitution of India, marking a historic moment for the region and its linguistic heritage.

On the occasion of Constitution Day on Wednesday, President Droupadi Murmu released translated versions of the Constitution in nine Indian languages -- Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Punjabi, Bodo, Kashmiri, Telugu, Odia and Assamese.

According to PTI, among these, the Constitution of India has been translated into the Kashmiri language for the first time, marking a historic moment for the region and its linguistic heritage, a spokesperson of the university said.



The Kashmiri translation has been carried out by a team from the University of Kashmir (KU) under the Ministry of Law, Government of India, and executed through the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore, the spokesperson said.

He said the project, initiated in September 2023 and completed in March 2025, was coordinated by Aejez Mohammad Sheikh,

Professor, Department of Linguistics; Head, Department of Urdu; and Dean, School of Arts, Languages and Literature.

The spokesperson added that Vice-Chancellor KU, Nilofer Khan, who keenly monitored and supported the work throughout, congratulated the team for completing this nationally significant assignment.

"This is a moment of im-

mense pride for the University and for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Bringing the Constitution into Kashmiri will greatly strengthen constitutional awareness and linguistic inclusion. I commend the team for their scholarly dedication and hard work," VC Khan said.

The university extends its appreciation to all contributors and reiterates its commit-

THE KASHMIRI TRANSLATION HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT BY A TEAM FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR (KU) under the Ministry of Law, Government of India, and executed through the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore,"

ment to advancing academic excellence, multilingual scholarship and national development, the spokesperson added.

JKAACL Remembers Literary Icon Shams-Ud-Din Shamim

A one-day literary seminar in memory of renowned fiction writer, playwright, and journalist Shams-Ud-Din Shamim was organised at the auditorium of Shehanshah Palace, Srinagar, by the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) in collaboration with the Daily Gadyal, Srinagar.

In a statement issued, the inaugural session was presided over by Prof. Farooq Fayaz, while Shabir Mujahid, graced the occasion as Chief Guest, with well-known playwright Wahshi Saeed as Guest of Honour and Ideel Saleem, Additional Secretary JKAACL, also present in the presidium. At the outset, Ideel Saleem welcomed the dignitaries and highlighted Shamim's contributions to Kashmiri fiction and cultural journalism, appreciating his fearless voice and commitment to society's collective conscience.

The keynote address was delivered by Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq, who described Shamim's fiction as an archive of lived experiences, rooted in realism rather than rhetorical decoration, portraying Kashmiri society caught between political anxieties, social transitions, and moral dilemmas.

He stressed Shamim's ability to convert internal conflicts into compelling dialogues as a playwright, while his journalistic writings stood as testaments of integrity and cultural responsibility, remarking that Shamim is "a foundation on which the contemporary Kashmiri narrative must continue to build." Tributes were also paid by dignitaries including Shabir Mujahid and Wahshi Saeed, who described Shamim as a multi-dimensional literary and journalistic figure with rare clarity and human depth.(Observer News Service)

Delhi Court Allows Er Rashid to Attend Parliament

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A Delhi court on Thursday permitted Baramulla Member Parliament (MP), Abdul Rashid Sheikh, also known as Engineer Rashid, to attend the sixth session of the 18th Lok Sabha while remaining in custody.



According to details obtained by KNO, the court said that the permission is subject to conditions imposed previously.

Additional Sessions Judge Prashant Sharma clarified that the cost of travel for Rashid would depend on the outcome of an ongoing appeal in the Delhi High Court.

Rashid has been lodged in Tihar jail since 2019 in connection with a terror funding case registered in 2017. He is represented by a team of advocates, including Vikhyat Oberoi, Nishita Gupta, Shivam Prakash, and Ravi Sharma.

sion bench of the Delhi High Court delivered a split verdict regarding Rashid's plea to waive the cost of his security and travel arrangements while attending Parliament. The bench comprised Justices Vivek Chaudhary and Anup Bhambhani. Justice Chaudhary concluded that Rashid does not have any entitlement to attend parliamentary proceedings while in lawful custody.

Justice Bhambhani, in contrast, ruled that Rashid is only required to cover the expenses of transportation from jail to Parliament and back, including the costs of the jail van and escort vehicle.

The police had estimated

the total per-day cost for Rashid's attendance at approximately Rs 1.45 lakh, including charges for accompanying officers.

Justice Bhambhani stated that the state's demand for Rashid to pay for police personnel accompanying him is not justified.

Rashid was formally charged by a special NIA court in Delhi in March 2022 after the case was lodged in 2017.

Earlier in March 2025, the Delhi High Court allowed him to attend the Lok Sabha during the Budget session, subject to the condition that expenses related to his travel and other arrangements would be borne by him while he remained in state custody.

The court's decision ensures that Rashid can participate in parliamentary proceedings without being released from custody, while clarifying the financial obligations associated with his attendance.



FISHERMEN SHARE A LIGHT moment while catching fish on Dal Lake in Srinagar.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Built But locked: Shopian Residents Decry Delay in Commissioning Slaughterhouse

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Residents of Shopian town have voiced strong resentment over the failure of authorities to commission the long-awaited slaughterhouse, despite its construction being completed months ago.

Locals told KNO that the delay has caused inconvenience, health concerns, and raised questions about administrative inefficiency.

According to residents, the slaughterhouse project, taken up by the Municipal Council Shopian, was completed well within the stipulated timeframe – yet it remains non-functional, forcing butchers to continue slaughtering animals in open or makeshift spaces.

Abdul Majid, a local from Jamia Market, expressed frustration over the unexplained delay. "We were told the slaughterhouse would start functioning immediately after completion. Months have passed, but the building is lying locked. If everything is ready, what is stopping the authorities from commissioning it?" he said.

Residents said the non-commissioning has not only defeated the very purpose of the project but also affected hygiene standards in the town.

Shabir Ahmad, who runs a shop near the main market, said the delay has created more problems than solutions. "Animals are still being slaughtered in the open. Waste is dumped wherever possible. The whole point of constructing a modern slaughterhouse was to maintain hygiene, but nothing has changed on the ground," he said.

Locals argue that the absence of a functional, regulated facility poses risks to public health, especially with rising concerns about sanitation in urban areas.

Several residents also questioned the lack of communication from the concerned departments.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY-KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXTENSION OFFICER, PUBLICITY WING-KASHMIR

ADVISORY FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE FOR COLD WAVE SEASON

A Cold Wave occurs when minimum temperatures drop significantly below normal, particularly affecting the UT of J&K during the winter months (November to March)

A Cold Wave is declared when the minimum temperature at a station is 10 degree celsius or lower in plains or 0 degree celsius or lower in hilly regions (IMD) or A Cold Wave is declared when the minimum temperature is 4.5 degree celsius to 6.4 degree celsius below the normal temperature.

These events are caused by factors like Western Disturbances, high pressure systems, and Himalayan snowfall.

The impacts are severe, causing livestock health problems, like respiratory issue, Hypothermia, Frostbite etc. Many Cold Wave related illnesses are largely avoidable and need the use of appropriate prevention strategies/measures, first aid, and veterinary support.

Animal at High Risk:-

01. Newly born and young animals
02. Sick animals with history of respiratory disease.
03. Lactating animals.
04. Weak animals.

Identification and first Aid of cold disorder in animals.

Some Cold Wave illness includes:

- Hypothermia
- Frostbite
- Loss of appetite
- Arthritis in heavy animals
- Kennel cough in pet dogs
- Respiratory illness

Some Cold Wave disorder with symptoms and first aid are as under:-

Cold Wave Disorder	Symptoms	First Aid
Hypothermia	Low body temperature, shivering, lethargy, listlessness and shock	Limit the time spend outside during winter months, cover animals in warm blankets
Frostbite	Pale hard skin, blisters on skin with further darkening of skin and possibility of gangrene	Limit the time spend outside during winter month. Cover in warm blankets, apply warm water to the affected areas
Kenel Caugh	Symptoms of resignatory infection	Vaccination and approach for veterinary care as soon as possible
Shock	Irregular heart rate, weak pulse, low body temperature	Prevent of loss of body heart and cover the animal with blankets, approach for veterinary care as soon as possible

Note:- In all these cases approach for veterinary care as soon as possible.

Preventive Measures:-

Housing and Shelter:

- Keep Animal in shed or shelter at night, covering the sides to block Cold Winds.
- Provide dry bedding such as straw, to insulate them from the cold ground.
- Avoid keeping animals in damp areas.
- Protect animals from smoke from fires used for warmth.
- Avoid over crowding in animals housing.
- Ensure sheds are constructed to allow maximum sunlight during winter.
- Keep sheds clean and protect animals from ectoparasites.
- To Keep the sheds clean a Neem oil based disinfectant can be sprayed.
- Bouqunets of Nirgundi, Basil or Leman Gross should be hung to keep ectoparasites away.

Food and Water:

- Make sure animals are well-fed and hydrated.
- Provide warm water, atleast four times a day.
- Provide adequate fodder and nutritious food, increasing the protien and mineral content. This includes balanced concentrates, grains, minerals and salts, Add mineral mixtures (area specific mineral mixture) and common salt to the diet.
- Placing feed and waterers in warm shaded sheds.
- To maintain the body temperature of animals, they should be fed with a mixture of oil cakes and Jaggery including covering the body during cold hours (especially young and weak animals).
- Pregnant animals (>06 months) should be given additional feed.
- Ensure drinking troughs are clean.

Special Care:

- Cover Weak and sick animals with sackcloth.
- Keep animals warm with blankets if possible.
- For poultry, use artificial lighting to keep chicks warm.
- Use oil treatments on animal's, nails and skin to prevent cracking from harsh weather.

Health and safety:

- Ensure deworming and vaccination of animals, ensure vaccination against FMD, HS, BQ etc.
- Avoid bathing of animals during cooler period.
- Don't take animals out for grazing in extremely cold mornings.
- Minimize removing excess hair or wool from animals.
- Avoid leaving animals in vehicles without adequate ventilations, and warm atmosphere.
- In case of the occurrence of frost bite, adequate arrangements for artificial lighting and heating should be made.
- Monitor animals closely for signs of cold stress and approach for veterinary care accordingly.
- Avoid animal fares (pashu melas) during Cold Wave.
- Don't leave animals tied/roam in open area during Cold Wave.
- Don't keep animal in open during night and cold hours.
- Carcasses of dead animals should be disposed off properly, away from water bodies, public area and grassing routes/areas.

Issued in public interest by Publicity Wing, Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Kashmir

Tral Schools Grapple With Poor Infrastructure

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As the school education department is conducting enrollment drives in Kashmir to attract more and more students towards government schools, several institutions in Tral sub-division of south Kashmir's Pulwama district are grappling with staff shortage and poor infrastructure.

As per the details obtained by KNO, many government schools in Tral continue to reel under severe infrastructure deficiencies and acute staff shortages, leaving hundreds of students, mostly from economically weaker families, struggling for basic educational facilities.

Aggrieved parents and locals have urged the Education Minister to personally intervene and address what they describe as "years of neglect".

They said that despite multiple requests to authorities, several schools in Tral are functioning under extremely difficult conditions, with children studying in tin sheds, overcrowded classrooms, and buildings lacking even basic amenities.

At Middle School Tral-e-Bala, more than 70 students are forced to attend classes in tin sheds, exposed to extreme heat in summer and freezing temperatures in winter. "It becomes unbearable for our children during harsh summers and even worse in the cold months," said Abdul Rashid, a concerned parent. "If the government can provide other facilities across the district, why can't they give our kids proper classrooms?"

Teachers also expressed helplessness, saying that teaching in such conditions directly affects learning outcomes.

The situation is similar at Government Middle School Lanzgund Branpathri, where around 70 students

WE ARE NOT DEMANDING ANYTHING EXTRAORDINARY—JUST THE FUNDAMENTALS of a dignified education system,"

from nine different classes are taught by only five teachers in just four rooms. "How can nine classes run in four rooms? Students end up disturbing each other because different subjects are taught in the same space," said Shabir Ahmad, a local. "Our children deserve better than this."

At Government Middle School Gurtoo, 140 students are cramped into only three functional rooms. Parents said the shortage of both classrooms and staff has severely impacted the quality of education. "Our kids are bright, but how can they learn properly when they are squeezed into overcrowded rooms?" said Rafiq Begum, a mother of two. "The government should at least provide additional classrooms and appoint teachers where needed."

Schools in Satoora and Zarihad also face similar issues. GMS Satoora has around 150 students but

is functioning with just six rooms. Locals said the infrastructure has not been upgraded for years. "It's the same story every year. Promises are made, but nothing changes," said Manzoor Ahmad, a resident of Satoora. "We urge the department to take our children's future seriously."

The most alarming condition has been reported from Gojer Basti Showjan Panzoo, where the school, functioning from nursery to class 8th in four rooms, has no toilet facility whatsoever. "This is the only government school in the area without a toilet," said Ghulam Nabi, a local elder. "Girls especially suffer the most. How can a school run without something as basic as a washroom?"

Parents warn that the absence of a toilet not only affects hygiene but also discourages students, especially girls, from attending regularly.

Parents across these villages have appealed for immediate intervention by the Education Minister to ensure proper infrastructure, adequate staffing, and basic amenities. "We are not demanding anything extraordinary—just the fundamentals of a dignified education system," said Mohammad Yousuf, a parent. "We are poor people. The government schools are our only hope."

Locals said that unless urgent action is taken, the educational future of hundreds of children in Tral will continue to hang in the balance. They questioned the government's enrollment drives: "On what basis can they lure students when there is poor infrastructure and staff shortages?"

Ahmedabad Lines Up Mega Events After Winning 2030 CWG

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI- India's sporting ambitions received a major boost as officials on Wednesday revealed that Ahmedabad—freshly awarded the 2030 Commonwealth Games—has also been proposed as host for a series of major global competitions, including the 2028 World U20 Athletics Championships and the 2031 World Senior Athletics Championships. The announcements come as Gujarat positions the city as the centrepiece of India's bid to host the 2036 Olympics.

The Commonwealth Sport General Assembly's approval in Glasgow confirmed Ahmedabad as the host for the centenary edition of the CWG, marking the event's return to India 20 years



FILE PIC

after the Delhi 2010 Games. Ashwani Kumar, Principal Secretary for Sports in the Gujarat government, said the state is building world-class sports infrastructure with the long-term vision of making Ahmedabad In-

dia's "sports capital". "Our aspiration is to host the U20 World Athletics Championships in 2028, the 2031 World Senior Athletics Championships and the 2033 World Aquatics Championships," he said. "We al-

ready have the 2029 World Police and Fire Games lined up. These events will drive the local economy and showcase our capability." India previously expressed interest in hosting the 2028 U20 Worlds during World Athletics President Sebastian Coe's visit last year. World Athletics is expected to announce hosts for the junior championships next month, while the 2029 and 2031 senior worlds will be awarded in 2026.

Ahmedabad has recently hosted the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships and the Asian Aquatics Championships at the new Veer Savarkar Multi-sports Complex, with the Asian Weightlifting Championships scheduled for next year.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel celebrated the CWG an-

nouncement as a "historic moment", crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for shaping the state's modern sports infrastructure. "Ahmedabad is now a premier sporting destination—home to the Narendra Modi Stadium and world-class training hubs," Patel said, adding that the 2030 Games would be "grand, unforgettable and historic."

Deputy CM Harsh Sanghavi called the selection a landmark for Indian sports, reinforcing the country's growing profile as a global sporting host.

The 2030 CWG is expected to significantly strengthen India's pitch for the 2036 Olympics, with officials viewing the successful hosting of a multi-sport event as crucial proof of capability.

Fans Boo Gambhir After 408-run Hammering

Kotak, Siraj step in to douse fire

Press Trust of India

GUWAHATI:For the first time since taking charge of the Indian cricket team as head coach in 2024, Gautam Gambhir was booed by a visibly agitated section of supporters at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium here on Wednesday, moments after the hosts suffered a staggering 408-run loss to South Africa in the second Test.

Angry fans from one of the stands began shouting "Gambhir hai hai, go back," the chants ringing loud inside the stadium that had just witnessed one of Indian cricket team's darkest home afternoons.

The coach briefly looked towards the gallery, only to turn his face away and refusing to react.

The scenes quickly caught the attention of the players. At one point, several members of the playing XI found themselves staring in the direction of the commotion,



the decibel levels forcing their focus away from the post-match huddle.

It was then that pacer Mohammed Siraj gestured at the crowd to keep quiet, signalling restraint. Soon after, Siraj and assistant coach Sitanshu Kotak walked up close to the gallery, appealing for calm.

The supporter backlash reflects a deeper simmering discontent. Gambhir has now become the only Indian coach since the start of the new millennium under whose tenure the India national cricket team has lost five Tests at home, a staggering indictment for a side that had turned home advantage into an impregnable fortress over the last two decades.

Pant Says Sorry for Test Debacle Against SA

Promises team will regroup and refocus

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India's Test vice-captain Rishabh Pant has apologised for the team's shambolic performance in the 0-2 series loss to South Africa, asserting that the team will "regroup, refocus and reset" to come back stronger.

India were handed a 0-2 drubbing in the series that ended with the second Test in Guwahati on Tuesday. Pant led the home side in this match as regular skipper Shubman Gill was nursing a neck injury.

The team lost the game by a mammoth 408 runs, further denting the aura of invincibility around its home record and making its path to World Test Championship final more difficult.

"There is no shying away from the fact that we didn't play good enough cricket over the last two weeks. As a team and as individuals, we always want to perform at the highest level and bring smiles to billions of Indians," Pant, who is personally drawing flak for his reckless shot selection during the series, said in a post on 'X'.

"Sorry we couldn't live up to expectations this time, but sport teaches you to learn, adapt and grow - both as a team and as individuals... We know what this team is capable of and we will work hard, regroup, refocus and reset to come back stronger and better as a team & individuals," he added.

Pant insisted that representing India is the greatest honour of the players' lives.

Srinagar Athletic Championship Concludes



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The District Srinagar Athletic Championship 2025 concluded at the Kashmir University Athletic Track, Hazratbal, witnessing the participation of over 300 athletes, both boys and girls.

Director of Physical Education, Kashmir University, Surjeet Singh, graced the event as the chief guest. Vice President of the J&K Athletics Association

Tufail Ramzan said that more athletic events will be organised in the coming months to promote sports culture in the region.

The event was organised by the District Srinagar Athletic Association under the aegis of the J&K Amateur Athletic Association, in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council, and sponsored by Amigos Food & Hospitalitys and Al Fajr Traders

Mbappé Nets Quick Hat Trick in 4-goal Game

Real Madrid Beats Olympiakos in Champions League

Real Madrid star Kylian Mbappé scored four goals in a Champions League match for the first time in his career Wednesday, including the second-fastest hat trick in the competition's history.

Mbappé netted three times in just under seven minutes in Real Madrid's 4-3 win at Olympiakos.

"I'm very happy to have scored the goals, it's always a pleasure for me," Mbappé said. "My teammates always set me up with good balls. I'm lucky to play for this team that has so much quality."

Mbappé scored the hat trick in the 22nd, 24th and 29th minutes — after Chiquinho had put Olympiakos ahead in the eighth. The France international added his fourth goal in the 60th after Mehdi Taremi had scored for the hosts in the 52nd. Ayoub El Kaabi scored Olympiakos' third goal in the 81st.

Mohamed Salah's fifth hat trick for Liverpool at Rangers in 2022 had broken the record for the quickest ever scored in the Champions League, according to UEFA. The Egypt forward needed six minutes, 12 seconds to score his goals after entering the match seven minutes before his opening strike.

It was Mbappé's fifth hat trick in the Champions League — and second this season. He had scored three times against Kairat in the second round of the league phase. Two of his hat tricks came with Paris Saint-Germain.

Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo have eight hat tricks each in the Champions League, while Robert Lewandowski has six.

Mbappé now leads the Champions League in scoring this season with nine goals, three more than Galatasaray's Victor Osimhen. It's already Mbappé's best Champions League tally in a season. He has 22 goals in 18 matches with Madrid this campaign. (AP)

Barcelona Sluggish in Champions League

Flick optimistic team can rebound

Hansi Flick says his Barcelona team must play with "greater aggression" now that it finds itself in a Champions League mini-slump.

Barcelona's 3-0 loss to Chelsea on Tuesday left the team in 15th place ahead of Wednesday's games, and it followed a 3-3 draw at Club Brugge. In both matches, defensive mistakes were costly. At Stamford Bridge, Barcelona was outplayed and its attack failed to score for the first time in 53 games. It was a reality check for the Catalan club, which has been doing well in Spain. "We definitely need to be more dynamic and play with greater aggression," Flick said.

It was Barcelona's second defeat in the Champions League. It lost at home to Paris Saint-Germain in early October. With three games left in the league phase, Barcelona hosts Eintracht Frankfurt next month. "We have to accept the defeat and stay positive about what comes next," Flick said after Tuesday's loss. "I saw positive things and I believe we can still take the nine points left to play for."

Flick said things might have been different in London had Ferran Torres converted on his close-range opportunity in the fifth minute, when he missed from near the penalty spot with only the goalkeeper to beat. He said defender Ronald Araujo's red card in the 44th also played a big role.

"We started very well and had a very big opportunity to score the first goal" he said. "Then the red card changed the match, and it's not easy to recover against a team like Chelsea when you're a man down." (AP)

MIRAE ASSET Sharekhan

Achieve financial freedom

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



Contact: M I Securities - 9906518342 / 9906684475

1, 10 Samad Complex, Ma Link Road, Srinagar, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, Srinagar - 190001