

LG: Writers Must Counter Secessionism

Says Literature Can Promote Social Harmony & National Strength

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said poets and writers have a crucial role in strengthening unity and countering secessionist attempts aimed at dividing and radicalising youth in the Kashmir valley. He was speaking at a Kavi Sammelan organised by the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited at the General Zorawar Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor said literature has always contributed to nation building and urged writers to use their expression to promote a stronger national identity and social cohesion. "We should also focus on promoting regional literature to fully capitalize on its potential for social harmony and national strength," he said.

Sinha underlined that for a self reliant and developed India, both art and artificial



intelligence, science and sanskar, are essential. He added that literature, music and poetry enrich democratic values and provide society with cultural and spiritual nourishment.

"Poetry serves not just as a foundation of social consciousness, but also as a pinnacle of society's resolve. Poetry acts as a bridge between dreams and their actualization. It is also a catalyst for individual growth and inspires | More on P6

'Return Law & Order; Revoke If We Fail: Omar

» Cabinet to Take Up Reservation Rationalisation In Next Meeting

» Reaffirms Push for Special Status, Links Security to Return of Statehood

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said incidents like the Pahalgam attack and the recent Delhi blast would not recur if statehood is restored, arguing that security responsibility must return to an elected government. Speaking after the conclusion of the National Conference's two day Working Committee meeting, Omar said the region's past security record under an elected dispensation showed that such attacks did not take place.

"Did attacks like those in Pahalgam or Delhi happen while we were responsible for security? I was the chief minister for six years. Did an attack like the one in Pahalgam take place? Or one like in Delhi?



NOT EVERY KASHMIRI IS A TERRORIST or a supporter of terror."

Hand over the responsibility to us, and then see what happens," he said, | More on P6

'200 Free Power Units 'Impossible Without Meters'

On the ongoing debate over electricity meters and free power units, Omar clarified that promises of 200 free units without universal metering were unrealistic. "No government can provide free electricity units unless every home has a meter. Fixed-rate systems hurt poor families — meters

actually reduce their bills," he said, adding that misinformation was being spread to mislead the public. He said that for his government to provide free electricity, people need to have meters installed in their homes so that the 200 units can be measured. He added that he is currently | More on P6

THE LAST FIVE YEARS HAVE BEEN DECISIVE for the Union Territory. We have diligently strived to provide a safe and culturally rich environment for the new generation.

Kashmir Records Coldest Nov In Nearly 2 Decades

Temperatures Dip Sharply, MeT Predicts Dry Weather Till Dec 1

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A severe cold wave tightened its grip over Kashmir on Friday as several stations recorded their lowest November temperatures in eighteen years. Srinagar, Qazigund and Kupwara all logged their coldest November mornings since 2007, marking the second consecutive day of historic lows.

Data compiled by Kashmir Weather shows Srinagar touched minus 4.5°C, the coldest November temperature since November 28, 2007, when the city recorded minus 4.8°C. The all-time November low for Srinagar remains minus 7.8°C, set in 1934.

- » Srinagar: -4.5°C Previous November low (2007): -4.8°C
- » Qazigund: -4.4°C Previous (2007): -5.5°C
- » Kupwara: -4.8°C Previous (2007): -5.5°C
- » Shopian: -6.7°C (Coldest in the Valley)
- » Anantnag/ Pulwama: -6.2°C
- » Gulmarg: 1.4°C
- » Zojila Pass: -16°C

Qazigund also matched its coldest November spell since 2007, dipping to minus 4.4°C. It had last recorded minus 5.5°C on November 28, 2007, while its all time low stands at minus 8.2°C, recorded in 1962. | More on P6

No Need To Show 'Pressing Need' For Passport: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has reaffirmed that the right to hold a passport is an important constitutional right, underling that citizens are not required to demonstrate any "pressing need" for foreign travel to obtain a passport or a no-objection certificate (NOC).

A bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar observed that the passport cannot be withheld merely because an applicant has not produced documents showing the necessity of travelling abroad.

"Since a citizen has a right to hold a passport, as such, even without his need for traveling abroad, he is entitled to hold a passport," the court said.

The petitioner, Z A Pahalwan--facing trial in a case (FIR No.05/2022) for offences under Section 409, 418, 465, 467, 468, 471, 120-B IPC, 7A, 8, 12 and 13(1) of Prevention of Corruption Act-- had applied for grant



of NOC before the trial court for obtaining passport for the purpose of undertaking Hajj Pilgrimage. The application was considered by the trial court on February 24 this year and the NOC was issued. Subsequently, Pahalwan was granted passport for a limited period of one year only.

After undertaking the Hajj pilgrimage, Pahalwan again approached the trial court for grant of NOC for obtaining a passport for five years. However, this application was dismissed by the trial court, primarily, on the ground that the same was premature

because the earlier NOC granted by the court was valid upto 23 February 2026. Another ground on which the trial court had rejected Pahalwan's application was that he had not produced any documentary proof that would go on to show that he was required to travel abroad in connection with his business. Pahalwan had challenged the order before the High court.

"... the reasoning adopted by the learned trial court that the petitioner has failed to produce the documentary proof with regard to the necessity of | More on P6

Govt to Act Tough On Erring Pvt Schools: Itoo

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Minister of Education Sakina Itoo on Friday said the government will take strict action against private schools found violating orders and norms issued by the authorities.

Speaking to reporters, she said the School Education Department has already notified the rules that private institutions must follow. "We have also directed JKBOSE to ensure implementation of all government orders," she said.

The minister said the department had received several complaints from parents regarding violations. "These complaints were examined, and we have already derecognised four private schools. A fine has been imposed on four others for not



adhering to norms," she said.

Itoo added that any future complaints will be reviewed, and action will follow wherever violations are found. "We will not hesitate to act against any private school. Accountability will be ensured, and nobody will be allowed to violate government norms," she said.

JKBOSE Plans Dual-Level Maths For Class 10

The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) Friday proposed to introduce dual-level mathematics examination for Class-10 wherein students will have the option to choose between 'Basic or Standard' | More on P6

Hindu Family Gifts Land to Homeless Jouro, Sparks Unity Wave

KO Web Desk

Jammu: In a rare and heart-warming display of communal harmony amid an escalating political storm, a Hindu family from Jammu has gifted a five-marla residential plot to freelance journalist Arafaz Ahmad Daing, whose house was demolished by the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) earlier this week. The move has struck an emotional chord across Jammu & Kashmir, where many have hailed it as a powerful reaffirmation of the region's enduring traditions of brotherhood.

The land was gifted by Kuldeep Kumar Sharma, a retired employee of the External



Kuldeep Kumar Sharma gifts a plot of land to the journalist Arafaz Ahmad Daing, whose house was demolished by civic authorities, in Jammu on Thursday. (Photo credit: ANI)

Affairs Ministry. In widely circulated videos, the elderly Hindu resident, affectionately known

in his locality as "Uncle Ji", is seen handing over the land papers to an overwhelmed Arafaz,

who accepts the documents with moist eyes. Standing beside Sharma is his daughter, Tania Sharma, who signed the gift deed—a symbolic gesture that moved many viewers to tears. She called herself a 'proud' daughter of her father.

"They demolished his house built on just three marlas. We are giving him five.

If they demolish ten, we will give him twenty," Sharma declares in the video, emphasizing that his decision was rooted purely in humanity, not religion.

Sharma and his family said they were devastated by the sight of their neighbour's 40-year-old home being reduced | More on P6

HC Rules Cross LoC Trade As 'Intra-State'

Dismisses Pleas Against GST Show-Cause Notices

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has dismissed a batch of petitions challenging show-cause notices issued under the GST Act in relation to the now-barred cross-LoC trade,

underscoring that the transactions in question constitute intra-state trade.

As many as 35 petitions were filed before the court challenging the show-cause

notices issued to them by the Superintendent, CGST and CX Range-I, Srinagar, under Section 74(1) of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, read with the J&K Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.

"It is not disputed by learned counsel appearing on either side that the area of the State presently under de-facto control of Pakistan is part of territories of the State of Jammu & Kashmir. Therefore in the instant case the location of the suppliers and the place of supply of goods were within the then State of Jammu Kashmir (now Union | More on P6

Seasonal Orchard Burning Sparks Health Concerns

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As winter tightens its grip on Kashmir, a familiar practice in the Valley's orchards is turning into a public health emergency. The annual burning of pruned branches and leaves to produce charcoal for kangris has filled large parts of Kashmir with thick, lingering smoke, triggering a surge in respiratory distress.

Heavy grey smoke hangs low over neighbourhoods, slipping into homes and settling in the lungs of those already struggling to breathe. What orchardists consider an essential winter routine has become a major seasonal pollutant.

For people like Mohammad Akbar Ganaie, | More on P6

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Kashmir University Declares Campus Safe After Bear Sighting

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Panic gripped the girls' hostels at Kashmir University late Friday evening after a black bear strayed into the campus, triggering an emergency response and forcing students to stay locked indoors. Eyewitnesses said the bear was first spotted near the Sadrabal side, casually ambling along the footpath as stunned commuters watched in disbelief.

Moments later, a pack of stray dogs began chasing it. In an attempt to escape, the bear climbed an electric pole, leapt over a boundary wall and landed directly inside the girls' hostel zone — sending shockwaves through the hostels.

According to KNT, university authorities rushed to the spot and immediately alerted the Wildlife Department. A rescue operation was launched to track and trap the animal, which had moved further into the campus by the time teams arrived.

The Chief Proctor of Kashmir University, Professor Imtiyaz, on Friday night said that the black

bear sighted earlier on the campus is no longer present inside the university premises. He informed that the Wildlife Department has confirmed the bear has moved towards the Habak area and that the campus is now safe. "Students need not worry. The bear is not inside the university anymore," he said.

He added that the operation to locate the animal was continuously monitored by the police, wildlife officials and university authorities until the area was cleared.

Officials said surveillance will continue around the campus as a precautionary measure. Bear sightings around Srinagar's fringes have risen sharply in recent years, particularly late in autumn when wildlife drifts toward human habitations in search of food. The green belts and forested patches surrounding Kashmir University make the area especially vulnerable to such encounters. As of the time this report was filed, wildlife officials were continuing efforts to locate and safely capture the animal.



KO Photo : Abid Bhat

Joint Forces Conduct Surprise Searches in Lal Chowk

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a bid to strengthen security and surveillance in the commercial hub of Srinagar, joint teams of police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Friday conducted surprise searches in hotels, lodges and business establishments in and around Lal Chowk Srinagar.

The officials said that the exercise was aimed to verify the credentials of guests to ensure that commercial facilities are not misused for unlawful purposes.

The searches were conducted by the personnel from Srinagar Police, CRPF's 132 battalion and the women's (Mahila) Company of 213 Battalion.

As per the details obtained by KNO, the teams inspected a number of hotels, guest houses and shops. Besides, they also checked the registers and identification records maintained by the management.

The exercise was carried out as part of a broader preventive strategy to strengthen security measures in view of heightened movement and upcoming winter activities in the capital city.

Officials further said that checking was jointly conducted

“The objective is to ensure that verification protocols are being followed properly by hotel and business owners and to prevent any attempt by anti-social or anti-national elements to exploit commercial spaces,”

systematically with due coordination between various security components.

"The objective is to ensure that verification protocols are being followed properly by hotel and business owners and to prevent any attempt by anti-social or anti-national elements to exploit commercial spaces," an officer part of the operation said.

The searches also involved a detailed review of the guest lists, CCTV surveillance footage and

record-keeping practices at several establishments.

The women's contingent was specifically tasked with conducting verification of female guests and staff members, while police and CRPF personnel secured peripheries and entry points during the drive.

Eyewitnesses and officials present during the exercise said that the surprise checks form a crucial part of preventive policing and are essential to maintain law and order in crowded and commercially active zones.

The officials also advised hotel and business owners to maintain proper guest registers, verify identity documents and immediately alert police about any suspicious activity or unfamiliar presence. "Public cooperation always remains a key to ensure a safe environment for all," he said.

Meanwhile, the searches that lasted several hours concluded peacefully without any untoward incident. Security officials maintained that such coordinated drives will continue periodically as part of a city-wide security review plan designed to strengthen vigilance during the winter season and festive period.

Nowgam Residents Decry 'Flyover Neglect'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Residents of Nowgam area of Srinagar Friday complained of poor maintenance and neglect of the flyover in the area—citing safety and civic concerns that allegedly continue to inconvenience daily commuters.

Locals from the area informed KNO that "The lighting towers installed at the flyover are dysfunctional for months, which has left the entire stretch poorly illuminated after dusk."

They also said that the absence of lights not only hampers the visibility but also increases the risk of accidents, especially during foggy and rainy evenings.

"The flyover turns dark after sunset. It becomes risky for pedes-

trians and two-wheelers to navigate. We have repeatedly requested the concerned department to fix the lights, but nothing has changed," said a local resident Yousuf Ahmad.

Another resident also said, "The footpaths are broken and full of debris. Pedestrians are forced to walk on the dangerous path that is close to moving traffic."

Adding to the woes, locals also alleged that the area beneath the flyover remains un-macadamised.

The residents have appealed to the Roads & Buildings (R&B) department and the concerned authorities to immediately take up repair and maintenance works, stressing that safety should not be compromised while new projects are being developed elsewhere in the city.

DSEK Inspects Book Distribution at JKBOSE Bemina

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK), Naseer Ahmad Wani paid a surprise visit to the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), Bemina, to review the ongoing process of textbook distribution for students across the Kashmir division.

During the inspection, the Director assessed the administrative arrangements and distribution mechanism and expressed satisfaction over the smooth and well-organized process.

DSEK, was informed that textbooks have already been dispatched

to 61 zones across the Valley, and the remaining distribution is expected to be completed in all districts by December 2, 2025.

The Director directed all Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) to ensure that the books reach students at the earliest. He further instructed that a detailed distribution report must be submitted to the Directorate of School Education Kashmir within three days of receiving the books from the Board, through the respective Chief Education Officers (CEOs).

The Director also appreciated the dedicated efforts of the con-

cerned staff for ensuring the timely execution of the textbook distribution process this academic year.

It was further informed that since the launch of the distribution drive on November 17, textbooks have been dispatched to 8 Zones of Srinagar, 6 zones of Kulgam, 5 zones of Bandipora, 12 zones of Anantnag, 4 zones of Shopian, 8 zones of Pulwama, 13 zones of Budgam, 4 zones of Ganderbal and two zones of Baramulla district.

The Directorate remains committed to ensuring that every student receives textbooks well in time to avoid any academic disruption.


PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of the general public that I, Aadil Ashraf, currently recorded on my Driving License (DL) with the address Sharief Abad Tral, has applied for the following official changes: Name Change: From Aadil Ashraf to Aadil Ashraf Najjar. Address Change: From Sharief Abad Tral to Sharief Abad TRAL-I-PAYEEN. Any individual wishing to raise an objection to this change must submit their concerns to the office of the ARTO, Pulwama, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. Objections received after this stipulated period will not be considered.

inf

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My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as ZARA while my correct name is Zehra Bano. 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. Zehra Bano D/o Kifayat Hussain Dar R/o Kripalpora Payeen Tehsil. Singhpora FKO

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- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR

07 Jumada al-Sani

1447

PRAYERS

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

This Day In History

- 1581 - Doornik (Tournai) surrenders to Duke of Parma
- 1596 King Philip II devalues Spanish currency
- 1812 - Napoleon's Grand Army crosses Berezina River in retreat from Russia
- 1850 - The treaty, Punctuation of Olmütz, signed in Olomouc means diplomatic capitulation of Prussia to Austrian Empire, taking over the leadership of German Confederation
- 1864 - Battle of Spring Hill, TN (Thomason's Station)
- 1870 - Compulsory education proclaimed in England
- 1872 - Indian Wars: The Modoc War begins with the Battle of Lost River.
- 1877 - US inventor Thomas Edison demonstrates his hand-cranked phonograph for the first time
- 1893 - Ziqiang Institute, today known as Wuhan University, is founded by Zhang Zhidong, governor of Hubei and Hunan Provinces in late Qing Dynasty of China after his memorial to the throne is approved by the Qing Government.
- 1900 - General Horatio Kitchener assumes command of the British forces in South Africa from General Lord Roberts
- 1916 - US declares martial law in Dominican Republic
- 1917 - A Supreme Allied War Council meets at Versailles to define war aims
- 1918 - Serbia annexes Montenegro
- 1933 - Japan begins persecution of communists
- 1935 - Michael Joseph Savage becomes the first Labour Prime Minister of New Zealand
- 1935 - Physicist Erwin Schrödinger publishes his famous thought experiment "Schrödinger's cat", a paradox that illustrates the problem of the Copenhagen interpretation of quantum mechanics
- 1939 - USSR drops diplomatic relations with Finland
- 1943 - Partisan Tito forms temporary government in Jajce, Bosnia
- 1943 - U-86 sinks in Atlantic Ocean
- 1943 - US aircraft carrier Hornet launched
- 1944 - Albania liberated from Nazi control (National Day)
- 1944 - The first surgery (on a human) to correct blue baby syndrome is performed by Alfred Blalock and Vivien Thomas.
- 1945 - Yugoslavian Socialist Republic proclaimed
- 1947 - UN Gen Assembly partitions Palestine between Arabs & Jews.
- 1952 - US President-elect Eisenhower visits Korea to assess war.
- 1962 - Great Britain & France decide to jointly build Concord(e).
- 1963 - Trans-Canada Airlines Flight 831: A Douglas DC-8 carrying 118, crashes after taking-off from Dorval Airport near Montreal, Canada.
- 1967 - British troops withdraw from Aden and South Yemen.
- 1978 - UN observes "international day of solidarity with Palestinian people," boycotted by US & about 20 other countries.
- 1989 - India Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi resigns
- 1990 - UN Security Council approves US-sponsored resolution authorizing the use of force in the Persian Gulf if Iraq does not withdrawal from Kuwait by Jan. 15, 1991.
- 1995 - US President Bill Clinton lifts ban on exports of oil from the Alaskan North Slope; the ban was imposed after the oil embargo by Arab oil producers in 1973.
- 1997 - OPEC agrees to an increase in its production ceiling. OPEC has raised the ceiling to 27.5 million barrels per day for the first half of
- 1998. 2001 - UN Security Council unanimously approves a resolution extending
- 2012- 30 people are killed and 100 are wounded by bombs in Hillah and Karbala, Iraq
- 2012- The UN votes to approve Palestine's status change from an observer to an observer state
- 2015 -104th Davis Cup: Great Britain beats Belgium in Ghent 6-3, 7-5, 6-3, 1st win since 1936
- 2015- British Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton finishes 2nd in season-ending Abu Dhabi F1 Grand Prix to win his 3rd overall, and 2nd consecutive

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KO VIEW

Kashmir Walks
to Witness

The glaciers are slipping away without a goodbye. People in Kashmir chase them with water bottles and trekking poles.

Three years ago, the valley worried about lockdowns. Today, it worries about melting ice.

Scientists at Kashmir University say some glaciers in the Pir Panjal have lost a quarter of their ice since the nineties. Apple farmers say it in their own way: seasons no longer stay, they just pass through.

Spring comes early, flowers too soon, and leaves before anyone settles in. Snow is lighter, rivers shrink and then suddenly swell.

The first answer has been simple. More people are stepping out.

Sunrise hikes fill up on WhatsApp statuses. Local trekking groups have doubled in five years. On many trails, Kashmiri voices now outnumber visitors from the plains. Families who once spent evenings in cafés now stand in line outside Dachigam at dusk, hoping their children see a hangul deer before it turns into a bedtime tale.

This is not a pastime. It feels like a rescue mission in sneakers. School clubs use free apps to count birds at wetlands because official lists fall behind. Volunteers carry sacks of trash out of tourist places, so next year’s view stays clean. Guides who lost their income during recent tourism slowdowns are working again, but every trek begins with a short climate briefing instead of a tea break.

The witnesses are everywhere. An elder in Gurez keeps an old slide from the eighties that shows rooftops buried in snow. Today, those roofs stay bare through March. A trout farmer on the Lidder tests the water with his wrist and lets out a tired breath. Houseboat owners on Dal Lake track the shrinking shoreline with the care of someone watching their own hairline fade.

Each lost centimeter brings another silent conversation. Kashmir has no seat at global climate tables, so it holds its own meetings on the mountains. Every hike becomes a roll call of glacier, river, deer and bird. The mountains still answer.

The people record what they can with notes, photos and trash bags. They cannot stop the melt, but they can look it in the face and say, “We saw you. We still care.”

It is a small gesture. It is also a firm refusal to let disappearance pass without witness.

Winter’s Unwanted
Report Card

Three months of closed schools, rising tuition and slipping mental health have pushed families to the edge. Community study circles and voice note lessons are trying to turn a hard season into a small win for resilience.

Mohammad Hanief

Every year, as Chinar leaves turn gold and drift to the ground, Kashmir braces for months of cold and stillness.

Winter does not arrive gently. It presses down with snow, frost, and long nights. Roads vanish under ice, rooftops sag with snow, and life slows to the pace the weather dictates.

For children, however, the world does not stop. Education continues, sometimes in unusual ways, often in difficult conditions.

Winter vacations in Kashmir stretch for weeks. Schools close to protect students from freezing classrooms, slippery roads, and unreliable transport. These breaks are necessary, but they disrupt learning.

Young children can lose touch with lessons, struggling to regain focus when classes resume. Students in remote villages face even greater challenges, with few opportunities for tutoring or enrichment.

The gap between city and countryside widens each winter.

Snow can block roads for days, isolating entire neighbourhoods. In mountainous areas like Gurez, Karnah, and parts of South Kashmir, reaching school in deep winter can be impossible. Even in Srinagar, icy streets and sub-zero temperatures make daily travel unsafe.

Inside homes, families use bukharis and kangris to stay warm, but heating and lighting remain inconsistent. Electricity often fails during storms. Children sit in dim rooms, bundled in sweaters, trying to study as the wind howls outside. Under such conditions, learning is a struggle.

Digital tools offer some relief. WhatsApp groups, recorded lessons, and online worksheets have become part of winter routines in many schools. Teachers share videos and assignments to keep children academically connected.

These solutions cannot replace classrooms, and they are far from universal.

Many families have only one smartphone for multiple children. Internet connections falter in snowfall, and data costs can be high.

Still, for many, digital learning



Winter education in Kashmir is about resilience as much as academics. Parents create warm spaces and encourage discipline. Teachers innovate despite limited resources. Communities step up to support children. In return, children learn curiosity, patience, and adaptability.

is the only link to education when the snow keeps students indoors.

Communities have stepped in where infrastructure falls short. Volunteers organize small study circles in insulated rooms or community halls. Heated by bukharis, these spaces allow children to revise lessons, interact with peers, and receive guidance from older students or local educators.

They do not replace formal schools, but bring warmth, routine, and encouragement, things that winter can easily take away.

Parents often say these initiatives help children avoid the lethargy and boredom that long, dark winters bring.

Winter also affects emotional well-being. Children confined indoors for long periods become restless. Reduced playtime, short daylight hours, and fewer social interactions lead to boredom, irritability, and low motivation.

Experts stress the importance of structured routines that include creative activities, indoor games,

storytelling, and family engagement. These practices support mental health while reinforcing learning habits.

Another challenge shadows winter education: the rising cost of private schooling.

Over the years, private schools have multiplied across the valley, filling gaps in infrastructure and teaching quality in government institutions. This growth has created a near-monopoly in many areas.

Tuition, transport, and annual fees rise every year. Many parents continue paying full fees even when buses do not run or classrooms stay closed for weeks. Uniforms and books, often available only from designated vendors, add to the burden.

For families already spending on heating, winter clothing, and healthcare, the costs are steep.

Rising fees force households to compromise in other areas or consider shifting children to less expensive schools. Such decisions cause stress for parents and chil-

dren alike.

Parents’ associations and civil society groups have called for stricter regulation of fees and greater transparency from private schools. They argue that affordability is as critical as quality, especially in a region where harsh winters limit access to education.

The government has tried to ease winter challenges. Additional worksheets, tutorials for board students, and encouragement of digital platforms provide some support.

Still, the fee issue remains largely unresolved. Balancing financial expectations with the realities of families is crucial to prevent winter from turning into a season of lost learning.

Winter in Kashmir also presents unique educational opportunities. The season connects children to cultural and natural life. Families gather around bukharis as elders share stories, teaching history, values, and tradition. Snow inspires curiosity about science, geography, and the environment. Long evenings provide time for reading, creative pursuits, or practical skills.

For children, every household chore, snowfall, and family discussion can be a lesson.

Winter education in Kashmir is about resilience as much as academics. Parents create warm spaces and encourage discipline. Teachers innovate despite limited resources. Communities step up to support children. In return, children learn curiosity, patience, and adaptability.

As each winter arrives, the valley faces the same challenges: closed schools, rising fees, digital gaps, and harsh weather.

The response must combine fairness, innovation, and care.

Strengthening infrastructure, regulating fees, improving digital access, and supporting emotional well-being are essential.

When families, schools, and communities work together, learning can continue even when snow silences the valley.

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

I grew up hearing Kashmir called “Paradise on Earth.” Mountains rise like white crowns, glaciers melt into rivers that rush past villages, forests stretch as far as the eye can see, and the Hangul moves silently through the trees.

These images shaped my idea of home. They were a promise of peace, a reflection of something eternal, something sacred that belonged to all of us.

But every day, on my way home from school, I see my homeland change. Trees that once shaded narrow streets shrink under pollution. Water bodies that once sparkled carry a bitter taste. Stray animals roam sick and hungry. Faces around me look tired, hearts heavy.

We argue over whose fault it is, but the truth is simple. We all share this responsibility.

We are the valley’s guardians. We have watched it slip away and allowed it.

The forces shaping this loss are many, but one stands above the rest: influence.

Western culture pulls at us, soft but persistent. Its clothes, language, and way of life tempt us to believe that belonging lies far from our mountains.

We take on their style, phrases, and ideals. Slowly, we lose pieces of ourselves.

The Kashmir that shaped us feels distant.

When I walk the streets of Srinagar or follow narrow paths through villages, I wonder who we are becoming. Can we call ourselves Kashmiris if we forget the songs, the stories, and the festivals that shaped centuries?

If we cannot speak Koshur fluently, if we cannot thread silk into a pheran with care, if we cannot honour Khandar or Kan Chhamun the way our grandparents did, what remains of us?

Beyond traditions, they are threads connecting us to the land, history, and each other.

Westernization has entered our lives without force. We embrace it willingly, reshaping our towns and values to mirror faraway places. Cafes replace teahouses. Global brands replace local artisans. Young people dream of elsewhere while the mountains fade from their imagination.

We risk turning our homeland into a shadow of a place we have never known.

Our culture is alive in our speech, festivals, crafts, and the way we care for the land and each other. Koshur carries history. Papier-mâché, carpet weaving,

Kashmir Through a
17-Year-Old’s Eyes

Between school bells, poplar stumps, and a greying river, a young Kashmiri girl decides what she refuses to forget.

Aana Shabir Gojwari



and pashmina embroidery carry centuries of skill and memory. Our songs and stories are alive wherever we choose to remember them.

By embracing them, by standing proudly as Kash-

miris, we keep the essence of this valley alive.

Kashmir teaches patience and resilience. Rivers carve stone over centuries. Glaciers survive harsh winters. Forests shelter life unseen. If we learn from this,

Kashmir is a living inheritance. We must remember it, speak it, celebrate it, and protect it. Otherwise, the paradise I grew up believing in will vanish.

we can slow the loss of our identity.

Protecting the land, speaking our language, celebrating our traditions, and teaching children the value of this inheritance is survival instead of nostalgia.

Kashmir is a living inheritance. We must remember it, speak it, celebrate it, and protect it.

Our identity is measured by what we keep alive here at home.

To belong to Kashmir is to carry its stories, language, mountains and rivers in our hearts, and to act in ways that allow the next generation to inherit the spirit of the people who called it paradise first.

The author is in Class 11 at Presentation Convent School, Srinagar.

Reading Patel Through a Kashmiri Lens

A new book takes a fresh look at India's first home minister and his role in Kashmir, raising clear questions, sharing new details and speaking from lived experience.

Khawaja Farooq Renzu Shah

Prof. Saif-ud-Din Soz's *Sardar Patel Aur Kashmir* enters the conversation like a patient guide opening old files and asking us to read them again.

The book works as a historical study and a personal reflection, and its mix of both gives it weight.

It circles around a question that hovers over every political debate in the valley: how did the early choices of 1947 and 1948 set the tone for the decades that followed?

The review grows out of a long interaction I had with Prof. Soz at the Kashmir Society International before the book's release. He walked through his claims with care and confidence, and those conversations shape the way the book lands on the page.

One of the strongest sections explores Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's position on Kashmir during the early months of independence.

Prof. Soz argues that Patel showed a willingness, in the early phase, to let Kashmir accede to Pakistan. He ties this to the correspondence of that period and the shifting political mood. He also stresses that Patel pushed for continued military action on the Doemal and Uri fronts and disagreed with the ceasefire timing.

According to him, the halt in operations opened the door to the division that still defines the valley's reality.

The portrait he draws is steady and measured. Patel appears as a statesman shaped by the turbulence of his time.

The book invites readers to hold two ideas together: Patel could show flexibility on accession and at the same moment resist conces-



sions on military ground.

The friction between these ideas turns the chapter into one of the most absorbing parts of the book.

Prof. Soz's experience as a former Union Minister for Water Resources brings another dimension to the narrative.

His discussion on the Indus Water Treaty goes beyond the common nationalist frames that dominate television panels. He places Kashmir at the centre of the river system and reminds readers that these

waters support communities across borders.

His account of taking Pakistan's senior water officials to the Tulbul Navigation Project in Sopore during his tenure adds a rare field-level detail. It shows how technical dialogue can open doors even in times of political strain.

He makes a simple case: Kashmir's development plans need space, and the treaty's obligations toward Pakistan also stand on firm ground.

The two can coexist when handled with clarity.

The book also enters the charged political theatre of the late 1990s.

When Prof. Soz describes the vote of confidence in 1999, the tone shifts into something closer to confession. He recalls the moment he cast the deciding vote that toppled the Vajpayee government. He separates his view of Vajpayee as a person from the larger ideological space around the government and holds his ground on why he acted as he did.

His reflections on Farooq Abdullah's political choices in that period add a layer of insight for readers trying to understand how Delhi and Srinagar shaped each other during that decade.

Historical voices from Kashmir receive thoughtful attention as well.

The chapters on Moulana Masoodi and early parliamentary representation walk through a Kashmir that rarely appears in mainstream narratives. The descriptions capture the texture of a region negotiating its identity inside a new republic. They also show how personal relationships and local pressures influenced decisions that continue to carry consequences.

The launch of the book at Delhi Public School in Humhama created its own story. Scholars, writers and public figures filled the hall, and the setting near Nowgam added a sense of place that matched the tone of the book.

For the Kashmir Society International, which has worked on de-radicalisation, national cohesion, Tasawuf-oriented peace work and inter-faith dialogue since 1995, the

IN THE END, SARDAR PATEL AUR KASHMIR READS LIKE AN INVITATION. It asks readers to enter old debates without fear and to see history as a space that can still teach us something. The arguments may push some readers into disagreement, though the book encourages that kind of engagement.

book fits into a broader effort to build informed conversation in the valley.

In the end, *Sardar Patel Aur Kashmir* reads like an invitation.

It asks readers to enter old debates without fear and to see history as a space that can still teach us something.

The arguments may push some readers into disagreement, though the book encourages that kind of engagement.

It stands as a serious contribution to the study of Kashmir and speaks to anyone trying to understand how political decisions taken generations ago continue to move through daily life in the valley.

Prof. Soz offers a perspective shaped by scholarship and lived experience, and the mix makes this book hard to ignore.

— The author is a prominent socio-political figure who has held several key positions in Jammu and Kashmir's administration.

THE BOOK STANDS AS A SERIOUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE STUDY OF KASHMIR and speaks to anyone trying to understand how political decisions taken generations ago continue to move through daily life in the valley.

The Earbud Economist of Downtown Kashmir

How a Kashmiri engineer traded classroom ridicule for corporate clients and wired the refund straight back to Srinagar's unemployed.

Gowher Bhat

Ubaid Manzoor's earliest memory of public speech is the sound of his pulse.

The microphone in the school courtyard waited thirty seconds while the twelve-year-old tried to push air past his teeth.

A teacher finally shattered the silence, "Louder, boy, this is not a funeral," and the courtyard obeyed: boys clucked, girls giggled, and the day moved on.

Ubaid's cheeks burned so hard he tasted iron. That taste became a calendar.

For the next decade, every morning assembly, shop-counter transaction, or ticket-window query carried the threat of similar fire.

His father, Manzoor Ahmad, carried rebar instead of opinions.

Each dawn, he walked to the Lal Chowk construction circle, waited for a contractor to point, then lifted fifty-kilo cement sacks until his palms split.

Evening wages, never more than ₹450, were handed to his wife, Naseema, who stretched them across three children and rent for two rooms overlooking the Jhelum.

"Bas dua karo, humara Ubaid kuch ban jaye," he repeated, as if naming the wish made it negotiable with God.

What Ubaid became, first, was invisible.

He discovered that if he arrived last to class and left first, teachers forgot to call on him. He trained his bladder to survive eight-hour school days without a toilet break. The laboratory smelled of cigarettes and interrogation. Report cards labelled him "disinterested," the administrative shorthand for any child who refuses the performance of learning.

Inside the house, he read torn chemistry hand-me-downs by candlelight during curfews, because textbooks, unlike people,

did not shout.

The pivot arrived in the shape of a second-hand C primer displayed on a Residency Road footpath.

The vendor wanted ₹120, Ubaid bargained by silence until the price fell to 80.

He carried the book home wrapped in newspaper, fed himself loops and variables, and felt the first non-medical slowing of his heart rate.

Code compiled or it did not, the machine never laughed.

By tenth grade, the downtown boy was writing fibonacci sequences on the back of political flyers that shutdown enforcers had pasted over his lane's walls.

Money remained a war conducted in whispers. The family sold a gold earring, then a copper samovar. Naseema stitched pherans through winters that reached minus five, her thimble clicking like a metronome of debt.

Together, they financed a polytechnic entrance coaching class in Jawahar Nagar. Ubaid sat in the last row, answered in murmurs, and still scored rank 14 in the state entrance.

In 2017, he entered the Government Engineering College in Sopore carrying a plastic bag and a second-hand Dell that his uncle shipped from Delhi.

Four years later, he walked out with a B.Tech in Computer Science and a single job offer from a Bengaluru analytics firm that builds face-recognition models for retail chains.

The salary, ₹6.2 lakh a year, was 1,377 daily-wage days of his father's life.

Kashmiris call the flight out of Sheikh ul-Alam airport "the descent into heat." Ubaid landed in June, throat drying before the seat-belt sign blinked off.

The company assigned him to a shared flat in HSR Layout and a manager who spoke in bullet points. On the first morning



THE CITY HUMS BEYOND HIS WINDOW, BUT HIS EARS ARE FULL OF VALLEY WIND. Somewhere in Srinagar, a father locks the gate, a mother switches off the kitchen light, and a shy child stares at a ceiling fan willing tomorrow to be kinder.

stand-up, he was asked to "give a quick intro." The old storm returned: tongue thick, vision tunnelled, and sweat pooling under the company lanyard.

He excused himself mid-sentence, locked the restroom door and stared at the stranger in the mirror. "This ends here," he said aloud, surprising himself with volume.

What followed was not miracles but calendar entries.

Toastmasters on Wednesdays, YouTube voice coaches at 1 am, and bug-report presentations nobody else wanted.

Each time, the panic rose he greeted it like a neighbour: acknowledged, then asked to wait outside.

Six quarters later, he led a client pitch to a Singapore retailer. After the applause, he emailed his parents a photo of the skyline taken from the 23rd floor. His mother replied with a voice note: "Humara Ubaid, yeh sab?"

Her disbelief cracked through the speaker like applause.

Success travels lighter when you wire remittance home. Ubaid cleared the family's oldest debt, ₹1.8 lakh, to a neigh-

bourhood moneylender who had stopped charging interest but never stopped asking.

He even replaced the tin roof with cement sheets, bought his father a winter jacket priced at three months' wages, and flew the entire family to Bengaluru last December.

They ate biryani on a rooftop while the metro rattled past like punctuation. His younger brother, Umar, whispered, "I want to build code like you."

Ubaid pretended the steam in his eyes came from raita. Word moves faster than

flights. Boys from the mohalla began texting: "Bhai, any vacancy for tenth pass?"

He created a WhatsApp group titled "Koshur Coder Bridge," posted interview questions at dawn, reviewed CVs after office.

Sameer Sultan, 22, unemployed for three years, joined the drills, learned to explain a pivot table without trembling, landed a barista job that pays ₹17,000 and sends ₹10,000 home.

"Earlier I felt weight on my chest every time mother asked for groceries," Sameer says. "Now I swipe my own card."

Altat Mir, who runs an electronics repair shop opposite Ubaid's childhood lane, keeps a printed selfie with the boy who once bought torch batteries. "Children come to recharge phones and stare at that photo," Altat laughs. "I tell them, same lanes, same dust, different des-

tination."

Ubaid visits Srinagar twice a year, timing trips with recruitment drives. Last October, he stood in the same courtyard where silence once owned him. The principal invited him to address morning assembly. He spoke for twenty minutes without notes, voice steady, Kashmir sunlight glinting off the microphone.

When he finished, a girl in eighth grade raised her hand. "I stammer too," she said. "Will they laugh forever?"

Ubaid told her the truth: "Maybe once, maybe twice. Not forever. Make your skill louder."

He still rehearses presentations aloud at 2 am, still feels a flutter before slide one. The difference is location: fear now sits in the passenger seat.

His next plan is a free six-week boot camp in Srinagar next summer: spoken English, Excel, GitHub, and the art of holding eye contact.

He has already crowdfunded ₹7 lakh, mostly from Kashmiri professionals outside the valley who remember their own first trembling flights.

Tonight, over Zoom, he listens to a 19-year-old from Anantnag practise the sentence, "My name is Inayat and I can solve problems." Ubaid corrects the stress on solve, watches the boy repeat it until confidence replaces rehearsal.

The city hums beyond his window, but his ears are full of valley wind. Somewhere in Srinagar, a father locks the gate, a mother switches off the kitchen light, and a shy child stares at a ceiling fan willing tomorrow to be kinder.

Ubaid keeps talking, because he knows voices can travel faster than fear, and some sentences build bridges stronger than concrete.

— The author is a Pulwama-based educator and writer.

Will Pause Migration from All ‘Third World’ Countries: Trump

Press Trust Of India

New York: US President Donald Trump on Friday said he will "permanently pause" migration from all "third world" countries and deport foreign nationals who are a "security risk" as his administration intensified crackdown on immigration in the wake of the killing of a National Guard member by an Afghan national.

The Trump administration said it will conduct a "rigorous" re-examination of all Green Cards issued to immigrants from "every country of concern".

The new guidance came in the wake of the tragic shooting of US Army Specialist Sarah Beckstrom, 20, and US Air Force

Staff Sgt. Andrew Wolfe, 24 by Afghan national Rahmanullah Lakanwal.

"Even as we have progressed technologically, Immigration Policy has eroded those gains and living conditions for many. I will permanently pause migration from all Third World Countries to allow the US system to fully recover, terminate all of the millions of Biden illegal admissions, including those signed by Sleepy Joe Biden's Autopen, and remove anyone who is not a net asset to the United States, or is incapable of loving our Country," Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

He said he would end all federal benefits and subsidies to noncitizens in the country,

"denaturalize migrants who undermine domestic tranquility, and deport any Foreign National who is a public charge, security risk, or non-compatible with Western Civilization".

Trump asserted that these goals will be pursued with the "aim of achieving a major reduction in illegal and disruptive populations, including those admitted through an unauthorised and illegal Autopen approval process".

"Only REVERSE MIGRATION can fully cure this situation. Other than that, HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL, except those that hate, steal, murder, and destroy everything that America stands for — You won't be here for long!" he said.

Trump announced on Thursday during a call with service members on Thanksgiving that Beckstrom had died of her injuries. Wolfe remained in critical condition.

Lakanwal, 29, had arrived in the US through a Biden-era immigration programme called 'Operation Allies Welcome' for Afghan nationals fleeing their country after the August 2021 Taliban takeover.

In another post, Trump lashed out at those who he said have allowed the country to be impacted by immigration policies.

"A very Happy Thanksgiving salutation to all of our Great American Citizens and Patriots who have been so nice in allowing our Country to be divided,

disrupted, carved up, murdered, beaten, mugged, and laughed at, along with certain other foolish countries throughout the World, for being "Politically Correct," and just plain STUPID, when it comes to Immigration."

Trump said the official United States foreign population stands at "53 million people, most of which are on welfare, from failed nations, or from prisons, mental institutions, gangs, or drug cartels".

"They and their children are supported through massive payments from Patriotic American Citizens who, because of their beautiful hearts, do not want to openly complain or cause trouble in any way, shape, or form. They put up with what has

happened to our Country, but it's eating them alive to do so!"

He said a migrant earning USD 30,000 with a Green Card will get roughly USD 50,000 in yearly benefits for their family.

"The real migrant population is much higher. This refugee burden is the leading cause of social dysfunction in America, something that did not exist after World War II (Failed schools, high crime, urban decay, overcrowded hospitals, housing shortages, and large deficits, etc.)."

He also said that hundreds of thousands of refugees from Somalia are "completely taking over" the state of Minnesota.

Trump also slammed Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, saying she is "always wrapped

in her swaddling hijab, and who probably came into the USA illegally in that you are not allowed to marry your brother, does nothing but hatefully complain about our Country, its Constitution, and how 'badly' she is treated".

Trump also posted a photo of hundreds of Afghan nationals huddled in an American military plane and brought to the US under the Biden administration in the wake of Taliban takeover in 2021.

"This is part of the horrendous airlift from Afghanistan. Hundreds of thousands of people poured into our Country totally unvetted and unchecked. We will fix it, but will never forget what Crooked Joe Biden and his Thugs did to our Country!"

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

LG: Writers Must

social transformation," the LG said.

He also highlighted several initiatives taken by the UT administration, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to revive the literary tradition and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. "The last five years have been decisive for the Union Territory. We have diligently strived to provide a safe and culturally rich environment for the new generation," he said.

The event featured a poem recital by Dr Kumar Vishwas, which remained the highlight of the evening. Poetry sessions by Sudeep Bhola, Ramesh Muskan, Padmini Sharma and Kushal Kushendra were also part of the programme.

The event was attended by senior officials, literary personalities, prominent citizens and a large number of youth.

'Return Law

adding that "if we fail, then revoke statehood."

Omar said he still believes the Centre will eventually fulfil its commitment on restoring statehood. "I believe the Central government is not so much of a liar that it will betray the promise made in Parliament. Or else, it should say clearly that it is punishing the people of Jammu and Kashmir for not allowing the BJP to form a government here. If that is the case, we will bear it," he added.

The ruling National Conference on Friday passed a series of resolutions at the end of its two day Working Committee meeting, reiterating its "unwavering commitment" to the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and demanding immediate return of statehood.

According to the party, restoring Article 370 safeguards remains central to "the aspirations and dignity" of the people. "The Working Committee unanimously reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status. The issue must be addressed without further delay," the first of the seven resolutions stated. The NC added that it will continue its fight for full constitutional restoration.

Condemnation of Recent Attacks

The Working Committee condemned the November 10 Delhi terror attack that left at least fifteen people dead and several others injured. It expressed condolences to the families and said such acts must be dealt with firmly.

The party also voiced concern over the accidental blast inside Nowgam police station on November 14, which claimed at least nine lives. It said the incident should be investigated at the highest level and responsibility fixed for any lapse in procedure.

Concern Over Harassment of Kashmiris

The NC expressed serious concern over reports of harassment faced by students, traders and residents of Jammu and Kashmir in different parts of the country following recent incidents. It added that the safety of people from the region must be ensured and noted that "not every Kashmiri is a terrorist or a supporter of terror."

'Reservation Rationalisation in the Next Cabinet Meet'

Omar Abdullah announced that the cabinet would address the issue of rationalising job reservations in its next meeting.

However, he did not provide details regarding the date of the meeting.

"A cabinet meeting will be held. We were constrained by the fact that I did not want anybody to sabotage this by going to the Election Commission because of the (model) code of conduct. Now that the code of conduct is over, the elections are over, the concerned minister will present the memo in the next cabinet meeting, and we will discuss it then," Omar told reporters.

NC Working Committee

meeting in Srinagar, Ruhullah was in Ganderbal interacting with farmers in Tulmulla, listening to their concerns and discussing challenges in the agricultural sector. The MP also visited the family of a young man from Kangan who had died in the Red Fort blast incident in New Delhi, to offer condolences.

Earlier, Aga Ruhullah had made it clear that he had not been invited to the Working Committee meeting and was not even informed about it.

Ruhullah said he had not been invited to the meeting despite being a permanent member of the Working Committee. "Since 2002, this is the first time I did not receive an invitation. My only disagreement with the party is that we must work on the political agenda on which we sought votes in 2024, especially the fight for the return of protections under Article 370," he said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Friday that the panel is reserved for leaders who

adhere strictly to party discipline.

Addressing a press conference after the culmination of the National Conference's two-day Working Committee meeting, Omar said that the party's Working Committee is meant only for those who understand the discipline of the organisation and do not try to communicate with the party through the media.

This is the party's Working Committee, the highest decision making body. The current political situation was discussed and MLAs shared their feedback. Wherever shortcomings came up, the organisation will take corrective steps in the coming days," Omar said.

"This committee is for those who understand party discipline and do not prefer to speak to the leadership through the media. Everyone present knows how to talk to the leadership within that discipline. I am surprised you are more concerned about one person than the promises we have made for the next five years. Judge our performance when our term ends," he added.

He said that the panel discussed the current political situation, received feedback from MLAs and office bearers, and reviewed the party's performance in several constituencies, including Budgam and Nagrota.

Omar said the Working Committee offered valuable advice, and he assured that all suggestions received from organisational leaders and legislators will be taken into consideration.

Omar also said several key institutions and departments that should be under the control of the elected government continue to remain outside its domain. He cited examples including Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Islamic University of Science & Technology, Cultural Academy, the Power Development Corporation, and the Directorate of Information.

He said many positions in these bodies are still being controlled through arrangements that bypass the elected government. "Director Information is a cadre post for a JKAS officer. What is the compulsion that IAS officers are repeatedly appointed?" he asked.

Omar also said that while two steps of the process promised by the Union Government, delimitation and elections have been completed, the third step of restoring statehood continues to be delayed.

He said the promise of statehood was not made only to the people of Jammu and Kashmir but to the entire country and even recorded before the Supreme Court. "Why delay the third step?" he asked.

Reiterating the party's commitment to constitutional and administrative rights, Omar said the NC will continue to push for decisions that strengthen democratic institutions and restore powers to elected representatives.

200 Free Power Units

unable to fulfil this promise because the percentage of metered households is below 50 percent.

The Chief Minister also addressed long-pending issues of daily wagers, saying the previous governments had ignored them for years.

"Daily wagers were neglected for decades. We have started fixing these issues systematically," he said.

New India Won't

Minister added that India understands both how to establish peace and how to protect it.

PM Modi also urged citizens to follow nine resolutions inspired by dharmic principles including conserving water, planting trees, uplifting the poor, promoting Swadeshi, advancing natural farming, embracing healthy lifestyles, practicing yoga, preserving manuscripts, and visiting at least 25 heritage sites.

He noted that these efforts reflect both spiritual discipline and practical measures for sustainable development, public welfare, and heritage preservation.

PM Modi also called on citizens to fulfill their duties toward society and the nation, underlining that combining spiritual wisdom with civic responsibility ensures collective progress.

He described this alignment of devotion, knowledge, and service as central to building a developed India and strengthening the role of communities in achieving sustainable growth by 2047.

JKBOSE Plans

levels.

The official said that the proposal is aimed to reduce the stress among those students who do not wish to continue mathematics at senior secondary level.

"The idea behind introducing the two levels or two Question papers of varied difficulty is that the students who do not study Mathematics after Class 10th need not to be tested for the standard skills," the official said.

In the meantime, Director Academics of JKBOSE in a notification seeking public opinion has said that as per the Guidelines of National Education Policy 2020, JKBOSE intends to

implement a mechanism for offering two level Mathematics 'Basic and Standard' for class 10th.

"The move is aimed at making board exams less stressful and to optimize the assessment as per the future endemic interest for the students desirous to pursue mathematics at higher secondary level," it reads.

The proposed roadmap for implementation of the scheme states that there shall be a single examination comprising two levels of mathematics that is 'Mathematics Basic and Mathematics Standard'.

"The students shall have an option to choose any one level. The difficulty level of the Mathematics-Standard exam shall be the same as the existing exam and the Mathematics-Basic Question paper will be easier in comparison," it reads.

It also said that the standard level will be meant for students, who wish to opt for Mathematics at Senior Secondary Level and the Basic Level would be for students not keen to pursue Mathematics at Higher Secondary level.

"The syllabus, classroom teaching and internal assessment methods for both the levels will remain the same to allow students to study a range of topics and then decide upon the level for which they wish to appear during the board examination," it reads.

JKBOSE notification further said that the students, who opt for Mathematics-standard and fail in the exam will be allowed to appear in the Bi-Annual Exam for Mathematics-Basic or Mathematics Standard.

"In case a student opts for Mathematics-Basic and passes in the exam but changes their mind later and wishes to pursue Mathematics at Higher Level, they will be allowed to appear for Mathematics-Standard Compartment Exam," it reads.

JKBOSE said that in order to generate informed opinion regarding the implementation of the scheme, all stakeholders including civil society, academicians, parents, scholars, students are requested to send their views within ten days from the issue of this notification. (KNO)

No Need To

his foreign travel, is contrary to the legal position," the bench said.

The court noted that although the NOC is issued in favour of Pahalwan was set to expire in February 2026, he nevertheless retains the fundamental right to hold a valid passport. Accordingly, it held that he is entitled to have his passport renewed, especially as its expiry date is nearing.

"Of course, the passport can be issued in favour of the petitioner (Pahalwan) only in accordance with the rules governing the field and it can even be refused to him if necessary NOC is not issued by the court before which he is facing trial in a criminal offence," the court said, adding, "However, a criminal court while considering an application for grant of NOC has only to advert itself to the question as to whether the accused, if allowed to travel abroad, would be available to face the trial." No other factor should influence the decision of the criminal court while considering an application for grant of NOC in favour of an accused who intends to obtain a passport/travel document, the court added.

Kashmir Records

Kupwara followed a similar trend, recording minus 4.8°C - its lowest November temperature since November 29, 2007, when minus 5.5°C was reported.

The cold wave extended across the Valley as almost all stations reported sub zero temperatures. Anantnag and Pulwama recorded minus 6.2°C, Pampore touched minus 6.0°C, while Shopian remained the coldest at minus 6.7°C. Zojila Pass was the coldest point in the region at minus 16.0°C.

Gulmarg stood at minus 1.4°C, while Srinagar Airport dropped to minus 6.4°C.

In Jammu, temperatures also fell though less sharply. Jammu city recorded 9.4°C, Banihal minus 1.5°C, Baderwah minus 0.5°C, Rajouri 1.4°C and Udhampur 3.6°C.

Ladakh continued to reel under intense cold. Kargil touched minus 9.6°C, Leh minus 8.6°C and Nubra minus 8.3°C.

The Meteorological Department said the region is expected to witness generally dry weather till December 1. Skies may turn cloudy on December 2, followed by mostly dry conditions on December 3 and 4. Cloudy weather is likely again on December 5, with dry conditions forecast from December 6 to 10.

Hindu Family

to rubble by JDA bulldozers, escorted by heavy police deployment, with no apparent notice served beforehand. The demolition left the journalist's family—including elderly members—homeless overnight.

The gesture quickly went viral, prompting an outpouring of appreciation from citizens across the region who described it as a "restoration of faith in humanity" at a time when polarising narratives dominate public discourse.

Political leaders, social activists, and journalists visited the razed site over the past 24 hours, with many calling the demolition 'selective' and demanding accountability. Congress leader Raman Bhalla termed the action "wrong and unjustified", while a PDP delegation led by Varinder Singh Sonu questioned why modest homes were targeted while "larger encroachments remained untouched".

Even senior BJP leader and former state president Ravinder Raina expressed pain at the demolition, clarifying that the Lieutenant Governor had not issued any demolition order and promising assistance to the affected family.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah called it a conspiracy to defame the elected government and blamed officials for conducting demolitions without any approvals. "No one supports encroachment on government land. But there cannot be a pick-and-choose approach by the JDA. I see a clear design to defame and discredit the elected government," the Chief Minister said.

Arfaz, still visibly shaken, said his family had lived on the land for four decades and insisted no notice was issued before the bulldozers arrived. Local residents supported his claim, alleging that several homes were removed without warning.

Daing told reporters that the now-demolished house was built 40 years ago and was owned by his father. He moved into the house after his own residence was demolished last year.

In 2022, Daing, who runs a news portal in Jammu, was arrested by the police for reporting on protests against a demolition drive in the town.

Meanwhile, an online crowdfunding campaign has been launched to help rebuild the journalist's new home on the gifted plot. Donations and solidarity messages have poured in from across the country.

The JDA has maintained that the demolition was part of a larger anti-encroachment drive, pointing to official data showing over 16,000 kanals of its land under encroachment in Jammu.

But amid the turmoil, it is the extraordinary gesture of a Hindu family to their Muslim neighbour that has captured the public imagination—an act of compassion that many say represents the real soul of Jammu & Kashmir.

HC Rules Cross

Territory) and, therefore, the cross-LoC trade affected by the petitioners during the tax period in question was nothing but an intra-state trade," a bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Sanjay Parihar said.

Counsel for the petitioners submitted that the trade from Islamabad-Uri and from Rawalakot (PoK) to Chakkan-da-Bagh (Poonch) as mutually agreed by India and Pakistan, was a barter trade and there was no exchange of currency.

The petitioners contended that they had treated cross-LoC trade as a zero-rated sale attracting no sales tax. Consequently, they neither reported these transactions in their returns nor paid any tax on them. This, they submitted, pertained to the financial years 2017–2018 and 2018–2019.

The authorities, having received information from the Office of DGGI, JRU, Jammu, initiated investigations against the petitioners to probe as to whether they had paid GST on their outward supply of goods to PoK during cross-LoC trade and also on the inward supplies received from PoK upto 12th October, 2017.

Subsequently, Superintendent, CGST and CX Range Srinagar, called for trade-wise, item-wise details of goods traded out and the goods traded-in, in respect of each cross-LoC traders for the period with effect from 8th of July, 2017, to 7th of March, 2019.

Upon collection of the relevant material, the authorities said that it was found that there were huge outward and inward supplies affected by the petitioners and that the GST on such supplies had not been accounted for in the returns filed by them. Accordingly, the show cause notices were served to the petitioners in terms of Section 74(1) of the CGST Act, 2017. The petitioners chose not to reply to the show cause notices and decided to assail the same before the Court under Article 226 of the Constitution of India on the ground that the show cause notice was without jurisdiction and bad in the eyes of law.

"When we examine the show cause notices issued to the petitioners in the instant cases, we find that there is year-wise quantification of the liability and the allegations are prima facie, cogent and detailed one, giving fair opportunity to the assesses to respond and defend

themselves," said the court.

"We have also found that the show cause notices in respect of both the periods, i.e., Financial Years 2017-2018 and Financial Year 2018-2019, are not hit by the limitation prescribed under Section 74(2) read with Section 74(10) of the CGST Act, 2017."

The court observed that it was trite law that "entertainability" and "maintainability" of writ petition under Article 226 of Constitution of India were two different concepts.

"Availability of an alternative remedy does not operate as an absolute bar to the maintainability of a writ petition and the rule which requires a party to pursue the alternative remedy provided by a statute is a rule of policy, convenience and discretion rather than a rule of law," the court said, adding, "Where the controversy is purely a legal one, involving only question of law and where a jurisdictional issue is raised by the assessee, nothing bars this Court to entertain the petition and decide the said questions, the availability of equally efficacious statutory remedy notwithstanding". The availability of alternative remedy under the statute, the court said, cannot operate as a bar to the maintainability of the petition, yet a Constitutional Court may decline to entertain the petition and relegate the justice seeker to the remedy provided under the statute.

"In the face of availability of equally efficacious remedy provided under the statute, we are not inclined to entertain these petitions and rather would relegate the petitioners to the statutory remedies available under the CGST Act of 2017," the court said while dismissing the plea filed by the petitioners.

However the court said that while it was dismissing the petitions either on the ground of being premature or the petitioners have equally efficacious alternative remedy under the statute.

"Where the petitioners have not filed reply to the show cause notices issued to them under Section 74(1) of the CGST Act of 2017, they shall do so within a period of four weeks from today and the proceedings initiated in terms of Section 74(1) shall be taken to logical end by the proper officer within a period of three months after the receipt of reply to the show cause notice, if any," the court said. Where the final order in terms of sub-section (9) of Section 74 confirming the demand has already been passed, the court said, the petitioners shall have three months' time from today to avail the remedy of appeal under Section 107 of the CGST Act of 2017.

Seasonal Orchard

a COPD patient from Shopian, each day has become a battle for breath. "My chest feels tight whenever the smoke enters my home," he said.

"These past weeks have been unbearable. I'm thinking of moving to Jammu until the air improves."

Ganaie is not alone. As temperatures fall, hospitals across the Valley see a rise in patients with COPD, asthma and other chronic respiratory problems — a pattern doctors say is now firmly linked to Kashmir's winter air.

Dr Ghulam Hassan Khan, a specialist in chest diseases, said COPD cases in the region have been rising at an alarming rate. "During winter, a significant share of emergency admissions involves COPD and asthma patients," he said. "Smoking remains the biggest cause, but we're increasingly seeing non-smokers develop the disease as well."

The doctor attributes this shift to worsening air quality. Biomass burning in orchards, charcoal used in kangris, domestic smoke, and emissions from small industrial clusters collectively form a deadly winter mix. "There are days when Kashmir's air quality index is worse than several major metros," he noted.

A 2018 study titled Winter Burst of Pristine Kashmir Valley Air jointly conducted by a team of scientists from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and the University of Kashmir, shows that pollution in Srinagar hits dangerous levels during winter months as the air carries five times more tiny particulate matter (PM2.5) than the permissible limit.

In another study, co-authored by Romshoo, the researchers observed a high PM2.5 and PM10 load during autumn and winter, with major contributions from anthropogenic source emissions that are aggravated by the geomorphic and meteorological set-up of Kashmir valley.

Doctors warn that COPD is irreversible and can only be managed. Patients are advised to stay warm, avoid smoke exposure, maintain hydration and follow regular breathing exercises to prevent flare-ups.

With no alternative disposal system for orchard waste in place, both residents and experts fear that each winter will continue to bring a similar crisis unless a sustainable solution is adopted. (inputs from KNO)

Respiratory Infections Rise as Cold Wave Hits Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With temperatures dipping steadily across Kashmir, doctors are reporting a rise in cases of common cold and upper respiratory tract infections (URTIs).

Health experts warn that the trend is likely to intensify in the coming weeks, especially among vulnerable groups, unless timely precautions are taken.

Dr Abdul Hameed Dar, a chest specialist posted in south Kashmir, told KNO that the cold season creates ideal conditions for various respiratory viruses—such as rhinoviruses, influenza viruses, and certain coronaviruses—to spread more easily.

"Cold and dry air allows these viruses to survive longer in the environment. This makes infections more frequent and more difficult to control," he said.

According to him, young children, the elderly, and individuals with chronic illnesses like asthma, diabetes, or COPD are at the highest risk of complications once infected. The doctor

emphasised the importance of influenza vaccination, especially for high-risk groups.

"Flu vaccines significantly reduce the severity of illness and prevent complications. Pneumococcal vaccines are also advised for people prone to bacterial infections that follow viral episodes," he added.

Dr Mumtaz Mir, another doctor, explained that winter-related behavioural changes also play a major role in the seasonal spike.

He said several key factors are behind the surge as viruses remain stable and infectious for longer durations in cold conditions. "Winter air dries the nasal passages, weakening the mucus barrier that protects against infection," he said. "People spend more time indoors with limited ventilation, increasing the chances of transmission. Devices like kangris create enclosed warm spaces that favour viral spread."

The reduced sunlight leads to Vitamin D deficiency, while cold stress lowers immune response



and the use of wood, coal and traditional bukharis releases smoke and irritants that damage the respiratory tract, the doctor added.

Dr Mumtaz said allergens like dust, smoke and soot become more common in winter homes, aggravating pre-existing respiratory issues and making people more susceptible to infections.

Health experts have advised the public to follow a combination of lifestyle measures, hygiene practices, and medical precautions to control the surge. These measures include influenza vaccine for high-risk groups: elderly, children, pregnant women, and patients with

chronic diseases, pneumococcal vaccine for those vulnerable to secondary bacterial infections, exposure to sunlight whenever possible to boost Vitamin D levels, and a balanced diet rich in seasonal vegetables, fruits, nuts, and warm fluids.

The doctors advised adequate sleep and hydration, improving indoor air quality, ensuring proper ventilation in homes, even during cold weather, avoiding excessive use of smoke-producing heaters; using chimneys and exhausts where possible, keeping indoor spaces clean and dust-free, frequent handwashing with soap and water, avoiding touching the face, especially eyes, nose, and mouth, use masks in crowded indoor places.

They called for seeking timely treatment at the onset of symptoms to prevent complications, avoiding self-medication, especially with antibiotics, keeping children and the elderly warm and away from smoke-filled rooms and monitoring chronic disease patients closely during the winter months.

COLD AND DRY AIR ALLOWS THESE VIRUSES TO SURVIVE LONGER IN THE ENVIRONMENT.

This makes infections more frequent and more difficult to control,"

Doctors reiterated that winter infections, though common, can be controlled significantly through awareness and preventive health practices.

Precautions taken today can prevent severe illness tomorrow. The community must stay alert and adopt a proactive approach throughout the winter season, they said.

KU-SKIMS Joint Initiative Focuses on Early Detection, Management of PCOS

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Clinical Biochemistry, University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with the Department of Endocrinology, SKIMS Srinagar, organised a day-long awareness and consultation programme on "Understanding and Managing PCOS" at the Main Campus.

The initiative aimed to address the growing prevalence of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) among young women in the region by offering scientific awareness, early intervention strategies, and free clinical consultations. A free PCOS consultation camp was also held at the Diagnostic Centre, Department of Clinical Biochemistry, where students and staff received medical assessment and guidance.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said that spreading awareness about women's health concerns is an institutional priority.

"Access to accurate medical guidance empowers young women to make informed health decisions. Universities must create more spaces where students feel supported in managing such conditions," she said.



Director SKIMS, Prof. Ashraf Ganaie, highlighted the importance of strengthening PCOS research and community outreach, noting that people must stay away from misinformation and depend on credible, evidence-based medical advice.

"There is a need to debunk myths and recognise PCOS as a manageable condition. Awareness at the community level is as important as medical treatment," he said, highlighting the role of collaborative academic-medical efforts.

Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, highlighted the significance of regular health counselling sessions on campuses, noting that such initiatives contribute to a healthier academic environment.

Earlier, Head, Department of Clinical Biochemistry KU,

Dr Tanveer Ali Dar, said that the programme was designed to bridge the gap between clinical knowledge and public understanding of PCOS, encouraging early diagnosis and lifestyle-based management.

The event featured expert lectures by Dr. Cimona Lyn Saldanha, Professor & Head, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, SKIMS; Dr. Farah, Associate Professor, Dermatology, SKIMS and Dr. Saleem Baba, DM Endocrinology, SKIMS. They discussed the gynaecological, dermatological, and metabolic dimensions of PCOS, offering practical guidance for students and participants.

The event proceedings were conducted by Dr. Syed Hussain Mir, organiser of the event and faculty at the Department of Clinical Biochemistry.

Road Discipline Key to Winter Management in Jammu: DIG Mughal

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police, Traffic range Jammu, Dr Mohd Haseeb Mughal (IPS) Friday said that the road discipline by commuters and coordination among agencies is the key to better management during winters in the region.

DIG Mughal according to KNO was on a visit to 4th Tawi Bridge near Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu wherein he conducted an on-ground inspection of the traffic flow, following continuous reports of congestion and slow movement of traffic in the areas like Canal Head, Bakshi Nagar and BC Road-Indira Chowk Jammu.

On the occasion, Mughal emphasized that road discipline by commuters and coordination among agencies is the key to better management during winters at Jammu.

DIG Mughal was accompanied by Amit Bhasin-JKPS, SSP Traffic City Jammu, Arvinder Singh Kotwal-JKPS, Addl. SP Traffic City Jammu and Satish Bhardwaj-JKPS, SDPO Bakshi Nagar.

The DTIs of their respective jurisdictions viz Inspec-



tor Rakesh Sambyal, DTI Bikram Chowk, SI Ravi Dutt, I/C DTI Talab Tillo, Inspector Anil Jad, DTI Bakshi Nagar and local territorial Police officers were also present at the inspection spot in their respective jurisdictions.

During the visit, the DIG Traffic reviewed the existing traffic regulation mechanisms, road conditions and peak-hour vehicle load. He interacted with field officers, traffic personnel, and local commuters to assess real-time issues affecting smooth vehicular movement

"Several bottlenecks were identified, including improper lane discipline, roadside parking, and heavy traffic pressure at the bridge approach. Taking immediate cognizance, the DIG Traffic issued on-spot directions to streamline traffic flow," reads the statement.

He emphasised upon deployment of additional traffic personnel especially dur-

ing peak hours, removal of unauthorized parking and roadside obstructions near the bridge and strict enforcement of lane discipline for all types of vehicles.

"Ensuring coordination with District Police, JMC, Transporters and Traders-the stakeholders for signage, surface improvement and maintenance of road edges for better manoeuvrability and regulating the movement of heavy vehicles during peak hours to avoid slowdowns," he added.

While addressing the media at the DIG said that the local road construction agency has taken over the assignment of construction of damaged portion of the road connecting Tawi bridge and appealed the public for cooperating the traffic and avoiding the road journey via 4th Tawi bridge for next two days, so that the road construction work at 4th Tawi bridge is completed on war-footing.

J&K Steps Up Drive to Settle Unclaimed Financial Assets

As part of the nationwide campaign "Apki Poonji, Apka Adhikar – Your Money, Your Right", J&K UTLBC organised Mega Financial Facilitation Camps in Kathua, Kulgam, Kupwara and Doda to help citizens trace and reclaim unclaimed bank deposits, dormant insurance amounts, inactive mutual funds, unclaimed shares, dividends and other long-pending financial assets.

The outreach, conducted in coordination with RBI, IRDAI, SEBI and IEPFA, saw strong public participation and active involvement from district administrations and financial institutions.

In Kathua, the camp was presided over by DC Rajesh Sharma and attended by DGM RBI Vibha Gupta and senior officials from major banks and insurers, guided participants on claims, documentation and the UDGM portal.

Kathua has 94,598 unclaimed accounts worth Rs 20.68 Cr, officials said.

Cheques worth Rs 3.78 lakh were handed over to 41 beneficiaries after verification.

In Kulgam, it was led by J&K Bank's Zonal Head Khavar Mehraj and attended by RBI and NABARD officials, the Kulgam camp facilitated on-spot settlement of unclaimed bank deposits, insurance proceeds and other assets. Kulgam has 35,332 unclaimed accounts worth Rs 6.69 Cr.

Six accounts worth Rs 5.12 lakh were settled during the camp.

The Kupwara camp at MC Town Hall was attended by DDC Chairman Irfan Sultan Pandithpuri and senior officials from RBI and various banks.

Awareness sessions were held on tracing unclaimed assets and using the UDGM portal.

Kupwara has 80,083 unclaimed accounts amounting to Rs 14.49 Cr, officials stated.

In Doda the camp was presided over by DC Harvinder Singh, the Doda camp saw strong inter-agency coordination, with facilitation counters set up for re-KYC, account openings and nominations. (Observer News Service)

Vital Bridge in Budgam Declared Unsafe



Authorities on Friday ordered closure of Chadoora bridge in central Kashmir's Budgam district for traffic movement after experts declared it unsafe due to damage by recent floods.

The bridge is a crucial link connecting Chadoora with Charar-i-Sharif, Yousmarg and Pulwama, and also provides vital access to three sub-district hospitals - Chadoora, Nagam and Charar-i-Sharif.

According to an order a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, the bridge has been shut down in the interest of public safety following an inspection by experts from DIQC, Srinagar.

It said the recent floods have dislocated the base of one of the bridge pillars, making the structure unsafe for vehicular movement and requiring immediate repair.

"All commuters must use alternative routes until further orders. The bridge will be reopened only after the completion of necessary repairs and clearance from competent authorities," it said. (Observer News Service)

Awareness Program On Substance Abuse Held at Uri

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Orzu Health Care Trust, in collaboration with KASHMER and HPV Trust organized a comprehensive awareness, screening, and empowerment program for ASHA workers of Block Uri at the Sub-District Hospital, Uri.

The session on Substance Abuse was led by Dr. Muzaffar, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Happy & Healthy Minds/KASHMER, who emphasized the identification of addiction, ways to seek timely help, and preventive strategies. A documentary highlight-

commitment to combat substance abuse and safeguard families and society from its harmful effects.

As part of the Preventive Care Screening Camp, ASHA workers underwent screening by the Mobile Medical Unit for major non-communicable disease risks, including:

Pre-diabetes & Diabetes, Hypertension & Prehypertension, Obesity. Participants also received counseling on adopting healthier lifestyles, managing weight, and making nutritious dietary choices to prevent long-term complications.



ing the devastating social impact of drug abuse was also screened to sensitize participants.

Dr. Balwinder Singh, Block Medical Officer, SDH Uri, actively participated and administered a pledge reaffirming a collective

The program successfully strengthened the capacity of frontline workers, equipping them with crucial knowledge to promote health awareness and facilitate early disease prevention within their communities.

Satish Sharma Calls for Digital Infrastructure Push



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Transport, Youth Services & Sports and Information Technology, Satish Sharma called for expansion of broadband network and giving push to the digital infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister was speaking at a meeting with the Deputy Director General (DDG), National Broadband Mission (NBM), Department of Telecommunications, held to review and accelerate the digital connectivity roadmap across Jammu & Kashmir.

Senior officers from the Department of Telecommunications, Government of India and J&K Information Technology Department also participated in the meeting.

During the detailed deliberations, Satish Sharma underscored the government's strong commitment towards expanding high-speed internet access, strengthening the digital governance struc-

tures and ensuring equitable digital opportunities for all communities across J&K.

The Minister emphasized the need to expedite the rollout of broadband infrastructure across both urban centres and remote rural locations, enabling the citizens to benefit from digital services, e-learning, telemedicine and digital skilling.

Satish Sharma highlighted that improving last-mile access is essential for delivering the seamless digital services, especially in geographically challenging regions. He called for joint efforts between the IT Department and DoT to remove bottlenecks and fast-track implementation.

Reiterating the Government's focus on ease of doing business, the Minister directed officers to further streamline the RoW facilitation mechanism, ensuring timely permissions for telecom infrastructure providers and smooth execution of projects under the National Broadband Mission.



(Government of Jammu & Kashmir)

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, (DISTRICT COLLECTOR) BARAMULLA

Subject: Acquisition of land for insertion of 3 Transmission Towers at various locations on 132 KV D/C Amargarh-Arampora.

Declaration under Section-19 of RFCTLARR Act, 2013.

Whereas, JKPTCL Kashmir (JKPDD) vide No. EE/TLMDA/1967-70 Dated 11-12-2023 through Executive Engineer TLMD 3rd (JKPTCL) Amargarh Sopore duly attested by the Chief Engineer Transmission has furnished the Indent/requestion for land measuring 04MIs-01Srs-27Sft falling under Survey No. 1163 in estate Nowpora Kalan Tehsil Sopore, 04MIs-01Srs-27Sft falling under Survey No. 1505 in estate Wadoora Tehsil Zaingeer & 02MIs01Srs-20Sft under Survey No. 1255/1056, 08Srs-20Sft falling under Survey No. 1049 & 01Mis-17Sft falling under Survey No. 1052 in estate Logripora Tehsil Zaingeer for insertion of 3 Transmission Towers at various locations on 132 KV D/C Amargarh-Arampora.

Whereas, on the basis of Indent/requestion for acquisition of aforesaid land, the Collector Land Acquisition (ADC) Sopore issued a preliminary Notification under section-11 of RFCTLARR Act 2013 vide No. ADC/Spr/LAC/Misc/64-73 Dated 06-06-2023 calling upon the land owners/interested persons to file their objections if any.

Whereas, No objection was received by Collector Land Acquisition (ADC) Sopore from the land owners/interested persons within the stipulated period of time.

Whereas, Collector Land Acquisition (ADC) Sopore vide No. ADC/Spr/LAC/2025/195-197 Dated 13-08-2025 followed by No. ADC/Spr/LAC/Misc/262 Dated 29-09-2025 submitted report to Appropriate Govt. (Deputy Commissioner) for issuance of declaration under Section-19 of RFCTLARR Act, 2013.

Whereas, in pursuance to the provisions of Section-19 of Right to Fair Compensation & Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and resettlement Act, 2013 (RFCTLARR) & relevant rules, the appropriate Govt. after examining and considering the report of Collector hereby declare that the above detailed land is required for public purpose i.e Acquisition of land for insertion of 03 Transmission Towers at various locations on 132 KV D/C Amargarh-Arampora. The Collector Land Acquisition (ADC) Sopore is hereby ordered to proceed ahead under the relevant provisions of law and take the acquisition of land to its logical end within stipulated period of time.

S. No	Name of Tehsil	Name of Village	Survey No.	Type of title Private/ Govt./Common	Type of land Rural/Urban	Area under Acquisition			
						KLs	MIs	Srs	Sft
01	Sopore	Nowpora Kalan	1163	Private	Urban	-	04	01	27
02	Zaingeer	Wadoora	1505	Private	Rural	-	04	01	27
03		Logripora	1255/1056	Private	Rural	-	02	01	20
04			1049	Private	Rural	-	-	08	20
05			1052	Private	Rural	-	01	-	17

No: DCB/LA/2025/Misc-SPR/63/922-923

Dated: 13-11-2025

DIPK-NB-2609-25

DT: 28/11/2025

Appropriate Govt.,

Deputy Commissioner,

Baramulla.

Atiqa Mir Clinches Highest-ever COTFA Qualifying Spot for a Female Racer



Press Trust Of India

Ain (UAE)- Indian racing sensation Atiqa Mir out-paced a battery of world class male drivers to qualify fourth in the COTFA international karting series, the highest finish for a female in the championship's history.

With the series supported by Formula 1 Academy, it was the perfect stage for Atiqa to showcase her rare talent and the 11-year-old did that with an unprecedented fourth place in qualifying of the mini category before finishing in the same position in the final on Day 1.

The Formula 1 Academy and Akcel GP backed driver missed the podium spot by just 0.07 seconds, a testament to the highly competitive nature of the grid.

In the final on Day 2, Atiqa came up with another impressive effort in qualifying, setting the fifth fastest time.

She was in podium contention for majority of the race. A daring overtake on the last lap put her in fourth place and

with a podium at stake, Atiqa understandably pushed herself to the limit, leading to a loss of three places. She still managed to finish a creditable seventh out of 28 drivers.

"Some tough racing this week with top drivers. I had good pace through both days and was able to deliver the results in qualy and the Finals. Scored good haul of championship points. Looking forward to the season finale next week," said Atiqa, who hails from Jammu and Kashmir.

Her father Asif Mir, a former Formula Asia vice-champion, was a pleased after a productive weekend.

"Super performance by Atiqa this week. She delivered consistent performances against worlds best drivers and beat them as well. It is an encouragement and reward for all the hard work we have put in over the last few months. Will keep working and improving her."

The season finale of the Champions of the Future Academy (COTFA) series will take place in Al Forsan next week.

UP Thrash J&K by 109 Runs in SMAT as Juyal, Veer Shine

Press Trust Of India

Kolkata- Aryan Juyal struck his second successive fifty, while Prashant Veer produced an fine all-round effort as Uttar Pradesh outclassed Jammu and Kashmir by 109 runs in their Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Group B match here on Friday.

This was Uttar Pradesh's second win on the trot as they went to the top of Group B standings with eight points.

Fresh from a match-winning 93 not out against Goa, the promising wicketkeeper-batter Juyal was in his elements again, smashing three sixes and four fours in a 40-ball 51 to guide UP to 193/6 after Jammu and Kashmir opted to bowl.

Veer, the left-arm spin-bowling all-rounder, later returned with 3/20 to go with a blistering unbeaten 10-ball 37 (4x6, 3x4), including 24 runs in the final over off pacer Auqib Nabi, to give the UP innings a decisive push.

Earlier, skipper Karan Sharma (32 off 24; 4x4, 1x6) and Juyal put on a free-flowing 73-run opening stand as UP cruised through the Powerplay without losing a wicket.

Umran Malik was brought in to break the stand and he troubled the batters with raw pace. He even had Juyal caught

behind, only for the delivery to be called a no-ball for overstepping.

The breakthrough came in the ninth over when he dismissed Karan, before Priyam Garg fell to spinner Murugan Ashwin.

Umran got Juyal soon after the latter reached his fifty, removing him off the fifth ball of the same over.

UP suddenly slipped to 97/4, losing four wickets for 24 runs, as J&K's decision to bowl first seemed vindicated.

But Veer turned the momentum again. He found a solid ally in Siddharth Yadav (24 18b; 2x4, 1x6) as the pair rebuilt with a fifty-plus stand before Veer's late carnage off Nabi.

Jammu and Kashmir's chase never took off as they folded for a meek 84, with skipper Shubham Khajuria absent hurt.

Opener Qamran Iqbal top-scored with 20 before the spin duo of leg-spinner Vipraj Nigam (3/25) and Veer tightened the noose.

Umran showed some late hitting with one six and a four, but he fell to a superb diving effort by Rinku Singh near the boundary.

Sunil Kumar took 2/11 from 3.3 overs, while veteran India seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar returned 1/14 from two overs.

Prithvi Shaw slams 66

Prithvi Shaw roared back to form with an explosive fifty, while Arshin Kulkarni struck an unbeaten 89 as Maharashtra cruised to an eight-wicket win over Hyderabad.

Maharashtra were assured and clinical in their chase of 192. Shaw and Kulkarni added 117 for the opening wicket, aided by Hyderabad's sloppy fielding and several dropped catches.

Eyeing a good outing ahead of next month's IPL mini-auction after going unsold last season, Shaw, who had a fruitful first half of Ranji season for his new domestic state, capitalised on a reprieve and smashed three sixes and nine fours in his 36-ball 66.

Kulkarni, dropped three times, stayed unbeaten on 89 off 54 balls to finish the job.

Following Shaw's dismissal, IPL veteran Rahul Tripathi joined Kulkarni to seal the chase with eight balls to spare.

Venkatesh Iyer shines

Venkatesh Iyer produced an all-round show at his former IPL home ground as Madhya Pradesh registered a commanding 62-run win over Bihar.

Teen sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi (13 off 9) failed after a brisk start, and Bihar folded for

112 in 19.2 overs to suffer their second straight defeat.

A key member of KKR's 2024 IPL-winning squad, Iyer — released ahead of next month's auction after an underwhelming season despite a Rs 23.75 crore price tag — struck a composed 55 not out off 34 balls (3x4, 2x6).

Along with wicketkeeper-batter Harsh Gawli (50 off 44), he lifted MP to an above-par 174/8 after Bihar chose to bowl.

Mohammed Izzar claimed 4/39 for Bihar.

BRIEF SCORES

Hyderabad 191/8; 20 overs (Chama Milind 35 not out, Tanay Thyagarajan 32; Jalaj Saxena 2/25) lost to Maharashtra 192/2; 18.4 overs (Arshin Kulkarni 89 not out, Prithvi Shaw 66, Rahul Tripathi 26 not out) by eight wickets.

Uttar Pradesh 193/6; 20 overs (Aryan Juyal 51; Umran Malik 3/37) bt Jammu and Kashmir 84; 15.2 overs (Prashant Veer 3/20, Vipraj Nigam 3/25) by 109 runs.

Madhya Pradesh 174/8; 20 overs (Venkatesh Iyer 55 not out, Harsh Gawli 50; Mohammed Izzar 4/39) bt Bihar 112; 19.2 overs (Bipin Saurabh 32; Shivang Kumar 3/25, Tripuresh Singh 2/11, Shivam Shukla 2/20) by 62 runs.

Santosh Trophy's Final Round to be Held in Assam



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The final round of the Santosh Trophy will be held in Assam next January, while the group stages will be organised at nine different venues between December 15 and 26, the AIFF said on Thursday.

A total of 35 teams will be divided into nine groups, with eight groups of four teams each and one group consisting of three teams.

The AIFF said on its website that the group winners will join hosts Assam, last season's winner Bengal and runner-up Kerala in the 12-team final round, to be held at Dhakuakhana and Dhemaji.

The venues for group stage contests will be Mahilpur (Punjab), Meerut, Delhi, Agartala, Shillong, Narainpur (Chhattisgarh), Anantapur, Bengaluru and Jaipur.

On the opening day of the Santosh Trophy, Jammu and Kashmir will take on Ladakh, while Himachal Pradesh will face off against Punjab in Group A contests.

Assam had last hosted the Santosh Trophy in the 2010-11 season, in which Bengal had beaten Manipur in the final at Guwahati to win the trophy.



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