

Accessibility Must Be Norm In J&K: LG

Pushes For Equal Opportunities & Dignity For Persons With Disabilities



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday called upon all stakeholders to pledge to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

Speaking at an International Day of Persons with Disabilities event in Jammu, Sinha said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, special efforts have been made to provide equal opportunities, equal rights, and a quality life to persons with disabilities.

"I salute the resilience,

determination and potential of Divyangjans. We are committed to building a system that aligns with their dreams and aspirations, eliminating all challenges and barriers," he said.

The event was organised by the Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Jammu, under the theme Celebrating Ability, Preserving Culture. The global theme for this year focuses on fostering disability inclusive societies for advancing social progress.

Sinha urged government officials, **| More on P6**

6 INCLUSION OF DIVYANGJAN IS THE FOUNDATION OF EQUITABLE development. We must work with sensitivity, awareness, and a shared resolve to ensure their dignity and meaningful participation and guarantee access to education, skills, and livelihoods

VDGs Could Join Police For Anti-terror Work: DGP

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Praising the contribution of Village Defence Guards (VDGs), Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Wednesday said the force would not hesitate to induct them in regular force for exceptional contribution in counter-terrorism operations.

He urged VDGs to remain vigilant and actively cooperate with police and security forces in strengthening the security grid and maintaining brotherhood, peace and tranquillity.

Interacting with over 110 VDGs in a forward village near the International Border in R S Pura sector here, Prabhat said the police would reward them for their "exceptional work and bravery".

Talking to reporters during his visit to the border area,

the DGP said the primary objective of the interaction was to strengthen coordination, operational cooperation and training.

"The visit mainly focused on these three aspects. We listened to their concerns and issues, and thanked them for their vital role in the overall security grid of J&K Police," he said.

A police spokesperson said the DGP was accompanied by senior BSF and police officers including Inspector General of Police, Jammu zone, Bhim Sen Tuti, Deputy Inspector General of BSF Chiter Pal, DIG, Jammu-Samba-Kathua Shiv Kumar Sharma and SSP Jammu Joginder Singh.

In his address, the police chief sensitized about the constant adversarial tactics adopted by the neighbouring country to harm the security and harmony in India.

In Jammu **| More on P6**

Major Reservation Shift

J&K Cabinet Slashes EWS, RBA Quotas To Lift Open Merit Share

Proposal Sent To LG For Final Approval; Centre May Be Consulted



Observer News Service

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet on Wednesday approved a major revision of the reservation structure by reducing quotas in the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Reserved Backward Area (RBA) categories to increase the share of Open Merit candidates.

Officials told Kashmir News Observer that the Cabinet,

chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, cleared a proposal to cut seven percent from the EWS quota and three percent from the RBA quota. The move is expected to enhance the Open Merit share by ten percent.

They said the Cabinet has implemented in full the recommendations submitted by the Cabinet Sub Committee constituted last year to examine concerns raised **| More on P6**

Reservation Policy 'Rationalised' In Best Possible Manner: CM

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said his government has rationalised the reservation policy in the best possible way to ensure justice for all sections while fulfilling a major poll promise.

Addressing reporters after chairing the first Cabinet meeting in Jammu since the resumption of the Darbar Move, the chief minister said the proposal has been sent to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha

for approval. He said it would not be appropriate to reveal details until the file receives consent. "An effort was made to rationalize the reservation in the way we had promised to the people. Effort was also made to ensure that there should be no injustice to anyone," he said.

The cabinet today morning met at Jammu to discuss implementation of the cabinet sub-committee's report on rationalization of the reservation policy.

Without **| More on P6**

Fog Blankets Kashmir, Temp Dips Sharply

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Cold conditions have tightened their grip on Kashmir as temperatures dipped further below the freezing point and dense fog covered large parts of the valley, officials said on Wednesday.

Srinagar recorded a minimum of minus 4.4 degrees Celsius on Tuesday night, significantly lower than minus 2.5 degrees Celsius the previous night. A thick layer of fog reduced visibility across the city, especially around water bodies.

Shopian in south Kashmir remained the coldest in the valley, with temperatures dropping to minus 5.9 degrees Celsius. **| More on P6**

J&K Treats Less Than 20% Of Daily Solid Waste: Govt Data

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir generates 1,470.3 tonnes of municipal solid waste every day, but only 283.5 tonnes, less than 20 per cent, is scientifically treated, official figures reveal.

According to data submitted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in the Lok Sabha, nearly all waste generated in urban areas is collected by municipal bodies. It reveals that the Union Territory faces a significant shortfall in processing capacity.

In comparison, smaller Union Territories such as Puducherry and Lakshadweep treat all the waste



generated, while Ladakh treats 7.25 tonnes out of 12.45 tonnes generated daily.

The data, compiled by the Central Pollution Control Board from State Pollution Control Boards under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, shows that door-to-door

collection has improved across districts, but treatment infrastructure has not kept pace with urbanisation.

Srinagar and Jammu continue to rely heavily on landfills, with legacy waste awaiting full bioremediation.

The Ministry **| More on P6**

Sanchar Saathi

Govt Withdraws Order To Pre Install App On Smartphones

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The government on Wednesday withdrew its order mandating smartphone manufacturers to pre install the Sanchar Saathi cyber security app on all devices.

The Department of Telecom (DoT) said the decision comes after a sharp rise in voluntary



downloads, with six lakh users registering for the app in the past 24 hours.

The mandate, announced on

November 28, required the app to be pre loaded on new smartphones and pushed as an update on existing ones. The move had triggered criticism from opposition leaders who raised privacy and surveillance concerns.

In a statement, the DoT said the requirement was aimed at helping citizens, particularly those less **| More on P6**

Ineligible Candidates Can't Claim Regular Posts Via Contractual Stints: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has held that an ineligible candidate cannot claim relaxation of eligibility criteria solely on the basis of having served on a contractual basis for some time.

A Division Bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Sanjay Parihar also emphasized that contractual engagement does not create any vested right to claim waiver of essential qualifications or to bypass the regular selection process mandated under Article 14 of the Constitution of India.

The Court made the observations upholding its single bench's verdict, dismissing a plea filed by a candidate against who had challenged her disqualification from a recruitment process conducted by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology (SKUAST), Kashmir pursuant to advertisement in 2015.

The Division Bench noted

that the candidate had applied for the post on the basis of a certificate claiming FMPHW diploma to be equivalent to a Nursing Diploma.

"The pleathatthe FMPHW certificate should be considered equivalent to "Diploma in Nursing" cannot be accepted for the simple reason that the qualification prescribed for the post of Female Nurse is Diploma in Nursing only and not any other qualification equivalent thereto," the court said.

In absence of any such stipulation in the qualification, the court said, the reliance placed by candidate on the "so called equivalent qualification is totally uncalled for and not permissible under law".

"The prayer of the appellant (candidate) that since there are so many posts of Female Nurses available with the respondent-University (SKUAST-K) as such, she could be directed to be appointed against one such post, keeping in view **| More on P6**



Kashmir Industrial Estate Stalled Over Flood Risk

Environmental tribunal questions whether a new industrial estate in Shopian sits on land meant to carry floodwaters.

Syed Sammar Mehdi

Srinagar: India's top environmental court has put the brakes on a multimillion-dollar industrial project in Kashmir after an activist warned that building factories on the edge of the Rambhara River could spell disaster for villages downstream.

On Wednesday, a three-judge bench of the National Green Tribunal issued formal notice to the Jammu and Kashmir government, asking officials to explain why they approved a 500-kanal (about 63-acre) industrial estate



in Trenz village, Shopian district, on land the petitioner says lies squarely in the river's natural

floodplain.

The petition was filed by Raja Muzaffar Bhat, a well-known

Kashmiri RTI activist. He argues that the site chosen by the Jammu and Kashmir State Industrial Development Corporation is barely 30 meters from the riverbank and sits in the exact path where high floodwaters spill during the rainy season.

"If this estate comes up, it will act like a dam on one side of the river," Bhat's lawyer, Saurabh Sharma, told the bench headed by Justice Prakash Shrivastava.

"The water will have nowhere to go except across the opposite bank, drowning homes, farms,

and the famous apple orchards that feed dozens of villages in Shopian and Pulwama."

Sharma pointed to the district's own draft disaster management plan, which openly states that one-third of Shopian is vulnerable to floods and flash floods, especially along the Rambhara and nearby streams.

The document lists past flooding events and marks the season from April to August as "likely" for major inundation.

The lawyer also showed the tribunal the official site map prepared by **| More on P6**

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2

Study Reveals How The Brain Evolves Through Five Distinct Stages

Press Trust of India

The human brain goes through five major eras of structural changes over a lifetime -- marked by turning points at ages nine, 32, 66 and 83 -- as it rewires to support varied ways of thinking as one grows, matures and ultimately declines, a study has suggested. Age nine is when communications between brain networks developed since birth transition to the adolescent phase, which then lasts up to age 32, researchers led by those from the UK's University of Cambridge explain. Early thirties is when the brain's neural wiring shifts into "adult mode" -- the longest era lasting over three decades and marked by a stabilising of the brain's architecture. Age 32 is also the "strongest topological turning point" of the entire lifetime, they said. Age 66 was found to signal the start of an "early ageing", and age 83 that of a "late ageing" stage of brain structure.

The findings published in the journal Nature Communications "help us understand why some brains develop differently at key points in life, whether it be learning difficulties in childhood, or dementia in our later years," lead researcher Alexa Mousley, a graduate student at the University of Cambridge's cognition and brain sciences unit, said. "These eras provide important context for what our brains might be best at, or more vulnerable to, at different stages of our lives," Mousley said. The lead researcher added that the study is the first to identify major phases of how brain wiring changes across a human's lifespan. "We know the brain's wiring is crucial to our development, but we lack a big picture of how it changes across our lives and why," said Mousley. The study analysed the brain structure of 3,802 people, aged zero to ninety, using datasets of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) diffusion scans, in which connections are mapped by tracking

how water moves through brain tissue. "We identified four major topological turning points across the lifespan -- around nine, 32, 66, and 83 years old. These ages defined five major epochs of topological development, each with distinctive age-related changes in topology," the authors wrote. The childhood era of the brain is defined by "network consolidation" as synapses -- junction between two brain cells or neurons -- overproduced in a baby's brain are whittled down, with the more active ones surviving, the researchers said. At age nine, the brain is experiencing a step-change in cognitive capacity and an increased risk of mental health disorders, they said. Communication across the brain's networks is increasingly refined during the adolescence era -- post age nine up to early thirties. White matter continues to grow in volume and efficiency of connections increases, and is related with an enhanced cognitive performance, the team said.

Notice

I hereby inform that I have lost my passport bearing Passport No. M5290860 somewhere in Rajbagh, Srinagar (J&K) during the flash floods in the month of September 2025. The said passport was issued on 09-03-2015 and was valid till 08-03-2025

Despite through searching, the passport has not been traced so far. I now intend to lodge an FIR at Police Station Rajbagh, Srinagar regarding the loss of my passport

If anyone have any objection in this regard, they may kindly contact Police Station Rajbagh within 7 days of the publication of this notice. After this period, no objection shall be entertained.

Sumara Riyaz
D/o: Riyaz Ahmad Zargar
R/o: Saderbal Srinagar J&K

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my daughter the name is entered as ADEEBA ZEHRRA while her actual name is TASHAFI ZEHRRA. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

GHULAM MUSTAFA RATHER

F/o TASHAFI ZEHRRA

R/o WOOLINA ICHIGAM BUDGAM CELL. 7006625885

MCB

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) MOHSIN ALI to (New name) MOHSIN ALI WANI . In future i will be known as (new Name) MOHSIN ALI WANI.

If any body having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

MCB

PUBLIC NOTICE

My DOB has been wrongly written in my adhaar card while my correct name DOB as per school records is 25/9/2011. Now I have applied for the correction of DOB In adhaar card if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohsin Ah Rashi S/o Shamasdeen Rashi
Ro :Hardu Obrara
Block Kawarhama

fko_r

PUBLIC NOTICE

our name has been wrongly written in our adhaar card while my correct name as per school records are Saleem Farooq Beigh (DOB 31-10-2011)& Farhana Farooq (dob 10-10-2009

.Now I have applied for the correction of DOB In adhaar card if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Saleem Farooq Beigh & Farhana Farooq

Wards of Farooq Ahmad Beigh

R/o Golgam Tehsil Kwarhama

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My DOB has been wrongly written in my adhaar card while my correct name DOB as per school records is 16-10-1979. Now I have applied for the correction of DOB In adhaar card if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Firdous Ahmad Zargar
S/o Manzoor Ahmad Zargar
R/o Kwarhama

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Naseema Hassan Rah, w/o Gulam Hassan Rah, R/o Bagi Yousuf Ishbar Nishat Gupt Ganga Srinagar, do hereby declare that my correct name recorded in all official documents is Naseema Hassan Rah . Unfortunately my name has been recorded as Naseema Hassan in my previous passport bearing number K6938836 issued on 18/03/23 and expired on 17/03/23. I am applying for the renewal of my passport, and henceforth my name should be read as Naseema Hassan Rah for all official purposes. Anybody having any objection may contact the concerned authorities within 7 days.

mko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card Ghulam Nabi Peer S/o Ab Ahad Peer R/o Tujar Pahliahar Instead of Pir Ghulam Nabi S/O Pir Ab Ahad R/o Tujar Pahliahar . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained..

Pir Ghulam Nabi S/O Pir Ab Ahad
R/o Tujar Pahliahar

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his/he adhaar card as Soleah Ibn Ubaid instead of Souliyah Ubaid Ganie . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained..

Ubaid Bashir Ganie
F/o Souliyah Ubaid Ganie
R/o Gagreen Distt & Tehsil Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Mehraj Gulzar Shah Peerzada Qadri While My Correct Name Name Is In Mehraj Gulzar . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained..

Mehraj Gulzar
S/O Gulzar Ahmad Shah Peerzada Qadri
R/O Mashwara Distt Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my name and father's name in my Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No:- 8148 9342 2709 has been wrongly mentioned as Ghulam Mohammad Wani S/O. Abdul Gani Wani instead of Gh Mohd Wani . S/O. Ab Gani Wani. Now I am applying for its Correction as per Domicile Certificate and School record .if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.

Gh Mohd Wani
S/O. Ab Gani Wani
R/O :- Langate .Tehsil :- Langate . Distt : Kupwara .
Post office Langate Pin Code 193302 .

FKO

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CLASSIC PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL AHMADPORA

Zone Singhpora Paattan

Fe structure for session 2024-2025

S.No	Class	Tuition Fee	Annual Clays
01	Nursery	660	1160
02	L.K.G	660	1160
03	U.K.G	660	1160
04	1st	685	1160
05	2nd	685	1160
6	3rd	780	1160
7	4th	780	1160
8	5th	780	1160
9	6th	870	1160
10	7th	870	1160
11	8th	870	1160
12	9th	1470	1160
13	10th	1470	1160

Principal Classic
Public High School Ahmad

FKO

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION OMPORA BUDGAM.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Email ID: mehrajudrat.8531A@jk.gov.in

Farooq Ahmad Dar (Contractor)

No:-4659-63.
Date:-02-12-2025.

R/O.Peth Makhama Beerwah.
Reg. No. SE(R&B)SB-D-250 of 2019-20.
Contact No. 8899507598.

Subject: Checking of leakages by way of bed concreting D/S RD.1500 on Poshkar branch of Gogaldara Khul.
Reference: - This office Allotment order No.43 of 08/2025 issued under No.3071-74 dated.15-09-2025.

(FINAL NOTICE)

Whereas, the authority for execution of the subjected work has been issued to you vide this office Allotment order No. 43 of 09/2025. Whereas, notices were served to you vide this office No.4309-11 dt.18-11-.2025 and No.4495-97 dtd.26-11-2025 to start the work but till date you have failed to resume the work.

Whereas, as per the conditions of the e- NIT you were supposed to complete the work within stipulated time. Whereas, the work is of urgent nature and needs to be completed within the stipulated time.

Now you are given final opportunity through this notice to resume the work within 03 days time positively, failing which the work shall be put to fresh tenders at your risk and cost, as this office cannot wait further in view the urgency of work and action under rules shall be initiated against you, which includes forfeiting of CDR and debarring you from tendering process.

(Er. Mehraj-u-din-Rather)
Executive Engineer,

Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Ompora Budgam.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Email ID: mehrajudrat.8531A@jk.gov.in

Farooq Ahmad Dar (Contractor)
R/O.Peth Makhama Beerwah.
Reg. No. SE(R&B)SB-D-250 of 2019-20.
Contact No. 8899507598.

No:-4664-68
Date:-02-12-2025.

Subject: Plugging of breach No.II by way of construction of create work lining wall and bed concreting on chairkhan Dara B/O Lar canal at Chair Khan
Reference: - This office Allotment order No.39 of 08/2025 issued under No.2757-59 dated.28-08-2025.

(FINAL NOTICE)

Whereas, the authority for execution of the subjected work has been issued to you vide this office Allotment order No. 39 of 08/2025. Whereas, notices were served to you vide this office No.4329-31 dt.20-11-.2025 and No.4492-94 dtd.26-11-2025 to start the work but till date you have failed to resume the work.

Whereas, as per the conditions of the e- NIT you were supposed to complete the work within stipulated time. Whereas, the work is of urgent nature and needs to be completed within the stipulated time.

Now you are given final opportunity through this notice to resume the work within 03 days time positively, failing which the work shall be put to fresh tenders at your risk and cost, as this office cannot wait further in view the urgency of work and action under rules shall be initiated against you, which includes forfeiting of CDR and debarring you from tendering process.

DIPK-8659/25
dated: 03-12-2025

(Er. Mehraj-u-din-Rather)
Executive Engineer,

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK-0420110009262 issued in favour of MOHD AYOUB BHAT Parentage GHULAM RASOOL BHAT Whereas an application has been recieved by one MOHD AYOUB BHAT Parentage GHULAM RASOOL BHAT wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as MOHAMMAD AYOUB BHAT Parentage GH RASOOL Which needs to be changed as MOHD AYOUB BHAT Parentage GHULAM RASOOL BHAT.

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

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

MCB

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK-0420100005425 issued in favour of MUDASIR AHMAD HAJAM Parentage NAZIR AHMAD HAJAM

Whereas an application has been recieved by one MUDASIR AHMAD HAJAM Parentage NAZIR AHMAD HAJAM wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as MUDASIR AHMAD HAJ Which needs to be changed as MUDASIR AHMAD HAJAM.

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

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

MCB

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN ABU-HURAIRA MEMORIAL INSTITUTE MANGLORA KUNZER

LIST OF MANAGING BODY

S. No	Name & parentage	Residence	Occupation / Designation	Aadhaar No.	Phone Number	Photo graph
01	Mohammad yasin sheikh S/o: Gh mohd sheikh	Lalpora	Businessman Chairman	63354443866997	990656600/36	
02	Mohammad amin wani S/o: Mohammad Akbar wani	Lalpora	Businessman Vice chairman	91285594969672	990656400/36	
03	Rehana zahoor W/o: Abdul Majid Wani	Kunzer	Pvt. Employee Secretary	6819991373396	8493909993	
04	Aabida Farooq D/o: Farooq Ahmad wani	Lalpora	Pvt. Employee Ac-countant	6554590952551	954113416/37	
05	Peer Janahgir Ahmad Shah S/O: Peer Abdul Majeed Shah	Krishama	Pvt. Employee Principal	474607226110	979779934/39	
06	Shahbnum Maqbool D/o: mohd maqbool Malik	Lalpora	Pvt. Employee Vice Principal	480055335468	914797934/39	
07	Gul snober D/o: Abdul qayoom sheikh	Wussan	Pvt. Employee Member	816657997572	9103228043	
08	Mohd akbar teli S/o: Gh mohd teli	Lalpora	Businessman Member	5151282932329	9622383960	
09	Mohd Rafiq Bhat S/o: Mohd akbar bhat	Lalpora	Businessman Member	214888972993	7051874319	

ABU HURAIRA MEMORIAL INSTITUTE
MANGLORE KUNZER

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OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CLASSIC PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL AHMADPORA / MAGAM (KASHMIR)

Contact No.: 9103185646

Dated: 04-12-2025

Ref. No.: CPHS/AD/25

NEW PROPOSED MANAGING BODY

S. No	Member Name	Parentage	Address	Occupation	Designa-tion	Qual.	Email. Address	Mobile Number	Member Type
01	Ghulam Rasool Baba	Ghulam Mustafa Baba	Goom Ahmad-pora	Ex-Employee	Principal	MA	babaghrasool1332@gmail.com	@9906408712	Principal
02	Bashir Ahmad Malik	Ghulam Hussain Malik	Goom Ahmad-pora	Business	Chairman	BA	bm6844897@gmail.com	@7006409920	Parent
03	Syed Ahmad Shah	Syed Hassan Shah	Goom Ahmad-pora	Business	Member	10th	syedahmadrazvi@gmail.com	@954114720	Other
04	Firdous Ahmad Bhat	Ab Rahim Bhat	Kanterbugh	Pvt Employee	Parent	BA	ahmadfirdous24@gmail.com	@7008400631	Teacher
05	Syed Maqbool Hussain	Syed Assadullah	Goom Ahmad-pora	Pvt Employee	Teacher	MA	maqbool416@gmail.com	7889880003	Teacher
06	Syed Abid Hussain	Syed Abdullah Shah	Kanterbugh	Pvt Employee	Teacher	MA	s y e d a b i d 2 3 2 2@gmail.com	@9906843043	Teacher
07	Ghulam Hus-sain Malik	Ghulam Mohmad Malik	Goom Ahmad-pora	Driver	Parent	10th	Ghussainmalik39@gmail.com	@9906078771	Parent

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Principal
Classic Public High School
Ahmadpora / Magam (Kashmir)

اثر نیابت گویہ تکمیل
مضمون: درخواست مخائب
عبدال اعدولن ولد غلام رسول لون ساک ادم تحصیل کار ہاما برادرسول
لیکل بیر سر تفکیک تخت ساک لونو

اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
معاہل مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخواست ساک دفتر خدا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس سلسلے میں بخاری حلقہ سے رہی
رہت بخولور کارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیان ہے کہ ساک لی والدہ ساجدہ بیگم زوجہ مرحوم غلام رسول لون
ساک ادم تحصیل کار ہاما برادرسول 07-08-2024 کو فوت ہو گئی ہے متوفی کا کبرہ بڑیل افراد پر منتقل
ہے۔
عبدال اعدولن ولد غلام رسول لون 55 سال بیٹا موتی
کافہ بیگم 52 سال بیٹی
بشیر احمد لون 47 سال بیٹا
شریف بیگم 49 سال بیٹی
گلزار احمد لون 45 سال بیٹا
شیم اختر 42 سال بیٹی
اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کب نہیں ہے سر تقیہ زیر بحث اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ بتا دو تو وہ
دفتر خدا میں اس اندر سات پیم چیل کریں بعد معیاد گذر کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ قبول نہ ہوگا۔

نام سر تحصیلدار

Untraceable Bear

Public Cautioned Amid Ongoing Evening Sightings

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A bear, first sighted inside the Kashmir University campus, has triggered alerts across several localities on the outskirts of Srinagar after being repeatedly spotted in areas including Soura, Habak, NIT and Nigeen over the past few days, prompting the Wildlife Protection Department to advise people to remain vigilant.

An official from the Wildlife Department told the news agency Kashmir News Trust that the animal has been primarily seen during the evening hours and is believed to be moving through different parts of the city's outskirts under the cover of darkness. During the daytime, however, the bear has remained untraceable.

"The bear has been observed mostly in the evening hours. During the day, it hides somewhere. Our teams are alert and deployed in suspected locations," he said.

The official said that despite sustained search operations for several days, field teams have not come face to face with the animal so far. "We have not physically sighted the bear during our operations. So far, its movement has only been confirmed through CCTV footage installed in various localities," the official said.

According to KNT, authorities are yet to determine whether the sightings involve a single bear or more than one animal. "At this stage, it is not clear whether it is one bear or multiple bears. Investigation and tracking are ongoing," the official added.

In view of the situation, the Wildlife Department has urged the public to remain alert, especially during evening and night hours, and avoid venturing into isolated or poorly lit areas. People have also been advised to inform the department immediately if the animal is sighted in any locality.

Authorities Assess Winter Readiness in the City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo and Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Faz Lul Haseeb Wednesday chaired a joint meeting of District/ Sectoral Officers of all line Departments at Meeting Hall of the DC Office to review the overall winter preparedness measures in Srinagar District.

The meeting focused on ensuring that all line departments have comprehensive and coordinated plans in place to deal with snowfall, frost, waterlogging and unhindered supplies and essentials across Srinagar District.

The DC and Commissioner stressed the need for a robust mechanism to ensure swift snow clearance, particularly along

major roads, inner lanes and critical service points including roads leading to hospitals, emergency service stations and vital installations.

The Officers were directed to plan proactively and develop a coordinated and strategic approach for snow clearance in both urban and rural roads. Emphasis was laid on the deployment of essential machinery and fully utilization of resources to ensure prompt road clearance and restoration of connectivity.

The DC also instructed Officers from Departments of MED, R&B, SMC and PMGSY ensure all necessary machinery and manpower is kept in ready state to clear snow from all main roads, especially for emergency services viz hospitals,vital installations, besides inner lanes and bylanes across the district.



KO Photo : Abid Bhat

Nowpora Fire Guts 5 Houses, Leaves 4 Orphaned Sisters Homeless

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A destructive fire swept through Nowpora, Srinagar, on Wednesday afternoon, leaving five homes damaged and families grappling with sudden loss.

Officials said the fire began in the attic of one house and quickly spread to neighboring homes, sending thick smoke across the area. The fire call was received at 1:46 PM.

"By the time we arrived, three houses were already ablaze. We managed to contain the fire, but five houses were damaged and several others suffered indirect damage due to water," an official from Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) told KNO.

Eyewitnesses described a scene of chaos and despair. "The fire was so thick that you could barely move. People ran from house to house, trying to save whatever they could," said Bilal Ahmad, a resident.

Among the worst affected is a family of four orphan sisters living with their mother. Their home, including all dowry belongings for their sister's upcoming wedding, was completely destroyed. "Everything... gone. All our hopes, our memories,

and media personnel were on rooftops documenting the scene as firefighters battled the blaze. Some residents managed to save a few belongings, but for many, the damage was total.

As the smoke cleared, the human cost of the fire was painfully

“By the time we arrived, three houses were already ablaze. We managed to contain the fire, but five houses were damaged and several others suffered indirect damage due to water,”

our wedding preparations... it's all ashes," the mother said, tears streaming down her face.

Another resident expressed the financial burden layered on top of the disaster. "We had loans and were barely managing. Now, everything is destroyed. How do we even start again?" he said.

Meanwhile, local volunteers

clear. Families were left homeless in the biting winter, their belongings lost forever.

Locals are now calling for urgent relief and support from the administration to help affected families recover. "This is not just about property; it's about our lives, our memories," said one of the affected women, her voice breaking.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B) DIVISION CHRARI-SHARIEF

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Single cover system

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works: -

SN	Nome of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) Incl.GST	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H OF Account	Class Of Contactor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Establishment of Kindergarten at HS Nagbal.	0.50	200/-	1000/-	12 Days	UT CAPEX BUDGET D (School Education)	

Position of AAA: - Accorded
Position of TS: - Sanctioned
Position of funds: - Committed/Available
Project Authority: Director of School Education Kashmir

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jk-tenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02.12.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	02.12.2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	02.12.2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	08.12.2025 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	09.12.2025 at 11.30 PM. in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chararisharief

Note:- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopy.

Any short fall found in the soft copy will render the Bid rejected.

As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Sectarier Finance department vide No.OM

No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under: -

a) Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.

b) The Cost of tender document should be collected by introducing Treasury Challan (Receipt).

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chararisharief (Tender Inviting Authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Chararisharief (Tender Receiving Authority). The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond bid validity.

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

3. The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chararisharief within 03 (Three) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP.

4. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Tender Receiving Authority, i.e., Executive Engineer R&B Division Chararisharief. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total contract cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/ Maintenance Period.

5. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids of a responsive bidder shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.

6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

7. The earnest money (EMD) shall be released in favour of unsuccessful bidders only after submission of original Treasury Challan.

8. The earnest money/ performance Security shall be forfeited If: -

a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

No:-4191-4200
DIPK-8668/25 Dated:03.12.2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PW(R&B) Division Chararisharief

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



**HIJRI
CALENDAR**
12 Jumada al-Sani
1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 50
ZUHR	12:17
ASR	3: 45
Magrib	5:26
ISHA	6: 49

This Day In History

- 1110- Syrian harbor city Saïda (Sidon) surrenders to Crusaders
- 1259- Treaty of Paris: English King Henry III and French King Louis IX end 100 years of conflict between the Capetian and Plantagenet dynasties
- 1489- Battle of Baza - Spanish army captures Baza from Moors
- 1534- Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent occupies Baghdad
- 1563- Council of Trent holds its last session, after 18 years. Last ecumenical council for more than 300 years.
- 1644- First European peace congress opens in Munster
- 1655- Middelburg, Netherlands forbids building of synagogue
- 1674- Father Marquette builds first dwelling in what is now Chicago
- 1676- Battle of Lund: A Danish army under the command of King Christian V of Denmark engages the Swedish army commanded by Field Marshal Simon Grundel-Helmfelt
- 1682- First General Assembly in Pennsylvania (Chester)
- 1688- General John Churchill (later 1st Duke of Marlborough) changes allegiance from James II to William of Orange
- 1691- Emperor Leopold I takes control of Transylvania
- 1691- Spanish king Carlos II names Maximilian II as Viceroy of Southern Netherlands
- 1783- General Washington bids officers farewell at Fraunce's Tavern, NYC
- 1791- Britain's "The Observer" is first published, the oldest Sunday newspaper in the world
- 1798- Rebellious Flemish farmers occupy Hasselt
- 1834 - First US dental society organized (NY).
- 1835 - First US mutual fire insurance company issues first policy (Rhode Island).
- 1847 - Frederick Douglass publishes first issue of his newspaper "North Star".
- 1854 - Eureka Stockade: In what is claimed by many to be the birth of Australian democracy, more than 20 goldminers at Ballarat, Victoria, are killed by state troopers in an uprising over mining licences.
- 1863 - Confederate General James Longstreet abandons his siege at Knoxville, TN.
- 1878 - Settlers arrive at Petach Tikvah, Israel.
- 1910 - Neon lights first publicly displayed (Paris Auto Show).
- 1912 - Turkey, Serbia, Montenegro, Greece & Bulgaria sign weapons pact

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in my passport bearing Number S9436057 the name is wrongly entered as MOHAMMAD IRFAN QAZI while my actual name is QAZI MOHAMMAD IRFAN. Now i want to its correction. In this regard If any body having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.
QAZI MOHAMMAD IRFAN
S/O ABDUL GANI QAZI
R/O 2. JEELAN ABAD PEERBAGH SRINAGAR. mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card of my son bearing No 521053480972 the name is entered as MURTAZA ALI while his actual name is FURKAN ALI. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
GHULAM HASSAN MALLA
F/O FURKAN ALI
R/O KAMAL BHAT MOHALLA KHUMANI CHOWK BEMINA BUDGAM. mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 953808605972 the name is entered as SHAKEELA AKHTER while my actual name is MUSKAAN. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

MUSKAAN C/O ABDUL GANI DAR
R/o RAWALPORA SANAT NAGAR SRINAGAR.. mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in my passport bearing Number S9431065 the Husband's name is wrongly entered as MOHAMMAD IRFAN QAZI while his actual name is QAZI MOHAMMAD IRFAN. Now i want to its correction. In this regard If any body having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.
SAMINA IRFAN
W/O QAZI MOHAMMAD IRFAN
R/O 2. JEELAN ABAD PEERBAGH SRINAGAR. mcb

SAD DEMISE

Remembering Sufi Sahab on his 7th Death Anniversary
Dad, your love still guides us even though we cannot see you.
"weysiye aadnuk yaar kotuyi gaum
Dil qaraar touthh madan waar kotuyi gaum
Pokhtae kaar yaar mokhtae haar kotuyi gaum
Dil qaraar—"



پچھڑے کچھ اس طرح سے رت ہی بدل گئی۔
اک شخص سارے شہر کو ویران کر گیا۔

Deeply remembered by your
Son, Daughters And Grandchildren

inf

SAD DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of Farooq Ahmed Rather S/o late Abdul Rehman Rather R/o. Baghwaanpora Noorbagh, Srinagar who passed away on 2nd, December, 2025.
His Fateh Khawani will be held on Thursday 4th December 2025 at 10:30 am at their ancestral graveyard, Malkha behind JLNH Hospital Rainawari, Srinagar after that Taziyet Majlis will also be held at Kawdara Dalipora, Srinagar.
Note. Ladies are requested don't bring with any kind of eatable things etc.

Bereaved.

Nadeem Ahmed Rather ,
Ab Rashid Rather ,
Gulzar Ahmed, Dr.Riyaz
Ph No. +919103278276, | +919682159260

inf

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KO VIEW

Srinagar
Lives Struggle

Winter has turned bitter, and the capital of Kashmir feels different. Streets have fewer people, hotels are emptier, and many families are seeing their incomes shrink. Those who once depended on tourism or small businesses are finding it harder to make ends meet, unsure when the next source of income will come.

Carpet weavers, pashmina makers, wood carvers, and papier-mâché artists have fewer orders, and work that once gave them pride and purpose is now hard to find.

Young people are feeling the pressure too. Many educated youth cannot find jobs, and government positions that once offered stability are hard to come by. Small shops, restaurants, and home-based businesses are shrinking, leaving families to adjust however they can.

Some take loans to get by, some leave the city to find work elsewhere, and others stay, hoping opportunities will return.

This is about more than money. It is about confidence, dignity, and hope. Children watch their parents face uncertainty, and families that once felt secure now live with constant concern.

When work disappears, the sense of pride and belonging that shaped daily life starts to fade.

There are ways to turn things around. Artisans and workers could reach new markets, young people could gain skills for different kinds of work, and small businesses could get the support they need to survive.

Better housing, reliable sanitation, and basic city services could help families stay steady through hard times. Tourism can come back in a safe and steady way, and crafts can continue as living livelihoods, rather than a memory of the past.

Urban poverty in Srinagar is real, and it touches families who give the city life and culture.

How the city responds now will shape whether Srinagar remains a place of spirit, spine, and strength, or becomes a city defined by struggle.

CASH COURSE
Read This Before You Buy Anything

New Wealth Test

Land and gold still shape Kashmir’s idea of security, though many families now struggle with daily expenses.

Irshad Mushtaq

Kashmir’s landscape carries old signs of prosperity. Large homes, orchards, and gold passed down through generations tell stories of comfort. Families still hold impressive assets.

The trouble begins when you ask about monthly earnings. Many households are “asset-rich, cash-poor,” living with wealth they cannot easily use. Incomes from small shops, crafts, transport, and farming have thinned across districts. Jobs are harder to find than they were a decade ago.

A beautiful home does not pay the school fee. A piece of land cannot buy groceries unless you sell it. Families who lose a job or see business slow down struggle to meet basic costs, even if their property prices run into crores. Savings disappear fast when income is uncertain. In many homes, money has also slipped away through scams or emotional lending that was never returned.

Regular income brings a different kind of relief. With 1 crore placed in mutual funds or monthly income plans at 8 to 12 percent, a family can receive 8 to 10 lakh a year in returns. This can support monthly spending of 65,000 to 83,000 without touching the principal. A steady flow of income protects dignity and avoids distress sales of land or gold.

Balanced and hybrid mutual funds offer an easy path for families who want safety along with growth. These funds mix bonds and stocks, aim for stable payouts, and are handled by professionals. Monthly Income Plans work like a salary and suit those who want predictable support.

Every family should keep investments in its own name with proper documents, follow clear rules, and avoid handing money to anyone on trust alone. Kashmir’s economy is changing fast, and financial awareness must grow with it. Real security today comes from steady income, careful planning, and choices that protect a family’s future.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.



Teacher Forums Take Over

Forum politics now shape school schedules, leaving classrooms without instructors.

Wani Hayat

“
Kashmiri students have already lost too much to lockdowns, street shutdowns and network bans. They cannot afford to lose the one place that still promises a way out: the classroom. The next time a bell rings and a teacher is missing, the question is simple. Who sent him away, and who will bring him back?

Inside Government Middle School in Budgam district, Grade VI children wait for their first class. They whisper, fidget, and look toward the door.

Ten minutes go by, then twenty. Their science teacher still does not come.

A boy shrugs and says what everyone already knows: “Sir will come after the meeting.” He is right.

The man is twenty kilometres away, signing a petition at the Deputy Commissioner’s office because a teachers’ forum booked the 9am slot. After that he must reach the District Institute of Education and Training office for a second roll call held by the Rehbar-e-Taleem group.

By the time he returns, the last period is over and the kids have walked home.

Children here learn early that “meeting” is just another word for empty classroom.

Kashmir runs 18,724 government schools for 13.6 lakh students. One in every four has fewer than twenty pupils. UDISE+2025 lists 119 schools that have zero children, but every one still draws full staff salaries.

The excuse is always the same: “We are on official duty.” In plain words, duty means another meeting.

Headmasters have stopped pretending. A school in South Kashmir pinned a note to its gate last week: “No classes today, teachers attending federation work.”

The federation came up in May with a push for quicker promotions. It has no office of its own, so it uses school buildings for its rallies.

Teachers say they have already lost scores of working days to its programmes since summer.

Parents have run out of patience.

Rubina Jan of Budgam sold her gold bangle and moved her daughter to a private school that charges Rs 1200 a month. “At least the teacher is there every morning,” she says. She is not alone.

ASER 2024 tested simple reading in 1,600 valley villages. Only 24% of Grade V children in government schools could read a Grade II story. In private schools the rate was 79%.

The difference is seat time: private teachers stay inside classrooms while government staff sign registers.

Dropout numbers follow the same curve. Primary pupils leaving mid-year have climbed from 3.89% in 2023 to 6.2% this year.

Forums were born to fix small problems. One asked for timely salary, another for transfer transparency. Each carried a catchy slogan: “Students First,” “Quality for Every Child.”

The slogans are still printed on banners that now hide empty corridors. The Government school school mentioned earlier has four separate banners hanging above its gate. None of them belongs to the school.

The department keeps a list of recognised bodies. The list runs to 63 names and covers three pages. No one can explain why a zone with six schools needs twelve associations.

The only clear rule is that every new body demands representation on every committee, which means more trips to the district headquarters.

A Zonal Education Officer showed his diary for October: 37 meetings in 22 working days. The topics ranged from “eco-club logo design” to “winter uniform colour shade.”

Each meeting required at least two teachers from every school. “I sign attendance sheets faster than lesson

plans,” he admits.

The damage moves downstream. Children left with substitute staff lose interest and stay away. When attendance falls below fifty percent for three months, the state merges the school.

Since 2022, 4,400 tiny institutions have been shut, most of them in remote areas where a walk to the next village means crossing a mountain stream.

The closures save money on paper, but they push girls out faster because parents will not risk the longer journey.

The solution is simple. Treat teaching hours as sacred. Make biometric attendance record public online. Any teacher who misses more than fifteen days without a valid reason loses a day’s pay. Finland did the same and kept teachers in class for 190 days a year without spending an extra rupee.

Second, move every grievance online. Salaries, transfers, pension papers can be tracked through a single dashboard. No teacher should travel for a signature that a mouse can give.

Third, cap the number of associations. One forum per zone, elected for two years, with a written constitution that puts classroom time above protest time. Any rally during school hours should trigger automatic suspension of the office bearers.

Kashmiri students have already lost too much to lockdowns, street shutdowns and network bans. They cannot afford to lose the one place that still promises a way out: the classroom.

The next time a bell rings and a teacher is missing, the question is simple. Who sent him away, and who will bring him back?

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

Letter to Editor

Kashmir Needs a New Political Culture

Public life in Jammu and Kashmir moves in a cycle that leaves people drained of hope.

Every election brings a wave of trust. Villagers open their doors, shake hands with candidates, listen to long speeches on employment and development, and keep faith that this time will be different.

Once the results come, the distance returns.

Phone calls are ignored, letters remain unanswered, and the everyday voter disappears from the frame until the next polling day. Many Kashmiris feel that their value ends with the ink mark on their finger.

This growing gap between elected leaders and citizens has weakened the democratic spirit of our region.

I still remember my days in Punjab, where an MLA from a ruling party studied his Ph.D. with us. He lived like any student, moved without escorts, waited in lines, and spoke to

everyone with ease. There was no show of rank in his behaviour.

That memory often returns when I see how power is displayed in Kashmir.

A person who wins a seat suddenly expects deference. The idea of a representative slowly shifts into the idea of a ruler. For a poor person who needs help, meeting an MLA often means spending an entire day outside a gate for a brief moment of attention. Even that moment depends on which party he supported.

This practice has turned public service into a form of punishment for those who stand outside the circle of influence.

Political favouritism has pushed the youth into despair. Students with postgraduate degrees line up for exams, interviews, and endless verification rounds, while those with political backing walk into jobs meant to be filled through merit.

This unfairness does more than

delay careers. It delays marriages, divides families, and forces many young people into long spells of joblessness that shape their confidence and choices. A region with some of the highest unemployment numbers among educated youth cannot afford a system that rewards loyalty over talent.

The signs of misgovernance are visible in everyday life. Leaders who once lived simply now occupy spacious homes. Their children travel abroad and study in private universities while many parents in Kashmir struggle to afford school books.

Funds meant for local works rarely reach the classrooms, roads, and health centres that need them.

The flow of money slows as it rises through layers of influence, reducing public welfare to a distant idea instead of a lived reality.

Politics, at its core, is supposed to be an act of service. A leader should be accessible, humble, and ready to

absorb the concerns of those who elected him.

Kashmir needs representatives who travel the same roads as the people, listen without judgement, and understand that their seat is an amanat.

A democracy grows strong only when leaders stay close to those who trust them with their future.

The people of Kashmir deserve a political culture that heals. Progress will come when service replaces status and empathy guides decision-making.

Until then, the cycle of disappointment will continue and the common citizen will carry its weight.

Sincerely,

Rayees Yaseen
rayeesshah157@gmail.com

A Winter of Wild Alarms in Kashmir

A roaming animal becomes a symbol of a valley where forests and people struggle to find space.

Dr. Rizwan Rumi

The bear arrived in Srinagar like a restless traveller who refused to read the season.

It should have curled into a den somewhere in the upper forests by now, locked inside the long winter sleep that makes the cold easier to bear.

Instead it roamed the city with a strange energy, slipping through campuses, brushing past boundary walls, leaving half-seen shadows on security cameras, and finishing its nights with a swim in the chilled waters of Nigeen.

People spoke of it with nervous jokes in daytime markets, then lay awake after sundown, listening for the scrape of claws on tin roofs.

Wildlife officers spent night after night tracing it through lanes that usually host students, shopkeepers and caretakers, instead of a hulking animal shaking droplets from its coat.

They said the bear seemed confused, not aggressive, as if pushed downhill by forces larger than instinct.

Word of the bear moved through the city like whispered gossip. Parents kept their children close, and hostel gates clanged shut long before dusk. In Hazratbal and Naseem Bagh, guards who used to watch for stray dogs now tracked a larger, stranger presence, a figure that might vault over walls without warning.

The story of this bear does not stand alone. It folds into a broader tale that has been unfolding across the valley for years: a slow and steady drift of wild animals toward human life.

Official data up to March 2024 records 264 deaths and more than 3,100 injuries from wildlife encounters over nearly two decades. Assembly figures for 2023-24 and 2024-25 each list 16 deaths.

Every district has lived through its share of shock: a maize field raided in Budgam, a leopard spotted under a streetlight in Kulgam, boar tracks found in Sopore and Pulwama.

These incidents trace back to the forests, where the pace of change has quickened.

Jammu & Kashmir has seen a surge in wildfires, with estimates for the 2024-25 fiscal year cross-



THERE'S STILL A CHANCE FOR FORESTS AND COMMUNITIES IN KASHMIR TO SHARE SPACE. Paths for wildlife can be restored, fields can heal, and nights can return to a gentle pulse: animals in the wild, lights in our homes, and stories keeping us awake, not anxious.

ing a thousand. Hillsides that once held thick undergrowth lie scorched, turning safe shelters into exposed slopes.

When fires run through a forest, herbivores rush for escape, and predators follow the trail of movement. The chain ends in orchards, lanes and backyards that cannot absorb this sudden arrival.

There is another layer to the problem.

Forests have been clipped at the edges over the years through new roads, expanding suburbs and sanctioned clearances. Movement corridors that once guided animals seasonally have been broken into small, confused patches.

In these fractured spaces, a leopard can wander into a nursery school, drawn by the scent of dogs or livestock. A bear can stumble into an abandoned storage shed, searching for food where none exists.

These animals are responding to a landscape where every familiar signpost has shifted.

Prey loss adds pressure. Deer numbers have thinned in many pockets. Predators respond in the only way they can: they widen their search.

Villages with open garbage pits, free-ranging dogs and unprotected livestock turn into easy targets. Wild boar, thriving across North, Central and South Kashmir,

have become bold raiders of maize and apple fields. Farmers speak of nights spent guarding their land with torches and makeshift alarms, unsure of what they will find at dawn.

A single animal can ruin a season of crops, topple fences, injure livestock and disrupt livelihoods built on narrow margins.

Compensation, when it comes, takes time and paperwork. Families wait through long stretches of worry. Wildlife rescue teams work hard, though their resources seldom match the scale of the challenge. Officers often carry tranquilizers, nets and torches into terrain that needs stronger tools and larger

teams.

Governments have taken action through rescues, advisories and relocations. These steps help in the moment, though the rise in encounters shows that the crisis sits deeper.

Forests need corridors restored and protected, not pieced together during emergencies. Springs need revival. Fire lines and early-warning systems must be strengthened. Waste near forest edges demands strict control so that animals do not treat dumps like open invitations.

Communities can shape solutions too. Small shelters for livestock, solar lights for orchard perimeters, neighbourhood alert groups and steady awareness programs can prevent panic.

Compensation must be faster and transparent. Farmers who feel heard are less likely to act in fear, which protects both people and animals.

At the heart of this issue lies an appeal for understanding.

The bear that swam through Ni-



AT THE HEART OF THIS ISSUE LIES AN APPEAL FOR UNDERSTANDING.

The bear that swam through Nigeen in midwinter carries no plot against the city. It carries hunger, disruption and a forest that no longer gives it the cues it once trusted.

geen in midwinter carries no plot against the city. It carries hunger, disruption and a forest that no longer gives it the cues it once trusted.

The leopard on a rooftop in Tral or the boar in a Pulwama field responds to altered ground beneath its feet.

There's still a chance for forests and communities in Kashmir to share space.

Paths for wildlife can be restored, fields can heal, and nights can return to a gentle pulse: animals in the wild, lights in our homes, and stories keeping us awake, rather than anxious.

— The author is a Srinagar-based researcher and writer. He can be reached at rizwanroomi2012@gmail.com.

Human Google Said Goodbye

Six years ago she walked into a small south Kashmir school and made every long walk worth it.

Dr Mushtaq Rather

I teach English at HSS Salia, a school set among the orchards about twenty minutes from Anantnag town. Most of our students walk in from villages you won't find on many maps, including Hapatnar, Vail Nagbal, Halwan and Pethgoo.

On some winter mornings, it takes them close to two hours. The mud freezes stiff, the wind feels sharp, and they still keep walking.

Six years ago, the school was only holding on. The pass rate hovered around sixty-five. Many benches emptied out after Class 8, especially for the girls. Teachers finished their classes, locked the rooms and went home.

Then Zahida Ma'am arrived. She was soft-spoken, always in a cream shawl, and she looked like someone who should have been resting instead of running a school. She had health issues she rarely mentioned, though it was clear some days were tougher than others.

Even then, she reached by eight, greeted Ghulam Hassan the sweeper first, and then the rest of us.

At her first staff meeting, she placed a blank sheet of paper on



the table and asked, "What do we need to make this place feel like home?"

We thought she was joking. Government schools don't usually talk that way.

Then people slowly began to speak: better lights in the library, a small fund for kids

whose books were ruined in the floods, and a morning assembly that actually starts on time.

She wrote down every point. By the time the apple blossoms fell that year, half of it was already done.

I kept waiting for the strict-principal phase: the shouting,

the circulars, and the warnings about pending files. It never showed up.

Instead, she kept a blue notebook in her office. Anyone could write in it: a child needing shoes, a peon worried about hospital bills, and me asking for storybooks in Kashmiri.

She read it every night and handled most of it. Whatever she could not manage alone, she brought to us and said, "Let's carry this together."

The numbers improved quickly.

The pass percentage crossed ninety. More girls stayed through Class 12. The dropout rate dropped. Inspectors began leaving with almost empty

notebooks.

The real change showed up in smaller moments: kids laughing in the courtyard, teachers staying late to plan lessons, and parents waiting at the gate just to say thank you.

The principal seemed to know everything. The new education policy, recent court rulings, even which wildflower opens first above Pethgoo. We started calling her Human Google. She would smile and say, "Google doesn't have to mark your attendance in minus six degrees."

Assembly speeches were my favourite. She never shouted. She'd talk about a boy from Halwan who got ninety-eight in math, or the cook who bought



EACH TIME, A CHILD FROM HAPATNAR PUSHES OPEN THE GATE WITH COLD FINGERS, I will remember the woman who made sure their long walk mattered. And I will think about how some people do more than run a school. They turn it into a place you carry with you, long after they have moved on.

his son a bicycle with overtime money, and suddenly every kid in the ground felt ten feet tall.

She treated everyone the same. Senior lecturer, Class-IV employee, and child who walked four hours received same respect.

Ghulam Hassan still keeps a note she once gave him: "Thank you for keeping our school beautiful. Your daughter's fees are taken care of this year."

This June, the transfer order

came. GHSS Anantnag needed a principal, and her name was on it. We read the paper like it was written in a language we didn't know.

Last week, on her final day, the kids brought flowers they picked on the way: wild irises, a few late roses. Someone started the school song without being asked. She stood on the stage, eyes wet but smiling, and said, "You people made this school. I only held the door open for a while."

Then she got in the car and left.

The next morning, the bell rang at the usual time, but the corridors felt wider. The same children walked in with the same red mud on their shoes. Everything sounded a little quieter.

She is twenty kilometers away now, probably already asking a new group of teachers what their school needs most. Here in Salia, we will keep the pass percentage high, keep the volleyball team strong and keep the library lights glowing.

Each time, a child from Hapatnar pushes open the gate with cold fingers, I will remember the woman who made sure their long walk mattered.

And I will think about how some people do more than run a school.

They turn it into a place you carry with you, long after they have moved on.

— The author teaches English at HSS Salia in South Kashmir.



SHE IS TWENTY KILOMETERS AWAY NOW, PROBABLY ALREADY ASKING A NEW GROUP OF TEACHERS WHAT THEIR SCHOOL NEEDS MOST. Here in Salia, we will keep the pass percentage high, keep the volleyball team strong and keep the library lights glowing.

IndiGo Cancels 100 Flights, Airport Chaos Boils Over



PTI

Mumbai- IndiGo cancelled more than 100 flights at various airports, and scores of services were delayed on Wednesday as the country's largest airline grappled with significant operational disruptions mainly due to crew shortages and announced calibrated schedule adjustments for the next 48 hours to normalise the operations. As part of the calibrated adjustments, there will be cancellations and rescheduling of flights, sources said on Wednesday, a day when airports witnessed chaos as hundreds of passengers faced hardships due to services getting cancelled and getting delayed for long.

The airline, which operates around 2,300 domestic and international flights daily, on Wednesday said a "multitude of unforeseen operational challenges" have significantly disrupted its operations across the network for the past two days and apologised to the passengers for the inconvenience. The challenges include "minor technology glitches, schedule changes linked to the winter season, adverse weather conditions, increased congestion in the aviation system and the implementation of updated crew rostering rules (Flight Duty Time Limitations), which had a negative compounding impact on our operations in

a way that was not feasible to be anticipated," an airline spokesperson said in a statement. The sources said over 100 IndiGo flights were cancelled at various airports, including at Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai and Hyderabad. At least 42 flights were cancelled at the Bangalore airport, 38 flights at the Delhi airport, 33 at the Mumbai airport and 19 at the Hyderabad airport, they added. "IndiGo has been facing an acute crew shortage since the implementation of the second phase of the FDTL (Flight Duty Time Limitations) norms, leading to cancellations and huge delays in its operations across the airports," a source told PTI.

Er Rashid Seeks Blanket Liquor Ban In J&K

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Jailed Member of Parliament Sheikh Abdul Rashid on Wednesday demanded a blanket ban on liquor in Jammu and Kashmir, arguing that making the Union Territory a dry region should not be viewed through a political or anti national lens. Speaking during the Lok Sabha proceedings, Rashid, currently lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail, said the strong public opposition to the opening of new liquor shops in J&K must be respected instead of being dismissed as disruptive. "Whenever religious clerics, social activists or common people raise their voice, they are unfortunately being labelled anti social and anti national. Such voices should be encouraged because they intend to safeguard society," Rashid said, as per details accessed by Kashmir News Observer.

He acknowledged the government's revenue concerns but questioned the logic of increasing taxes on tobacco and liquor while allowing their availability. "The assumption that higher duties reduce consumption is not true. People continue to drink regardless of price. If there is national consensus that addiction harms society, then decisive action is needed," he said. Rashid appreciated alcohol free campaigns by visiting celebrities in the region and said Jammu and Kashmir should lead by example. The MP said a bill to make the UT addiction free had earlier been introduced in the Assembly and enjoyed support across political parties. "If we want to make Jammu and Kashmir liquor addiction free, then there is a need for the support of those who want a blanket ban on alcohol and other narcotic substances. Let Bihar not be the only example — let other states take inspiration from J and K," he urged the Centre and the Lieutenant Governor's administration. Calling for a nationwide push to eliminate substance abuse, Rashid said, "The government says 'Modi Ji Hai Toh Mumkin Hai'. So make India addiction

free by 2039. We will salute you."Jailed Member of Parliament Sheikh Abdul Rashid on Wednesday demanded a blanket ban on liquor in Jammu and Kashmir, arguing that making the Union Territory a dry region should not be viewed through a political or anti national lens. Speaking during the Lok Sabha proceedings, Rashid, currently lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail, said the strong public opposition to the opening of new liquor shops in J and K must be respected instead of being dismissed as disruptive. "Whenever religious clerics, social activists or common people raise their voice, they are unfortunately being labelled anti social and anti national. Such voices should be encouraged because they intend to safeguard society," Rashid said, as per details accessed by Kashmir News Observer. He acknowledged the government's revenue concerns but questioned the logic of increasing taxes on tobacco and liquor while allowing their availability. "The assumption that higher duties reduce consumption is not true. People continue to drink regardless of price. If there is national consensus that addiction harms society, then decisive action is needed," he said. Rashid appreciated alcohol free campaigns by visiting celebrities in the region and said Jammu and Kashmir should lead by example. The MP said a bill to make the UT addiction free had earlier been introduced in the Assembly and enjoyed support across political parties. "If we want to make Jammu and Kashmir liquor addiction free, then there is a need for the support of those who want a blanket ban on alcohol and other narcotic substances. Let Bihar not be the only example — let other states take inspiration from J and K," he urged the Centre and the Lieutenant Governor's administration. Calling for a nationwide push to eliminate substance abuse, Rashid said, "The government says 'Modi Ji Hai Toh Mumkin Hai'. So make India addiction free by 2039. We will salute you."

J&K Has Rs 196.29 Crore Pending Liabilities Under MGNREGS: Centre

Agencies

New Delhi: Jammu & Kashmir has pending liabilities of Rs 196.29 crore under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), according to data presented in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. Responding to a question on funds owed to States under the scheme, Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the Union Territory has dues of Rs 5.48 crore under the wage head, Rs 188.50 crore under material costs and Rs 2.31 crore under administrative expenditure as on November 26, 2025. The Minister said wage payments are issued daily by the Centre through the Public Finance Management System (PFMS) after receiving fund transfer orders from States and UTs. He added that all admissible wage liabilities up to FY 2024-25 have been cleared across the country, except in the case of West Bengal. On the release of funds for the current financial year, Chouhan informed that rupees 68,393.67 crore has been disbursed nationwide under MGNREGS as of November 26, 2025, including rupees 57,853.62 crore for wages and rupees 10,540.05 crore for material and administrative expenditure. He noted that funds for material and admin components are released in tranches based on factors such as labour budgets, work demand, pending liabilities, utilisation rate and submission of relevant documents by States and UTs. Data tabled in Parliament also shows that Jammu & Kashmir received Rs 1,151.20 crore under MGNREGS in 2024-25, compared to Rs 921.60 crore in 2023-24, Rs 1,051 crore in 2022-23 and Rs 950.14 crore in 2021-22. The minister also stated that funding to West Bengal remains suspended since March 2022 due to non-compliance with directives issued by the Centre. (KNO)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Accessibility Must Be

educational institutions and social organisations to ensure dignity and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities across all spheres of life. He stressed access to education, skills and livelihoods as key to equitable development. "Inclusion of Divyangjans is the foundation of equitable development. We must work with sensitivity, awareness and a shared resolve to guarantee their rights and growth," the Lieutenant Governor said. He added that Jammu and Kashmir must aim to become a place where accessibility is standard practice and every person with disability has the tools to live with respect and independence. The Lieutenant Governor also appreciated the work of CRC Jammu, noting that since 2024, the centre has conducted more than 35,000 clinical surveys and distributed assistive devices worth over Rs 2 crore. During the event, Sinha distributed assistive devices and kits to beneficiaries and interacted with participants. **J&K Cabinet Slashes** by aspirants regarding the existing reservation policy. The committee had advised that other vertical reservation categories, including ST I, ST II, Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and Actual Line of Control or International Border residents, should remain untouched. The revised proposal will now be forwarded to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for approval. Under the rules governing the Union Territory, the LG will have to seek the Centre's view if the changes impact minorities or reserved communities. At present, ST I, ST II, RBA and EWS each hold ten percent reservation. Scheduled Castes and OBCs each have eight percent, while ALC or IB residents have four percent. Once approved, the Open Merit category is expected to rise to fifty percent of vertical reservation. Political reactions Opposition parties have not issued formal statements so far. The BJP said it will respond only once the proposal is made public. "It would be premature to comment at this juncture," party spokesperson Sunil Sethi said. National Conference MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, who has been demanding rationalisation of reservation, could not be reached for comment. People's Conference chairman Sajad Gani Lone, however, alleged that the government is creating divisions within Kashmir. "In the reservations issue, the elected government is passing on the buck and trying to create a wedge in the Kashmiri ranks," Lone wrote on X. He added that the Assembly can restore district and divisional recruitment through legislation if it chooses to act. The Cabinet decision comes after months of debate over reservation expansion in the Union Territory following the Centre's recent additions to reserved categories. **Reservation Policy** naming anyone, Omar said those who were accusing them of doing nothing on the

reservation are now threatening agitation. "It is easy to do politics on the issue. Those who were taunting us, saying that we had done nothing on reservation, are now saying if you do this, we will launch an agitation," he said. The CM said that they couldn't have done more on the reservation. "We couldn't have carried out a more detailed exercise than this. Every issue was looked into. The issue was discussed more than once. This is the third or fourth time that the issue has come before the cabinet. The cabinet sub-committee took six months to complete the exercise," he said. The CM said the reservation has not been rationalised to satisfy any individual, but was an election commitment made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "The friends you are referring to wouldn't be satisfied with anything. They wouldn't be satisfied by any measure. We have not done this to satisfy anyone. Nobody should presume that it was done to satisfy him. It is an effort from our side to fulfill the commitment made to the people of J&K," he said. The issue of reservations has gained prominence in Jammu and Kashmir after the central government expanded quotas and added more communities to reserved categories over the past five years. The push to raise the reservation quota to 70 percent, including a separate ten percent quota for Paharis and other tribes and an eight percent quota for OBCs, has triggered objections from various groups. Omar confirmed that the reservation policy was one of twenty two agenda items discussed during the meeting. Other items included construction of a new Kashmir House in Dwarka, appointments of chief engineers in the roads and buildings department and steps to revive cooperative societies. Last December, the government set up a Cabinet sub committee to examine grievances related to the existing reservation system. The panel submitted its report in October followed by a detailed review by the law department. Omar said the process required time because the issue invites political sensitivities. He said the Cabinet held multiple rounds of consultations before finalising the proposal. He asserted that the decision was taken in the interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir rather than to satisfy any individual leader. He added that critics who earlier accused the government of inaction are now threatening protests. National Conference MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi had recently urged the government to settle the issue before the end of the Winter session of Parliament and warned that he would support quota protests if no solution was provided. **J&K Notifies** will get Rs 25 lakh if death occurs within the UT and Rs 5 lakh if outside. Disability slabs remain Rs 0.75 lakh for permanent disability and Rs 0.10 lakh for partial disability. Among government employees other than police, ex gratia for death has been set at Rs 1 lakh. Permanent disability attracts Rs 0.75 lakh, serious injury requiring hospitalisation beyond 24 hours Rs 0.05 lakh, hospitalisation under 24 hours Rs 0.01 lakh and minor injury requiring only first aid Rs 500.

Civilians killed during law and order situations, including those on the IB or LoC, surrendered militants and former militants working as informers will also receive Rs 1 lakh. Disability and injury compensation matches that of government employees. For damage to immovable property caused by blasts or sabotage, compensation will be 50 percent of the assessed loss or Rs 1 lakh, whichever is less. Where actual loss is up to Rs 10 lakh, relief has been capped at Rs 7 lakh for immovable assets and Rs 3 lakh for movable property. Loss due to shelling or firing will also be compensated at 50 percent of the loss or Rs 1 lakh. Officials said the consolidated order replaces fragmented earlier instructions and standardises payouts under SRE across the Union Territory. **Cabinet OKs** support was also approved to strengthen co-operative societies working with livestock and fisheries communities. Speaking to reporters, Cabinet Minister Javed Rana said several pending agenda items were resolved during the meeting. "The main agenda involved the promotion and seniority confirmation of officers in the R and B Department. That has now been agreed," he said. Rana added that the Cabinet approved the establishment of the Animal Protection Board, which will oversee livestock welfare measures and regulatory frameworks. He said funds have also been allocated to assist pawns and anglers through cooperative institutions that support their livelihood. Issues concerning electricity supply, reservation matters and winter arrangements were also discussed. On the long pending concerns of daily wagers, Rana said the Chief Secretary has been directed to submit a detailed report at the earliest. "There is a major issue concerning daily wagers in various departments. The government has a responsibility toward them and we want justice to be done," he said. Officials said the meeting concluded with instructions for timely submission of departmental reports and immediate implementation of approved decisions. **J&K Treats Less** said waste generators are required to segregate waste into biodegradable, non-biodegradable, and domestic hazardous streams. "Local authorities are responsible for collecting segregated waste, but compliance remains uneven. Support is being provided under the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0, which aims to achieve 100 per cent segregation, scientific landfill management, and remediation of old dumpsites," it said. The government said technological tools, including the Swachhatam digital platform and GIS-based applications, are being used to improve transparency, enable data-driven monitoring, and track municipal performance. The Swachh Survekshan framework continues to rate cities, pushing local bodies towards higher standards of compliance.

At the national level, India generated 1,85,195 tonnes of solid waste daily in 2023-24, of which 1,79,479 tonnes were collected and 1,14,110 tonnes treated. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Delhi, and Uttar Pradesh were the highest generators.(KNO) **Fog Blankets** Qazigund recorded a low of minus 3.6 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara in north Kashmir saw the mercury settle at minus 4.1 degrees Celsius. In the south, Kokernag recorded a low of minus 1.2 degrees Celsius. Pahalgam, a popular tourist destination, dipped to minus 4.6 degrees Celsius, and the Gulmarg skiing resort recorded minus 2.6 degrees Celsius. According to the Meteorological Department, the weather is expected to stay dry till Wednesday. However, a brief spell of light snowfall is likely in isolated higher reaches late Thursday night and early Friday. The department added that while generally dry weather is expected on December 6 and 7, another short spell of light snowfall may occur in higher elevations on December 8. **Govt Withdraws** aware of cyber frauds, but the recent spike in adoption has made the mandate unnecessary. "Given Sanchar Saathi's increasing acceptance, the government has decided not to make the pre installation mandatory for mobile manufacturers," the statement said. Sanchar Saathi, launched by the Centre earlier this year, allows users to block stolen or lost phones and detect fraudulent SIM connections linked to their identities. Officials said the app's uptake will continue to be promoted through awareness campaigns and digital platforms. **Ineligible Candidates** her long working experience in the field, also cannot be accepted," the court said, underling that accepting such prayer and issuing direction to University to appoint the candidate as Female Nurse against any available vacancy despite the fact that she does not possess the requisite qualification would tantamount to appointing "ineligible" candidate. Otherwise also, the court said, such a course would be in violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India. "The post or posts of Female Nurse, if any available with the respondents for direct recruitment, are required to be put to Advertisement so as to enable all eligible candidates to apply, participate and compete in the selection process," the court said, adding, "An ineligible candidate cannot, by holding a post on contractual basis for some time, claim waiver of eligibility qualification and dispensation of regular selection process to be conducted in consonance with Article 14 of the Constitution of India." **VDGs Could Join** areas, he said police and security forces face unique challenges, including drone droppings, tunnelling and riverine issues. "In such circumstances, we take advantage of the border villagers, who have a history of

standing up and participating alongside the police and security forces to combat infiltration and intrusion," he said. The DGP said the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the smooth functioning of the VDG's have been notified in close coordination with the BSF and highlighted the need for their proper implementation on the ground to strengthen border security grid and thwart the evil design's of enemy nations. Prabhat also urged on preventive strategies through training, coordination and community vigilance. "Historically, people from the border areas have contributed to countering terrorism by working in synergy with the police and other forces. Without their participation, achieving optimal results against terrorism would be inconceivable," he said. The DGP said VDG is voluntary service and does not guarantee employment but the police would not hesitate to induct them in regular force for exceptional contribution in counter-terrorism, demonstrable conspicuous gallantry, using the powers of the police establishment board. The participants also received instructions on the periodic cleaning, safe handling and maintenance of government issued arms and ammunition, a police spokesperson said. Prabhat described VDG's as the first tier of the security grid and appreciated their role in intelligence collection as well as their role during Operation Sindoor and floods. The IG Jammu highlighted the initiatives taken for streamlining of VDG functioning including assigning unique identity to each group and individual members to monitor their proper working. Meanwhile, the DGP later visited the Border Police Post Chakrohi and Police Station R S Pura and held a security review meeting with concerned officers. The police chief passed on-the-spot directions for streamlining manpower requirements of Border Police Posts and upgrading and strengthening the overall security grid in the border areas, the spokesperson said. **Kashmir Industrial** the industrial corporation. Even a quick glance, he said, makes it clear the boundary wall of the future factories would run almost parallel to the river as it cuts through the valley. The bench, which included expert members Dr. A. Senthil Vel and Dr. Afroz Ahmad, agreed the case raises "substantial questions" about environmental compliance. In a brief order issued the same day, the tribunal directed the Union Territory administration and other respondents to file their replies and fixed the next hearing for February 24, 2026. The project itself was fast-tracked earlier last year. In February 2024, the Administrative Council chaired by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha green-lit the new estate at an estimated cost of roughly 68 crore rupees, touting it as a boost for local jobs and industry. For now, any construction appears on hold until the court is satisfied the river's flood channel will remain free and safe. Residents downstream say they hope the judges keep it that way.

Omar Pledges Clear, Hassle-Free Procedure for Compassionate Appointments

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said his government is committed to ensuring full transparency and a simplified process in compassionate appointments.

He also reiterated his government's commitment to clearing the backlog of compassionate appointments under SRO-43 and the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (RAS).

Abdullah was speaking at a function organised at the Convention Centre here where he handed over appointment orders to candidates under SRO-43 (Statutory Rules Order-43) and RAS-2022, besides issuing regularisation orders to Contingent Paid Workers (CPWs) of the School Education Department.

The chief minister, who is also the minister in charge of the General Administration Department, assured the beneficiaries that the government is determined to clear the backlog of cases under SRO-43 and RAS-2022.



"As far as the orders of SRO-43 are concerned, I assure you that we will try our best to dispose of the pending cases. We will grant relaxation in cases as per the norms and make this process as transparent as possible," he said.

Expressing deep empathy with families who approach the government during their most difficult hours, Abdullah stressed that compassionate ap-

pointments are not acts of favour but rightful entitlements under an established policy.

"On behalf of the government, our only effort is to help you in this difficult time. You should not feel that you are alone or that no one stands with you. If the government supports you in your moment of helplessness, this is not a favour—this is your right," he said.

According to PTI, speaking about the long-pending cases of CPWs and their regularisation, Abdullah said this day carries a different meaning for them.

"We will do our best to regularise CPWs and issue orders. For those under RAS and SRO-43, I know many of you have suffered a lot to reach here. And I apologise to you for that," he said.

Regarding delay in processing of SRO-43 and RAS cases, he said "this should not happen. When there is a government system, it should work automatically".

"I assure you—we will simplify the procedure further. We will reduce the difficulties you face. Since I hold the GAD portfolio myself, I will personally ensure that bottlenecks are removed," he said.

The chief minister said delivering these appointment orders is a matter of duty, not generosity. He urged the newly appointed beneficiaries to shoulder their responsibilities with sincerity and dedication.

"A heavy responsibility has come your way, perhaps earlier than expected. Do your best to

fulfil it. We will always stand with you to make your work easier. If you face any difficulty, do not hesitate to knock on my door— I am always there for you," he said.

The chief minister said more regularisation orders for CPWs would soon be issued by the School Education Department under the supervision of Education Minister Sakina Itoo.

Itoo said the government has accorded top priority to clearing SRO-43 and RAS-2022 cases to ensure long-pending grievances are addressed.

She said many deserving candidates had been waiting for nearly a decade.

"After around 10 years of struggle, the deserving candidates finally received their due under the present government," she said.

The minister said the regularisation of CPWs aligns with the government's broader vision of extending relief to those who have devoted precious years of service to the School Education Department.

Traffic Plan Rolled Out for Construction-Hit Jmu-Sgr Highway

A traffic management plan was finalised on Wednesday to ensure two-way movement on the strategic Jammu-Srinagar National Highway amid construction work of a new flyover in Ramban district, an official said.

The plan was approved by Jammu Traffic Range Deputy Inspector General Mohd Haseeb Mughal during his visit to the construction site between Nachalana and Hingni, where vehicular movement is getting increasingly disturbed due to road construction.

Mughal and several officials from NHAI and the traffic police visited the affected site to assess the challenges on the ground.

According to PTI, the officer said he had directed the traffic police to exercise utmost care and responsibility to ensure that two-way traffic is not hampered by the construction and installation of signage, particularly of 'no overtaking' at vulnerable points along the 270-km road. Mughal also inspected other congestion points on the highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country. (Observer News Service)

Sikh Body Demands One-Time Quota

The All Parties Sikh Coordination Committee (APSCC) on Wednesday demanded a one-time reservation for the Sikh community in Jammu and Kashmir.

The committee chairman, Jagmohan Singh Raina, said the reservation in jobs and education should be given to the people who really deserve it, and it should not be a continuous process.

"Facts and provisions should be sorted out meticulously so that merit holders do not suffer and the maximum share should be for the majority community," Raina said in a statement here.

"It has been observed that a person gets the benefits of reservation on multiple fronts. The process needs to be changed, and it should be the prerogative of the candidate to avail the reservation benefits at the education level or at the job level.

"Once a youth avails the benefits of reservation, the process should be stopped forthwith. It is not just to extend the benefits of the reservation to the same youth time and again," he said.

According to PTI, Raina said that under the National Minority Act, Sikh is a minority community.

Yet no quota for it is an injustice, he said, and accused the ruling National Conference of practising a "double policy." (Observer News Service)

UTLBC Launches Mega Facilitation Drives Across Four J&K Districts

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K UTLBC will hold Mega Facilitation Camps in Ramban, Ganderbal, Kishtwar and Shopian on Friday, December 5, to help residents trace and claim their unclaimed financial assets. The initiative is part of the ongoing three-month nationwide awareness-cum-disbursement campaign titled "Aapki Poonji, Aapka Adhikar - Your Money, Your Right", launched by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, in coordination with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and other financial-sector regulators.

The camps aim to provide citizens with one-stop access to guidance, verification and on-the-spot support for claiming unclaimed bank deposits and other inactive financial holdings. Officials from banks, insurance companies, SEBI, PFRDA, LIC, IEPFA, district administrations and the RBI will participate across all four districts.

Ramban Camp:

A Special Mega Camp on unclaimed deposits will be held at the Community Hall near Raghunath Temple, Ramban, at 11:00 AM. Organised by the Lead District Manager (LDM) Ramban, the programme is expected to see participation of officials from the RBI, LIC, district administration, major banks and J&K UTLBC. Public representatives, including the local MLA and the District Development Commissioner, are also likely to attend.

Residents have already been sensitised through BLBC meetings and financial literacy programmes, and will be guided on using the RBI's UDGM portal to trace unclaimed deposits.

Ganderbal Camp:

The Lead District Office Ganderbal will organise its Mega Facilitation Camp at Govt Boys Higher Secondary School Ganderbal at 11:00 AM. Representatives from banks, insurance bodies, SEBI, PFRDA and IEPFA will assist participants with guidance and on-the-spot claim processing. The MLA, District Development Commissioner, RBI officials and senior bankers are also expected to join.

Kishtwar Camp:

The Lead Bank Office Kishtwar will hold its camp at 3:00 PM in the Conference Hall of the DC Office under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma. Officials from the RBI, LIC, banks and district administration will support residents in tracing and settling long-inoperative accounts, including DEAF accounts.

Shopian Camp:

The Lead District Office Shopian will conduct its Special Facilitation Camp at CFC Zainpora at 10:30 AM. The camp will help residents trace unclaimed deposits, insurance proceeds, mutual fund units, dividends and other inactive assets. Public representatives, RBI officials and senior district officers are expected to attend.

World Disability Day

Parents Plead for Special Schools in J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As Jammu and Kashmir marks World Disability Day, parents of specially-abled children have once again highlighted a longstanding concern—the acute shortage of special schools across the Union Territory, a gap they say is depriving their children of quality education and essential developmental support.

Speaking to KNO, several parents expressed frustration, saying that despite repeated appeals, dedicated educational facilities for children with special needs remain virtually non-existent in most areas. They lamented that children are losing precious years due to missing infrastructure.

Parents said the absence of accessible, disability-friendly education centres forces many children to remain confined to their homes.

Nelofar Akhter, a mother from south Kashmir, said countless families like hers struggle daily. "There are so many specially-abled children who simply cannot attend school because there are no special schools nearby," she said.

Akhter added that her own son would also have remained out of school had it not been for Zeba Apa School in Bijbehara, an institution started by Javed Ahmad Tak, a Padma Shri awardee who himself is physically challenged.

"If this school hadn't existed, my child would have been at home like many others. There are no government-run special schools that offer such support," she added.

Other parents said that

Abhenandana Home in Srinagar is the only prominent facility available, but it cannot meet the needs of children across the entire Union Territory.

Parents said that children admitted to Abhenandana Home often require a family member to stay with them—something not feasible for most families from far-off districts. "Not everyone can shift to Srinagar to look after their child. We need schools closer to home," a parent from Pulwama said.

To ease the burden on families, parents suggested that special schools should be established at the tehsil level, ensuring accessibility and reducing travel difficulties and dedicated colleges for differently-abled students should be set up at the district level to open pathways for vocational and higher education.

Creating such infrastructure is essential for helping children with disabilities become self-reliant and confident contributors to society, they said.

Meanwhile, Abhenandana Home Higher Secondary School, Solina Rambagh, run by the Department of Social Welfare, Kashmir, marked World Disability Day with a vibrant and inspiring event.

The programme featured a historic moment as deaf and mute students performed the national anthem in Indian Sign Language for the first time in Kashmir, drawing emotional applause from the audience. Students also presented cultural performances, including a Ladakhi song and a drama, all in sign language.

Kashmir's Specially-Abled Decry Stigma

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Several specially-abled persons on Wednesday said that despite the promises and schemes announced over the years, their lived experiences tell a completely different story.

"It is painful that on a day meant for acknowledging us, we are compelled to raise our voices for basic rights," they said. "If we had been truly empowered, we would have been celebrating this day instead of complaining for basic rights."

They lamented that the guarantees under the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, remain largely unimplemented in Kashmir. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Accessible India Campaign with much fanfare, but on the ground, barely anything changed. A few token works were done here and there, and most funds lapsed without meaningful results," one of them said.

According to KNO, many accused the government of failing even in ensuring that newly constructed buildings have mandatory accessibility features like

ramps, lifts, tactile paths, and disabled-friendly washrooms. "Without such facilities, we are being pushed further to the margins," they added.

Another major concern raised was the lack of special educators, accessible classrooms, and teaching materials in schools. "How can children with disabilities pursue education when the system itself is not inclusive? The four per cent job reservation for disabled persons also exists only on paper," one speaker pointed out.

"Society still hides us," said Sania Jan, a specially-abled woman from Srinagar. She said the challenges begin right at home. "Many parents hesitate to put effort or money into the education of children with disabilities. Due to the lack of awareness, some children face emotional and even physical neglect," she said.

Sania said that social stigma remains deeply rooted: "Families hide their disabled children and avoid taking them to gatherings. People worry about what others will say. This discrimination isolates us even further."

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

MACHINERY DIVISION KASHMIR

MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR

GIST of e-Tender

e-NIT No:

MDSK/TS/2025-26/70

Date

02.12.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union territory of J&K, e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from eligible contractors/registered firms for the below mentioned works

Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In rupees)	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	Bid security (EMD) in Rs	Position of AA	Position of TS
1	2	3	4	5	6
Supply, Installation, testing and Commissioning of Hot & Cold Ac of capacity 1.5 Ton for Snow clearance Control room Budgam of Machinery Division Kashmir.	200.00	2,55,000.00	5100.00	Works programme approved by CE vide order No. M&HED/K/Acctt/107 of 2025-26 Dt.30.08.2025 .	Sanctioned vide No.39 of 2025-26 Dt. 02 -12 -2025.

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

01	Publish date	03-12-2025(18:00hrs)
02	Period of downloading of bidding document	03 -12-2025(18:30 hrs)
03	Bid submission start date	03-12-2025 (18:55hrs)
04	Bid submission end date	10 - 12-2025(18:55 hrs)
05	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	11- 12-2025(14:00 hrs)

No: MDSK/ TS/4276-79

Date: 02.12.2025

DIPK-8683-25

DT: 03/12/2025

Sd/

Executive Engineer,

Machinery Division, Srinagar

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ANANTNAG

E-Bid Document (Auction ID: 28063)

Dated: 03/12/2025.

Sub: - E-Auction for collection of parking fee at Wazirbagh Car Parking Mehendkaal Anantnag.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, E- Auction is invited through GeM Portal for collection of parking fee at Wazirbagh Car Parking Mehendkaal Anantnag for a period of Three Years, initially for a period of one year and thereafter extendable for 02 Years subject to increase of 10% to the accumulate cost of every preceding year and satisfactory performance of contract.

S.No	Particulars	Date/Amount
1.	PQ(Pre-Qualification) Submission Start Date	03-12-2025 10:00 AM
2.	PQ (Pre- Qualification) Submission End Date	05-12-2025 04:00 PM
3.	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Assessment Date & Time	06-12-2025 10:00 AM
4.	EMD Start Date	07-12-2025 10:00 AM
5.	EMD End Date	09-12-2025 04:00 PM
6.	EMD (Bid Security) Amount (To be pledged in favour of Executive Officer Municipal Council Anantnag	Rs. 20000/- (Twenty thousand Only)
7.	Bid Submission/ Auction Start Date	10-12-2025 10:00 AM
8.	Bid Submission/ Auction End Date & Time	11-12-2025 01:00 PM
9.	Minimum Reserve Bid Amount (Per year with 10% escalation for each successive year)	Rs. 5,00,000/- (Five lacs only)

The Successful bidder has to charge parking fee as per following rate structure: -

Type of Vehicle	Parking Charge	
	0-3 Hrs	Full Day
Light Motor Vehicle	Rs 20/=Twenty only	Rs 30/= (Thirty only)
Two-Wheeler	Rs 10/= Ten only	Rs 20/= (Twenty only)

Reliable/resourceful and experienced agencies/persons, who fulfill the ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (PRE-QUALIFICATION) detailed as under shall only be eligible to participate in the E - Auction process.

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

- The bidder shall have to upload GST Registration Certificate.
- The bidder shall have to upload PAN/ Aadhaar Card.
- The bidder shall have to upload the Character Certificate duly certified by the competent authority. The character certificate shall be within the time limits.

NO:-MC/ANG/Tax/2025/10958-61

Dated:- 02.12.2025

DIPK-NB-2641-25

DT: 03/12/2025

Sd/-

Chief Executive Officer,

Municipal Council, Anantnag

SA Chase 359 Despite Kohli, Gaikwad Tons to Level Series

Press Trust of India

RAIPUR- Virat Kohli's 53rd ODI ton and Ruturaj Gaikwad's maiden century were eclipsed by a collective effort from South Africa in a steep run chase, giving the visitors a series levelling four wicket-win in the second ODI against India here on Wednesday.

Chasing 359, South Africa rode on a brilliant century from Aiden Markram (110), a brutal 34-ball 54 (1x4s, 5x6s) from Dewald Brevis and Matthew Breetzke's 68 to get over the line in another resilient effort with the bat.

The series-deciding third and final ODI will be played in Visakhapatnam on Saturday.

India's job was far from done even after putting a daunting total on board as heavy dew in the second half not only made spinners' job tougher, but poor returns from Prasidh Krishna (2/79) did not help their cause.

Prasidh, who had broken a second-wicket century partnership earlier by dismissing Temba Bavuma (46), got it right finally to pin Breetzke leg-before late in the game, and soon after, Arshdeep Singh (2/54) removed the dangerous Marco Jansen (2), but Corbin Bosch (29 not out off 15) and Keshav Maharaj (10 not out off 14) took the Proteas over the line with four balls to spare.

Markram was in his elements utilising a flat deck under lights to notch up his maiden century against India and providing South Africa a heavy contribution from the top to push on.

He took the initiative in the opening partnership and even though he lost Quinton de Kock (8) early with Arshdeep drawing first blood, Markram found a stable partner in Bavuma to put on 101 for the second wicket.

Markram had to remain the aggressor as Bavuma farmed the strike from the other end. Markram pierced gaps at will with brute force as well as some artistry.

He also hit through the line and over the bowlers' head to clear the ropes while using the feet well against Indian spinners, with heavy dew making their job even more difficult as the innings progressed.

But the opener also had luck favouring him when a powerful hit off Kuldeep Yadav towards long on saw the ball going through Yashasvi Jaiswal's hands for a six.

Had the catch been taken, Markram's charge would've ended on 53.

Markram eventually fell off a short off-cutter from Harshit Rana (1/70) but his dismissal had Brevis and Breetzke teaming up,



who waltzed to 92 off the next 64 balls to put South Africa in complete control.

While Brevis fell after his quick fifty which featured some massive sixes, Breetzke made a composed 68 for a second consecutive half-century.

Incidentally, it was only the second occasion where India lost an ODI despite scoring in excess of 350, with the first instance being against Australia in March 2019 when they lost by a similar margin of four wickets despite making 358/9 at Mohali.

Earlier, Kohli's successive hundred, maiden century from Gaikwad (105) and KL Rahul's quickfire 66 not out propelled India to a formidable 358 for five.

Kohli (102 off 93 balls, 7x4s, 2x6s) and Gaikwad (105 off 83 balls, 12x4s, 2x6s) reset the record for highest third-wicket stand for India in ODIs against South Africa as their 195-run association built the platform for the hosts to launch themselves into a big score.

And Rahul's (66 not out off 43 balls, 6x4s, 2x6s) second fifty in a row ensured that, even as India continued to tinker with their batting line-up with the stand-in skipper coming in at No 5 ahead of Washington Sun-

dar, who endured another failure.

Unlike at Ranchi where he did not look accustomed to batting in the middle order, Gaikwad emerged a perfect foil for Kohli as the two began racking up runs with ease.

With Ajinkya Rahane in tow, Kohli had put on 189 at Durban in February 2018 but perhaps on some counts, this partnership with Gaikwad was the one he may have enjoyed a little more as the Maharashtra batter matched his style of play.

The rotation of strike was deft, the singles were seamlessly converted into doubles and at times it was difficult for one to distinguish who had pierced the gap for those runs — not necessarily boundaries — as Gaikwad even appeared to be matching Kohli in terms of stroke-play.

If he was roughed up at the start, Gaikwad grew in confidence to post a fine half-century. Once past the milestone, he picked up pace.

Off the blocks with a perfect pull shot which sent the ball sailing over the ropes, it was yet another day in the office for Khli who did not put a foot wrong on way to a record extending 53rd ODI ton.

'I'm hoping that we lift our first World Cup soon' SA Cricket Trending Upwards: Shamsi

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: South African left-arm wrist-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi felt that their recent wave of success in international cricket, which included an away Test series win over India recently, is a sign of the Proteas landing their maiden ICC World Cup sooner than later.

South Africa reached the 2023 ODI World Cup semifinals, finished runners-up in the 2024 T20 World Cup and then clinched the World Test Championship title in June this year before whitewashing India 2-0 in the recently concluded away Test series.

Touching base with PTI on the sidelines of the fourth season of the ILT20, Shamsi, who is set to make his debut in the tournament for the Adani Sportsline-owned Gulf Giants, said the progress has been gradual yet encouraging.

"You can see, probably since 2021-22, we started performing better and better in knockout



games. We got to the semifinals of the 2023 World Cup, then the final of the T20 World Cup in 2024, and then won the World Test Championship against Australia. As South African cricket, we've been trending upwards, and I'm really hoping that we lift our first World Cup very soon," said Shamsi.

South Africa outplayed India on their own conditions with off-spinner Simon Harmer emerging as the top wicket-taker with 17 scalps and was adjudged player-of-the-series.

Left-arm spin duo of Keshav

Maharaj and Senuran Muthuswamy have also done well in the recent past when SA held Pakistan 1-1 in another away series.

Shamsi was delighted to see the rise of spin in the pace bowling heartland.

"Oh, unbelievable. It's been so many years of pain, especially for our Test team visiting India and being beaten quite comprehensively in the past. To see that the South African team has gone there and done so well, and especially seeing our spinners doing so well, that gives me a lot of joy because in past series the Indian spinners have given our batters a tough time.

"So for our spin bowlers to give the Indian batters a tough time... That was really nice to see. Of course, they have to be (the best in the world right now). Indian batters are very good at playing spin, in my personal experience, and for our boys to trouble them so much in their home conditions, of course they have to be the best trio."

New Zealand Leads West Indies by 96 Runs

Agencies

CHRISTCHURCH : Shai Hope batted in sunglasses because of an eye infection but saw the ball well enough to compile his first test half century against New Zealand on Wednesday before the West Indies ended the second day of the first test trailing by 96 runs.

The West Indies were bowled out for 167 in their first innings, 64 runs behind New Zealand who reached 32 without loss in seven overs before stumps.

While it might have been incongruous to see Hope sporting large reflective glasses under his helmet in gloomy conditions, his innings of 56 stabilized the West Indies' first innings after the loss of two early wickets.

At the other end Tagenarine Chanderpaul labored diligently over a half century from 165 balls. A 90-run partnership between the pair helped the West



Indies towards parity with New Zealand whose first innings ended at 231.

The West Indies were 157-6 before a late rain shower forced players from the field. When they returned, the tail had to face the New Zealand pacers in fading light and the last four wickets fell for 10 runs. Jacob Duffy captured all four to finish with 5-34, his first five-wicket bag in tests.

New Zealand then had to bat again under darkening skies and reached 32 without loss with Tom Latham 14 not out and Devon Conway 15.

The accomplishments of Hope and Chanderpaul were magnified by the fact it was a day on which the ball constantly beat the bat, where runs had to be grafted for and bowlers explored all aspects of a batter's technique.

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