

Alarming Dip In AQI

Kashmir Slips Into Severe Pollution Zone



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir's winter air has turned dangerously polluted, with the Valley slipping into the severe category this week. Areas across Jammu and Kashmir recorded an Air Quality Index touching 288, while Srinagar remained between 147 and 172

in the past 24 hours, indicating poor to unhealthy air.

Data showed high concentrations of pollutants, with PM10 ranging between 136 and 243 micrograms per cubic metre and PM2.5 between 86 and 167 micrograms per cubic metre. Both exceed the World Health Organization's | [More on P6](#)

'10 More Days Of Dry Spell'

Observer News Service

The dry weather conditions across Jammu and Kashmir are expected to continue for the next 10 days, meteorologists said on Thursday. Independent weather forecaster Faizan Atif Keng said that the region will remain mostly dry over the coming days. "The water | [More on P6](#)

Mission Yuva

J&K Bank Sanctions Loans To 10,000 Youth

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Bank has provided loans to 10,000 youth under the Mission Yuva scheme in the Union Territory with an aim to make them economically self-reliant.

In a major step towards promoting entrepreneurship and economic self-reliance among the youth, J&K Bank has achieved a milestone under the J&K government's flagship Mission Yuva programme by sanctioning loans to 10,000 eligible beneficiaries for establishing their own business ventures, a spokesman of the

lender said in a statement here.

Through Mission Yuva, the Bank has been working in close coordination with the state government to translate the vision of youth empowerment into tangible economic opportunities across the Union Territory, it added.

The achievement marks the bank's continued commitment to nurturing a new entrepreneurial mindset, enabling young men and women to emerge as job givers rather than job seekers, the spokesman said.

Expressing satisfaction over the achievement, the bank's MD and CEO Amitava Chatterjee | [More on P6](#)

Putin Touches Down In Delhi For High-Stakes Summit

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in New Delhi on Thursday for a state visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi—his first trip to India since the Ukraine war began nearly four years ago. Modi personally received Putin with a warm embrace at Palam Airport, a gesture that underlined the significance New Delhi attaches to the visit at a time of intense geopolitical churn.

Putin, who has arrived for a nearly 27-hour visit, is accompanied by a high-level delegation of senior ministers and a large contingent of Russian business leaders. During Putin's Delhi stay both sides are expected to push aggressively to deepen



THE VISIT PLAYS OUT Even As US Targets India With Tariffs And Heightened Scrutiny Of Its Russia Policy

economic cooperation beyond their traditional defence and energy partnership.

The trip comes at a moment of heightened geopolitical

scrutiny for India, which has continued its decades-old "Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership" with Moscow even as it deepens

Trump Had No Role in India-Pak Ceasefire: India

Agencies

Maintaining that United States President Donald Trump had no role to play in ceasefire between India and Pakistan following Operation Sindoor in May this

year, the Centre on Thursday informed the Parliament that the agreement to end hostilities was arrived directly between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of both the countries. Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh, | [More on P6](#)

Reservation Policy File Sent To LG, Formal Order Soon: CM

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: A day after the Cabinet approved the proposal to reduce quotas in the EWS and RBA categories to raise open merit quota by 10 percent, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said the file has been signed and sent to the Lieutenant Governor for approval and the government expects to issue a formal order soon.

Speaking with reporters in Srinagar, Omar Abdullah said the file was signed yesterday and sent to the Lieutenant Governor for vetting.

"We hope he will approve it and the order will be issued thereafter," he said in response to a query on the status of the reservation report.

He also said that the



government has issued appointment orders under the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (RAS), formerly known as SRO-43, to the families of government employees who died in service.

He said around 60 cases from Kashmir province received formal | [More on P6](#)

Hands Appointment Orders To 54 Beneficiaries

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday distributed appointment orders on compassionate grounds to 54 beneficiaries here. The chief minister handed over the appointment and regularisation orders to beneficiaries from various districts of Kashmir, marking another step towards clearing the backlog of cases under SRO-43 and RAS-2022, an official spokesperson said. Both SRO-43 and the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (RAS), 2022, provide a pathway for dependents of government | [More on P6](#)

'Public Holiday Powers Lie With Centre'

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said the authority to declare public holidays in Jammu and Kashmir lies with the Central government, underlining

the current limitations of the Union Territory's elected administration. Responding to discussions around | [More on P6](#)

J&K Has Highest Power Losses In India

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir continues to have the highest transmission and distribution (T and D) losses in the country. Union Minister of State for Power Shripad Naik informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

Citing the latest figures for 2023-24, the minister said the UT reported T and D losses of 48.08 percent, significantly higher than the national average of 17.63 percent. He noted that J and K's performance remains the poorest among all States and Union Territories.

According to a review by the Central Electricity Authority, the northern region, including J and K, recorded transmission losses of around 3.15 percent. However, the gap widens considerably when overall T and D losses are assessed, largely due to technical shortcomings, power theft, ageing infrastructure and distribution bottlenecks.

The government said efforts are underway to reduce losses through network expansion, system modernization, SCADA and EMS deployment, higher-voltage infrastructure and improved operational practices.

Naik also informed the House that every inhabited village in the country, | [More on P6](#)

Diagnostic Facilities Must Reach Remote Areas: LG

Stresses Integration Of AI & Data Analytics In Modern Pathology

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Dedicated diagnostic facilities must reach remote and far flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir to ensure timely treatment and improved healthcare outcomes, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Thursday while inaugurating APCON 2025 at Government Medical College Jammu.

Addressing the 73rd Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Pathologists and Microbiologists along with the International Academy of Pathologists Indian Division, he said equal access to diagnostics remains key to modern healthcare delivery.

He called for public and private sector collaboration to strengthen laboratory infrastructure and reduce delays between diagnosis and treatment.

"Building a modern healthcare system that improves the quality of life for all citizens is a



primary goal," he added.

The 5-Day annual conference on the theme "Emerging Trends in Pathology: From Morphology to Molecular Insights," has brought together leading pathologists and microbiologists to deliberate on the latest advancements and innovations shaping the field of pathology.

In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the need to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) | [More on P6](#)

PENDING ACID ATTACK CASES

SC Seeks Details Within 4 Weeks

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Terming tardy trials in acid attack cases as a "mockery of the system", the Supreme Court on Thursday directed all the High Courts to submit details of such pending cases across the country within four weeks.

Mooting the idea of setting up special courts for expeditious disposal of acid attack cases, the top court also asked the Centre to consider amending the law through legislation or even an ordinance so that the survivors are formally included within the definition of persons with disabilities under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act to avail welfare schemes. | [More on P6](#)

Major Travel Chaos As IndiGo Cancels Over 550 Flights

Airline Says, Full Flight Operations Will Be Restored By Feb Next Year

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The country's largest airline IndiGo on Thursday cancelled more than 550 domestic and international flights, and services were delayed at various airports as operational disruptions continued for the third straight day, impacting travel plans of hundreds of

passengers.

On a day when the civil aviation ministry and watchdog DGCA held a meeting with senior IndiGo officials to take stock of the situation as well as the mitigation plans, the airline's CEO, Pieter Elbers, told the staff that normalising operations and bringing back punctuality will not be an "easy target".

The airline, which generally operates around 2,300 flights daily and presents its punctuality as a

mark, recorded an on time performance of 19.7 per cent on Wednesday, a steep fall from 35 per cent reported on Tuesday.

Grappling with significant flight disruptions due to a multitude of factors, including cabin crew woes and technology issues, the airline has adjusted its schedules which means that pre-planned service cancellations are being carried out as part of normalising operations.

Sources said | [More on P6](#)



Newly recruited JAKLI soldiers take part in their Passing Out Parade in Srinagar. KO Photo By Abid

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اطلاع عام

مظہر کو اپنے SOZNI کام کارخانہ بنام GULZAR SOZNI کی رجسٹریشن منجمد
ہیڈی کرافٹس بڈگام میں کرانی مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا
اعتراض ایک ہفتے کے اندر اسسٹنٹ ڈائریکٹر منجمد ہیڈی کرافٹس بڈگام کے دفتر میں پیش
کریں بعد ازیں معاد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

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ولدیت غلام جی الدین ٹھوکر ساکن ہیمس بڈگام
فون۔ 7889400268 MBC

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Name in my Aadhar Card has been wrongly entered as GOWHAR IQBAL while my correct Name is GOWHARA JAN. Now I want the same to be corrected if anybody has any objection in this regard He/ She may file his /her objection in the Office of the Concerned Authority, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Gowhara Jan
W/O Mohd Iqbal Sheikh
R/O Rooh Monghall Anantrnag

JNA7780878931

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Ward's Name in Aadhar Card has been wrongly entered as BISMA JAN while my Ward's correct Name is BISMA NASEER. Now I want the same to be corrected if anybody has any objection in this regard He/ She may file his /her objection in the Office of the Concerned Authority, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Naseer Ahmad Sofi
F/O Bisma Naseer
R/O Uranhall Anantrnag

JNA7780878931

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Rohail Arsheed Padder Instead Of Rahail Ahmad Padder . 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..
Rahail Ahmad Padder S/O Arshid Ahmad Padder fko
R/O Amshipora Distt Shopian

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his/he adhaar card as Toiba Jan Instead Of Toiba Iqbal . 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..
Mohammad Iqbal Mir F/O Toiba Iqbal fko
R/O Pinjoora Shopian

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in adhaar card as Faziya Farooq while her correct name is Faikah Farooq. 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 concern aadhar centre Jammu / Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Farooq Ahmad Sheikh
F/o Faikah Farooq
R/o Bamurda Tehsil Khag Distt Budgam. bmg-r

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 18/03/13 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

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR BUCHWARA, SRINAGAR Executive Magistrate 1st Class

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Application of Shahid Haider Ansari, F/O Ali Mustafa Ansari, R/o Nishat Srinagar, for registration of the date of birth of his son, Ali Mustafa Ansari.

This office has received an application from Shahid Haider Ansari seeking registration of the date of birth of his son, Ali Mustafa Ansari.
A report from the concerned Patwari has been obtained, along with supporting documents including:
• 10th Class School Certificate (Reg. No. C124/25526/0004) showing the date of birth as 29/02/2008
• Aadhaar Cards
• Ration Card
• Affidavit submitted by the applicant

Before this office proceeds further in the matter, it is hereby notified that any person having an objection, if any regarding the said date of birth registration may submit the same to the office of the undersigned within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice, during office hours.
No objections shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

Naib Tehsildar Buchwara
Executive Magistrate 1st Class

ss

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old Name)PEERZADA FAYAZ AHMAD to (New Name) FAYAZ AHMAD PIR in future I will be know as (New Name)FAYAZ AHMAD PIR if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact with passport Of- fice Srinagar within 7 days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained
FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his/he adhaar card as Maira Jan instead of Maira Basharat . 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..
Basharat Ahmad Ganie
F/o Maira Basharat
R/O Saidpora Bala Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Gh Muhi Din Shah Instead of Gulam Mohi Ud Din Shah . 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..
Gulam Mohi Ud Din Shah
S/o Ghulam Mohd Shah R/o Mashwara Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Gousia Jan instead of Gousia Mohi Ud Din . 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..
Gousia Mohi Ud Din
D/o Gh Mohi Ud Din Dar
R/o Yall Tehsil Kunzer

NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Mohd Sultan Dobi S/o Ghulam Mohd Dobi to (new name) Mohammad Sultan Dhoobi S/o Ghulam Mohammad Dhoobi. In future I will be known as Mohammad Sultan Dhoobi S/o Ghulam Mohammad Dhoobi.

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

Media line advert

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK-0420210001629 issued in favour of MOHSIN ALI WANI Parentage GH AHMAD WANI Whereas an application has been recieved by one MOHSIN ALI WANI Parentage GH AHMAD WANI wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as MOHSIN ALI Which needs to be changed as MOHSIN ALI WANI.
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 officer 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

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Kulgam Ph. No. / Fax 01931260163 Email: dshokulgam@gmail.com

Subject: Advertisement for establishment of Sheep units under PM-DAJGUA for the year 2025-26.

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications on prescribed format are invited from the interested persons for the establishment of Sheep/Goat units shown in Annexure A to this Advertisement Notice under PM-DAJGUA.

Important Dates:

- Date of Commencement of issuance of application forms 05-12-2025.
- Last date for submission of applications 13-12-2025.

How to apply:

The application forms can be obtained from and then submitted on working days during office hours from the offices Veterinary Assistant Surgeons/Sheep Development Blocks of the District Kulgam (Devsar, Pahloo, Manzgam, Nagam, & Sub Block Kund).
Candidates if found eligible shall be considered for selection by the designated selection committee through proper procedure. The selected approved candidates have to establish the unit as per the guidelines of the scheme.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

To be eligible under DAJGAU scheme the applicant must Be:

- Resident of village having Schedule tribe population of 500 (live hundred) or more
- Resident of village having Schedule tribe population of 50% or more
- The applicant should have obtained Patta as per forest Right Act (I RA).
- The applicant if approved shall be able to provide 10% of his/her share towards project cost .

Annexure A

Scheme	Details of activity	Target
PM - DAJGUA	Establishment of 10 ewes/Does + 1 Ram/buck Unit Subsidy shall bn provided up to 90% of project with ceiling of One (01) lac. The subsidy shall be provided for procurement of animals, construction of night shelter, cost of feed for six(06) months, veterinary care and insurance coverage for one year.	03 (Three) Units
	Establishment of 05 ewos/Docs +1 Ram/Buck Unit Subsidy shall be provided lip to 90% of project v/ith ceiling of (0.5 lac. The subsidy shall be provided for procurement of animals, construction of night shelter, cost of feed for six (06) months, veterinary care arid insurance coverage for one year	0.3 (Three) Units

General Terms and Conditions.

- No application shall be entertained after cut off date.
- Concerned VAS shall maintain proper records indicating date/time of application received with attestation by applicant.

No: DSHOK/Tech/ PM-DA.JGUA /2025-26/2464-80

DIPK-8710/25
dated: 04-12-2025

District Sheep
Husbandry Officer,
Kulgam

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Higher Education Department Civil Secretariat, J&K

Subject: Retirement of Principals/Associate Professors/Assistant Professors/Librarians & Physical Training Instructors of the Government Degree Colleges, during the Calander year 2026.

NOTIFICATION

In terms of the Article 285(a)(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations, 1956 (Volume-I), it is hereby notified for information of all the concerned Faculty Members of the Higher Education Department , UT of J&K whose particulars are given in **Annexure-A** to this Notification, shall retire from the Government service from the date (s) as indicated against each on attaining the age of superannuation with due reference to their Date(s) of Birth.

The retirement of the Faculty Members shall, however, be subject to outcome of Writ Petition(s), if any, pending before any competent Court of law and verification of Date of Birth (Original Matriculation Certificate(s)) of the concerned by the DDO.

(Sanjay Kumar Tickoo) JKAS
Deputy Secretary to the Government.

Dated: 01.12.2025

DIPK-8696/25
dated: 04-12-2025

No. HED-GAZ/15/2021-04(45596)

Annexure-A

List of Principals					
S.No.	Name of Officer Dr/Prof/Mr/Mrs	Designation	Subject	Date of Birth	Date of Retirement
1	Ved Kumar	Principal	Chemistry	18-01-1966	31-01-2026
2	.Mohd Shaif Lone	Principal	Geology	01-03-1966	28-02-2026
3	Bashir Ahmad Parry	Principal	Electronics	02-03-1966	31-03-2026
4	Nargis Bano	Principal	Urdu	29-03-1966	31-03-2026
5	Shamim Ahmad Dar	Principal	Zoology	09-03-1966	31-03-2026
6	Nazir Ahmad Simnani	Principal (Dean CLUS)	Political Science	01-04-1966	31-03-2026
7	Gh Mohd Lone	Principal (Dean CLUS)	Commerce	01-04-1966	31-03-2026
8	Sujata Rani	Principal	Economics	10-03-1966	31-03-2026
9	Rajesh Kumar Gupta	Principal	Physics	10-03-1966	31-03-2026
10	Mohammed Azam	Principal	Zoology	10-03-1966	31-03-2026
11	Nilofar Akhter	Principal	Psychology	04-04-1966	30-04-2026
12	Archana Kaul	Principal	English	29-04-1966	30-04-2026
13	Ashu Vashisht	Principal	English	16-04-1966	30-04-2026
14	Ab. Rashid Malik	Principal	Botany	02-04-1966	30-04-2026
15	Mohd Hussian Malik	Principal	Persian	01-05-1966	30-04-2026
16	Ravender Kumar	Principal	Electronics	25-05-1966	31-05-2026
17	Gurvinder Raj Verma	Principal	Sericulture	15-06-1966	30-06-2026
18	Seema Arora	Principal	English	08-07-1966	31-07-2026
19	Mudasir Afshan	Principal	Economics	31-07-1966	31-07-2026
20	Tirath Kumar Sharma	Principal	Mathematics	03-08-1966	31-08-2026
21	Sheikh Fouzia Fatima	Principal	Geography	05-08-1966	31-08-2026
22	Kuldeep Kumar	Principal	Zoology	05-10-1966	31-10-2026
23	Sanjay Kumar	Principal	Physics	08-10-1966	31-10-2026
24	Chander Shekhar	Principal (Dean CLUJ)	Mathematics	03-10-1966	31-10-2026
25	Ranvijay Singh	Principal (Dean CLUJ)	Zoology	03-10-1966	31-10-2026
26	Seema Naz	Principal	Psychology	10-11-1966	30-11-2026
27	Sharief-ud-Din Khan	Principal	Electronics	23-11-1966	30-11-2026
List of Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, Librarians, Physical Training Instructors					
S.No.	Name of the Officer	Designation	Subject	Date of Birth	Date of Retirement
1	Tabasum Lone	Associate Professor	Philosophy	04-04-1966	30-04-2026
2	Irfan-ul-Majeed	Associate Professor	Botany	06-06-1966	30-06-2026
3	Mushtaq Ahmad Wani	Associate Professor	Statistics	07-06-1966	30-06-2026
4	Gazala Firdoos	Associate Professor	Zoology	03-09-1966	30-09-2026
5	Nater Parkash Sharma	Associate Professor	Physics	01-02-1966	31-01-2026
6	Rajinder Kumar Sharma	Associate Professor	Botany	15-01-1966	31-01-2026
7	Bashir Ahmed	Associate Professor	Physics	11-01-1966	31-01-2026
8	Kewal Kumar	Associate Professor	Chemistry	16-02-1966	28-02-2026
9	Gh. Rasool Ganaie	Associate Professor	Zoology	03-03-1966	31-03-2026
10	Rubina Shaheen	Associate Professor	Home Science	01-04-1966	31-03-2026
11	Mushtaq Ahmad Parrey	Associate Professor	Zoology	01-04-1966	31-03-2026
12	Mohd Yousuf Khan	Associate Professor	Commerce	03-03-1966	31-03-2026
13	Umrila Rani	Associate Professor	Hindi	25-04-1966	30-04-2026
14	Nazir Ahmad	Associate Professor	Chemistry	07-04-1966	30-04-2026
15	Mohd Ayub Shah	Associate Professor	Botany	01-05-1966	30-04-2026
16	Nazir Ahmad Bhat	Associate Professor	Education	10-04-1966	30-04-2026
17	Syed Shafiq Ahmad Andrabi	Associate Professor	Chemistry	11-04-1966	30-04-2026
18	Anju Bala	Associate Professor	Mathematics	20-04-1966	30-04-2026
19	Babu Lal	Associate Professor	Education	05-05-1966	31-05-2026
20	Narayan Dutt	Associate Professor	Physics	02-05-1966	31-05-2026
21	Irvinder Kour Sudan	Associate Professor	Home Science	04-05-1996	31-05-2026
22	Mansa Ram	Associate Professor	Zoology	07-07-1966	31-07-2026
23	Rifat Ara	Associate Professor	Urdu	04-06-1966	30-06-2026
24	Balbir Kumar	Associate Professor	Physics	25-08-1966	31-08-2026
25	Surinder Singh	Associate Professor	History	10-09-1966	30-09-2026
26	Bilal Ahmad Khanday	Associate Professor	Mathematics	21-09-1966	30-09-2026
27	Sumita Dham	Associate Professor	Chemistry	17-10-1966	31-10-2026
28	Jozafeen Afzal	Associate Professor	Education	07-10-1966	31-10-2026
29	Rubiya Sultan	Associate Professor	Botany	28-11-1966	30-11-2026
30	Shaista Masarat	Associate Professor	Zoology	09-11-1966	30-11-2026
31	Shuja Hussain	Associate Professor	Electronics	11-12-1966	31-12-2026
32	Farooq Ahmad	Assistant Professor	Computer Application	15-03-1966	31-03-2026
33	Rakesh Sharma	Assistant Professor	Hindi	01-12-1966	30-11-2026
34	Mohd Muzafar Shah	Librarian	Librarian	04-04-1966	30-04-2026
35	Gh. Rasool Rather	PTI	PTI	05-04-1966	30-04-2026
36	Balbir Singh	PTI	PTI	21-06-1966	30-06-2026



Foundation Laid for New Illuminated Landmark at Alamgari Bazar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: National Conference Chief Spokesperson and MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq, on Thursday laid the foundation stone for a major beautification and illumination project at Alamgari Bazar, marking a significant step toward enhancing civic aesthetics and strengthening the cultural identity of the historic Srinagar locality.

The project, approved at a cost of 21.52 lakh, envisions the creation of an illuminated landmark attraction, coupled with a series of beautification components. These include foundation strengthening, aesthetic enhancements, and artistic calligraphy inspired by the rich heritage of the area.

Speaking at the foundation-laying ceremony, Sadiq said the initiative aligns with his larger vision of revitalising old Srinagar's public spaces, restoring their traditional charm, and integrating modern amenities. Developmental works of this nature, he added, are essential not only for beautifying neighbourhoods but also for nurturing cultural pride and improving the day-to-day liv-

“The project, approved at a cost of 21.52 lakh, envisions the creation of an illuminated landmark attraction, coupled with a series of beautification components. These include foundation strengthening, aesthetic enhancements, and artistic calligraphy inspired by the rich heritage of the area.

ing experience of residents.

He noted that Alamgari Bazar, with its deep historical and cultural relevance, deserves sustained attention. The upcoming illuminated landmark—featuring heritage-driven design elements and vibrant lighting—is expected to serve as both a visual attraction and a symbol of the locality's enduring cultural identity.

Local residents and party workers who attended the event expressed gratitude to Sadiq for addressing long-pending developmental needs in the area. They appreciated his continued efforts to bring visible improvements to the constituency through quality infrastructure and people-centric projects.

Crime Branch Files Chargesheet in Land Fraud Case

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch Kashmir has filed a chargesheet in a land-fraud case involving a businessman and two retired revenue officials, officials said on Thursday.

The chargesheet in FIR No. 79/2022 under Sections 420, 467, 468, 471 and 120-B of the RPC, read with Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, was submitted before the Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Srinagar, a spokesperson said.

The accused have been

identified as businessman Habibullah Bhat of Omarhar Buchpora, retired Naib Tehsildar Mohammad Rajab Reshi of Brein Nishat, and then Patwari Syed Khurshid Ahmad of Watalbagh Lar, Ganderbal.

The case was registered following a written complaint alleging fraudulent mutation of 10 marlas of land at Zoonimar Eidgah, Srinagar, on the basis of a purported sale deed. During investigation, Crime Branch found that no sale deed bearing Registration No. 1683 dated 08.09.2003 had ever been recorded by the concerned Sub-Registrar.



Against the biting cold, a man hauls a basket of freshly baked Kashmiri bread in the old city. KO Photo Abid Bhat.

City Grapples With Multiple Bear Sightings; Rescue Teams Mobilised

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Black bear sightings in Srinagar continue to make headlines as the animal was spotted near Nigeen Lake on Wednesday, following earlier appearances at NTT, Kashmir University and SKIMS.

The Wildlife Department has launched a full-scale operation to safely capture the bear. Teams from the Central Kashmir division, assisted by wildlife personnel brought in from other districts, are actively on the ground.

According to the details collected by KNO, drones are being deployed to track the bear's movements from above, while tranquiliser guns and short firearms

stand ready for emergencies.

Moreover, ambulances and wildlife teams have been stationed nearby to ensure swift response in case of human or animal injuries. Wildlife officials, including Central Kashmir Wildlife Warden personally visited Nigeen Lake to oversee operations and coordinate the multi-team effort.

Speaking to KNO during an onsite visit, Wildlife Warden, Central Kashmir division Parvez Ahmad Wani, said the public needs to move with caution and people need to step out only in groups for essential errands or prayers. “Avoid venturing into parks, lakesides, or secluded areas. Safety is our priority,” he said.

The official also warned

against circulating or creating AI-generated bear videos, revealing that two FIRs have already been lodged. “Those indulging in such activities will face action,” he added.

He said, it has also been observed people are seen chasing bear and documenting him over videos which is dangerous and it should be avoided.

Meanwhile, Srinagar residents continue to follow the unfolding drama with a mix of concern and humor, joking that the bear is perhaps exploring the city.

Moreover, search operations are ongoing, with wildlife teams stationed strategically to ensure both human and animal safety until the bear is safely relocated.

Mock Drill on Disaster Preparedness Held at GMC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A dedicated team from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Bhagat Barzulla, conducted an extensive demonstration-cum-mock drill on disaster preparedness and emergency management at the Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar on Thursday under direction of Direc-

tor SDRF Kashmir, Intiyaz Hussain Mir.

The activity was specifically organised for the MBBS Batch 2025, aiming to enhance their awareness, technical abilities, and confidence while responding to critical incidents and public health emergencies.

The mock drill featured a series of realistic demonstrations covering a wide range of emergency situations that com-

monly arise during disasters.

The SDRF team presented structured modules on earthquake preparedness, outlining the immediate actions required to minimise injuries, maintain safety, and assist victims until medical teams arrive. Fire emergency training included demonstrations on identifying hazards, safe evacuation techniques, and systematic fire response strategies.

NORTHERN RAILWAY						
E-Tender Notice						
Sr.DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only.						
Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost. (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
251-Elect-T-19R-2025-26	Electrical Work in c/w Provision of IOT devices for monitoring & control of electrical assets like pump, platform 30-70% lighting, streetlight, lifts, Escalators over FZR division.	Rs. 6,00,11,561.45/-	Rs. 450100.00/-	06 Months	24.12.2025 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in
No. 251-Elect/T/Notice No. 21R-Elect/2025-26 Dated: 03.12.2025						3752/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE						

SAD DEMISE

With deep sorrow and heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Fatima W/o Late Mohd Subhan Mir Resident of Baranpather Batamaloo, Srinagar, who has departed for heavenly abode on 04 December 2025. she was a kind, loving soul whose warmth and presence will be deeply missed by everyone who knew her. May Allah grant her the highest place in Jannah and give strength, patience to her family to bear this irreparable loss. Fateha Khawani will be held on 06 December 2025 at 11: AM in their ancestral Graveyard Mominabad Batamaloo, Near Court Complex, Srinagar.

Bereaved family
ABDUL MAJEED MIR (SON)
Mobile No-9697776655

اڙنيابت يومي زمينگير

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب فاروق احمد ذوالولاء اسدالله ذراسا کنگي پوره برادر اجرائي ليگل بيئر بکن خود

اشتہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض ليگل بيئر/ ڈیپنٹسٹ سرٹفیکٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کی والدہ مورخہ 12-2024-28 فوت ہوا ہے اودموتی کے وارثان جائزہ ذیل ہے

مشتاق احمد ذوالولاء اسدالله ذار مزدوری 58 سال پرمزونیفہ

امتیاز احمد ذار پسر ناتوان 47 --

غلام احمد ذار ولد۔۔۔ مزدوری 51 سال --

اسحاق احمد ذار پسر۔۔۔ ڈرائیور 40 سال --

فاروق احمد ذار پسر۔۔۔ مزدوری 39 سال --

محمد عبداللہ پسر اسدالله دار -- 48 سال --

اس کے علاوہ اورو کوئی افراد کنٹینٹیں ہے سرٹفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بد مشعر اخبار سراسر دان کے اندر اندر آئے پندر یا اعتراض عدالت حد کو دفتر ی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میا کو کو بی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO

اڙنيابت يومي

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب محمد شفیع خواجہ ولد عبد الرحیم خواجہ سیکو برادر اجرائي EWS سرٹفیکٹ بکن دفتر طیبہ شفیع

اشتہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض EWS سرٹفیکٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل دھندل میں رہائش پذیر ہے سائل کا کنفیہ 6 افراد پر مشتمل ہے اورو کنفیہ 15 سالانہ آمدنی زرعی ع میہ زرعی سے مبلغ 96,000 روپیہ تک ہے سائل کے پاس 15 ایکڑ سے کم رقبہ ہے سائل کا مکان رہائشی 200 SQ Ground ہے کم ہے رقبہ میں تعمیر شدہ موجود ہے سائل کا رہائشی فلیٹ 1000 sq فٹ سے کم ہے سائل کا مکان رجسٹری اذ بیرون میونسپل حدود میں واقع نہیں سائل کے کہہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 8 لاکھ سے کم ہے سائل RBA OBC, ST, کے زمرے میں نہیں آتا ہے۔

سرٹفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشعر اخبار سراسر دان کے اندر اندر آئے پندر یا اعتراض دالت حد کو دفتر ی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میا کو کو بی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform all the concerned that Farooq Ahmed Sheikh, S/O : Late Ghulam Qadir Sheikh, R/O: Shameswari , Khnaqahi Moulā (Ex Government servant) passed away on 7 th Nov, 2025 . We the undersigned are the only two surviving legal heirs of deceased retiree (PDD). As required under rules ,if anybody has any objection to our joint statement , he / she may approach the concerned Revenue authorities and file objections in written form within seven days after publication of this public notice.

1/ : Mehbooba (W/O Farooq Ahmed Sheikh)
2/: Sheikh Tajamul Hussain (S/O: Sheikh Farooq Ahmed)
R/O: Shameswari , Khanquahi Moulā , Srinagar

mdl

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Ghulam Mohi Uddin Yatoo S/o ghulam Nabi Yatoo while my correct name is Gh Mohi Ud Din Yatoo S/O Gh Nabi Yatoo . 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..

Gh Mohi Ud Din Yatoo
S/O Gh Nabi Yatoo
R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan

fko

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

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SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI
CALENDAR
13 Jumada al-Sani
1447

PRAYERS

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

This Day In History

- 771 - Charlemagne becomes the sole King of the Franks after the death of his brother Carloman
- 1082 - Ramon Berenguer II, Count of Barcelona is assassinated
- 1301 - Pope Boniface VIII's degree Auscultā fili (only nominee)
- 1360 - The French Franc is created
- 1408 - Emir Edigu of Golden Horde reaches Moscow
- 1448 - Bishop Jona of Moscow chosen as metropolitan of Kiev/Intoxication
- 1456 - Earthquake strikes Naples; about 35,000 die
- 1492 - Christopher Columbus discovers Hispaniola (El Espanola/Haiti)
- 1602 Giulio Caccini's "Euridice" premieres in Florence
- 1741 - Russian princess Elisabeth Petrovna grabs powers
- 1757 - Battle of Leuthen: Prussian army beats Austrians
- 1804 - Thomas Jefferson re-elected US President, George Clinton Vice President
- 1912 - The Triple Alliance among Italy, Austria, and Germany (originally signed in 1882) is renewed for six years, beginning in 1914, a move inspired by instability in the Balkans
- 1941 - Soviet anti-offensive in Moscow drives out Nazi army
- 1950 - Sikkim becomes a protectorate of India
- 1955 - The American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations merge and form the AFL-CIO.
- 1957 - President Sukarno of Indonesia expels all Dutch people.
- 1958 - The Preston bypass, the UK's first stretch of motorway, opens to traffic for the first time. It is now part of the M6 and M55 motorways.
- 1959 - Intikhab Alam bowls Colin McDonald with 1st ball in Tests
- 1960 - Ghana drops diplomatic relations with Belgium
- 1971 - Libya nationalizes British Petroleum concession
- 1977 - Egypt breaks off diplomatic relations with Syria, Libya, Algeria, Iraq & South Yemen
- 1990 - British Indian novelist Salman Rushdie appears in public for 1st time in 2 years after Iran called for his assassination
- 1990 - Iraq announces willingness to speak with US about resolving the Persian Gulf crisis
- 1993 - Astronauts begin repair of Hubble telescope in space
- 2008 - Human remains previously found in 1991 are finally identified by Russian and American scientists as those of Tsar Nicholas II
- 2013 - 52 people are killed and 167 are injured in a militant attack on a defense ministry compound in Sana'a, Yemen
- 2016 - Malta becomes the 1st country in Europe to outlaw conversion therapy
- 2017 Online store Amazon begins operations in Australia

Mastermind Coaching Institute Beerwah

Address Top Floor New J&K Bank Beerwah

Fee Structure For Session 2025-26

S. NO	Class	Fee
01	8th	6000 Full Syllabus
02	9th	7000
03	10th	8000
04	11th med	7000 (Physics + Chemistry+ Biology) per subject
05	12th Med	English 3000 only
		7000 Chemistry + Physics + Biology) Per Subject
English 3000		

Faculty Members

1	Kasier Sir	Msc Bed
2	Bilal Sir	MSc Bed
3	Iqbal Sir	MSc Bed
4	Owais Sir	MSc Bed
5	Ijahangir Sir	MA Bed
6	Mushtaq Sir	MA Bed
7	Gowhar Sir	MSc Bed
8	Saleem Sir	MA Bed

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KO VIEW

Herbs Keep
Kashmir Going

As the cold bites harder, old city’s alchemist shops are seeing a surge. Their shelves overflow with mullein, quince seeds, lavender and nettle. Elders wander in, warm up by the bukhari and ask for herbs they’ve always relied on. The crowds say a lot about the shift in how Kashmiris think about wellness.

People in the valley are tired of taking too many pills. Over-medication has become common. Families keep antibiotics at home as if they were tea bags. Many complain of feeling dull and uneasy after days of winter medicines. Doctors say this habit can make people more vulnerable. In that atmosphere, herbs feel gentle, and familiar.

Elder Kashmiris always say the cold never scared them. What mattered was preparing for winter. And herbs were part of that preparation. Quince seeds went into morning tea. Mullein helped calm coughs. Ginger and cinnamon warmed the body. Every home had its own mix.

Then pharmacies spread, syrups arrived, and the younger generation drifted away from these older practices.

Now the tide seems to be turning. The shift is about trust and balance instead of nostalgia. And young Kashmiri entrepreneurs are playing a real role.

Over the last few years, several small herbal startups have come up across the valley. They buy mullein from foragers in Ganderbal, lavender from Pulwama farms and rosehip from Budgam orchards. Sea buckthorn comes from Ladakh. They dry the plants on rooftops, pack them in simple studios and ship them to homes and wellness stores across India.

Some even add small amounts of gucchi, the wild morel that appears for just four to six weeks between early April and mid-May, when the snow melts in high-altitude forests.

Kashmir is naturally suited for this. The Himalayas are rich in healing plants and the valley’s altitude gives strong flavour and natural oils to herbs. Scientists at Sher-e-Kashmir University have mapped several species with proven benefits. Lavender fields are expanding. Mullein tea has become popular during Srinagar’s pollution-heavy winters. Sea buckthorn is entering juices, balms and capsules.

Despite this herbal comeback, there are challenges. Climate change is pushing some plants to flower earlier. Over-harvesting can be a problem in some forests. Young startups struggle with packaging costs and transport. Even so, the direction feels promising.

Every winter, when an elder in old Srinagar walks home with a small paper packet of herbs, it says Kashmir’s path to better health may still rest in the same plants that once helped people survive the cold.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Wealth Without Cashflow

Steady monthly earnings matter more than land and gold in today’s Kashmir.

Irshad Mushtaq

Many Kashmiri families live in big homes, own good land, and carry gold passed down for decades. These are signs of comfort. Still, many households feel uneasy because money coming in each month has become uncertain.

Business is slower, jobs are harder to find, and incomes from orchards and small trades no longer stretch the way they once did. Wealth looks strong on paper, although day-to-day life feels tighter.

A house does not pay school fees. A plot of land cannot cover groceries unless you sell it. Families learn this quickly when savings start slipping away. Some have also lost money to scams or emotional lending that never came back.

Regular income brings peace that old assets cannot always offer. A fund of 1 crore placed in balanced mutual funds or monthly income plans can earn 8-12 percent a year.

This gives families the confidence to plan ahead without touching land or gold.

Balanced and hybrid funds work for many households because they mix stable bonds with growth-oriented stocks. Monthly Income Plans send payouts that feel like a salary and are handled by trained professionals, so families do not need to track markets every day.

Every investment should remain in your own name with proper documents. A registered financial advisor offers safer guidance than informal promises.

Kashmir is changing, and steady earnings matter more than ever. Turning old wealth into dependable monthly income helps families protect dignity, comfort, and their future.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.



Kashmir’s Next Big Test

The new Zone VI classification should guide everything from land-use plans to school retrofits. Earthquakes are natural events, but disasters happen when we fail to prepare.

Dr. Afroz Ahmad Shah

The Kashmir Valley is a distinct topographic depression in the northwestern Himalayas, formed by ongoing deformation associated with the India-Eurasia collision.

The valley’s origin lies in plate convergence that created the Himalayas and a complex system of faults, folds, and intermontane basins.

This tectonic environment makes Kashmir highly susceptible to earthquakes, reflecting both its geological setting and its associated risks.

Historically, several earthquakes with magnitudes exceeding 7 have occurred along the Himalayan front. The most recent major event in the region was the 2005 Muzaffarabad earthquake (Mw 7.6), which caused more than 80,000 deaths and extensive damage.

A similar-magnitude event would likely produce far fewer losses in countries such as Japan, Taiwan, or the United States, where seismic design is embedded within engineering practice.

This contrast highlights the role of scientific and engineering preparedness in reducing earthquake impacts.

The 2025 national seismic zonation map released by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) recognises the high seismic potential of the Himalayan belt by classifying the entire arc, including Jammu and Kashmir, as Zone VI, the highest hazard category in India.

The updated zonation acknowledges the potential for large earthquakes generated by long-locked segments of the Main Himalayan Thrust and associated structures.

This represents a more realistic assessment of seismic hazard for Kashmir, and has direct implications for its infrastructure safety, planning, and policy.

Seismology consistently demonstrates that earthquakes are natural processes, rather than disasters by themselves.

The long gaps between major events may give an impression of safety, but tectonic strain continues to accumulate.

Disasters occur when vulner-

able infrastructure is exposed to strong shaking.

Much of the existing built environment, particularly older urban cores and rural settlements, does not meet modern seismic standards.

Many essential facilities, including schools, hospitals, bridges, transport corridors, and utilities, have not been comprehensively assessed for seismic safety.

Combined with high seismic hazard, this infrastructure vulnerability substantially increases the risk of severe consequences during moderate or large earthquakes.

The revised BIS zonation reinforces these concerns.

Rapid, often unregulated, urban growth has increased building density, including along slopes where shaking may be amplified. The concentration of lifeline infrastructure within narrow corridors further raises the likelihood of widespread disruption during a major event.

Given the updated classification and known tectonic conditions, the need for risk-reduction actions is immediate.

The updated BIS seismic zonation and the IS 1893 (2025) Design Code together highlight the need for a structured, scientific approach to earthquake risk management in Kashmir.

The designation of the region as Zone VI reflects the established tectonic reality of the Himalayan collision system, where large earthquakes are inevitable. Reducing future losses requires strengthening hazard assessment, improving infrastructure resilience, enhancing public preparedness, and expanding monitoring and research.

A critical requirement is the development of detailed seismic hazard maps and microzonation studies for all major urban centres.

These factors must account for active faults, ground-motion amplification, local soil conditions, and slope stability.

Microzonation results should be formally integrated into land-use planning and building-permit processes. Improving active-fault mapping through coordinated geological, geophysical, and geodetic studies is essential, especially where blind or

distributed faults may influence future rupture behaviour.

A region-wide seismic vulnerability assessment of existing infrastructure is also necessary.

Buildings, bridges, critical facilities, and lifeline infrastructure should be evaluated using standardised criteria and assigned vulnerability levels to guide retrofitting priorities.

Schools, hospitals, and high-occupancy public buildings require focused attention.

Retrofitting should follow the provisions of IS 1893 (2025), with specific attention to design requirements for Zone VI.

Strict enforcement of the updated IS 1893 code is central to long-term risk reduction. All new construction must comply with revised design spectra, detailing requirements, foundation guidelines, and non-structural safety provisions applicable to Zone VI.

Older structures, especially in high-density or slope-margins areas,



Reducing future losses requires consistent commitment to accurate hazard mapping, code enforcement, infrastructure assessment and retrofitting, public preparedness, and expanded monitoring and research. While the tectonic forces shaping Kashmir cannot be changed, their societal impacts can be significantly reduced through sustained, science-based policies and practices.

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Older structures, especially in high-density or slope-margins areas,

should be retrofitted based on their assessed vulnerability. Urban authorities must integrate seismic safety into zoning regulations, hillside development guidelines, and project-approval procedures.

Community-level training, school drills, and clear communication of seismic risk must become routine.

The implications of Kashmir’s placement in the highest hazard category must be communicated to ensure compliance with building codes and implementation of preparedness measures.

Enhanced seismic monitoring and research capacity are equally important. Upgrading the regional seismic network, expanding GPS coverage, and improving real-time data systems will support better understanding of strain accumulation and earthquake recurrence.

Research priorities include Himalayan tectonics, ground-motion modelling, liquefaction and landslide susceptibility, and performance of local building types.

An operational earthquake early-warning system, while not a substitute for structural safety, can provide critical seconds for protective actions in hospitals, schools, and essential services.

India’s revised seismic zonation and the introduction of Zone VI provide a scientifically grounded update of the national earthquake-hazard framework.

However, recognising hazard alone does not reduce risk. Earthquakes become disasters when exposure and vulnerability are high and when regulatory systems do not incorporate scientific understanding.

Reducing future losses requires consistent commitment to accurate hazard mapping, code enforcement, infrastructure assessment and retrofitting, public preparedness, and expanded monitoring and research.

While the tectonic forces shaping Kashmir cannot be changed, their societal impacts can be significantly reduced through sustained, science-based policies and practices.

The author is a National Geographic Explorer and Senior Assistant Professor of Structural Geology at Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

Letter to Editor

A Birthday Letter To The Kashmiri Boy Who Made Me Braver

Whenever my phone lights up with your name, I pause for a second. I already know you’re calling with a problem that has slipped out of your hands. Then you deliver the same line, almost like a template: “Raqif bhaya, apko pata hai kya huva.”

I can judge the size of the trouble from your voice. If you add “matter hogya,” I sit up straight. That phrase has become our personal alarm.

People speak a lot about responsibility. I rarely hear anyone talk about the strange comfort inside it.

Your trust in me has steadied me on days when our homeland feels heavy. Work becomes uncertain. Winter makes the streets empty faster. Young people carry pressure from ev-

ery corner while trying to find a path.

Through all of that, your faith in me has stayed the same.

Whenever I doubt myself, I think of how quickly you reach out to me. It pushes me to show up with more strength.

You test my patience with full dedication. I think it gives you some kind of thrill. You know my weak spot and you lean on it without shame. I can say no to anyone. You remain the only exception.

Even when my voice gets sharp, regret follows instantly. Your sadness affects me in a way nothing else does. You’ve made a space in my life that feels solid and untouched.

I still remember our first chat on Instagram. It was brief, nothing spe-

cial. I never imagined we would reach a point where you would call me your elder brother with real emotion.

I always carried a wish for a younger brother. That wish settled the day you walked into my life. You filled that space completely, as if it was waiting for you.

I value the way you introduce me with pride: “Ye chu ma boud boi.” You say it with such honesty that even strangers feel it.

In a time when people guard their stories and friendships wear out under stress, you came with a type of openness I didn’t expect. You handed me your trust without calculation. You went from a random follower to a brother who treats my secrets with care.

I admire your drive to prove

yourself in a place where young men are often underestimated. You keep working even when everything around you slows down. Watching you move towards your goals has become a lesson I silently return to.

So on your birthday, hear this clearly: I am proud of you. I want you to live with strength, health and direction.

I want your dreams to grow bigger than your fears.

And I will stand with you through every mess you create and every win you earn.

Sincerely,

Raqif Makhdoomi
raqifmakhdoomi818@gmail.com

‘Kashmir’s Wildlife Cannot Wait Any Longer’

Despite laws and awareness campaigns, Kashmir’s iconic species struggle, leaving experts to warn of ecological imbalance.

Aashiq Hussain Andrabi

Wildlife experts in Kashmir are sounding an old alarm with new urgency. Project Hangul and Project Tiger started in the same era. Tigers recovered, but the Hangul never moved beyond crisis.

Dr. Mehreen Khaleel says the story is rooted in years of weak follow-through.

“Kashmir was one of the places where Project Hangul began alongside Project Tiger,” says Dr. Mehreen, an ecologist with a Ph.D. from IISc Bangalore. “Tiger numbers rose. Hangul numbers stayed stuck. The laws exist. They need respect, implementation and firm enforcement from government agencies and every stakeholder.”

Now working as an independent researcher and consultant on conservation programmes, she says the Hangul’s status is “deeply worrying”. The population has hovered around 350 for almost forty years.

“The female-to-fawn ratio shows how hard recovery will be,” says the Founder and Chairperson of the Wildlife Research and Conservation Foundation.

“We have big gaps in data on other species too: ungulates, primates, reptiles, amphibians and insects. These gaps block our understanding of how all of them interact with people and with each other. The rise in human-animal encounters tells us how urgent it is to fill this knowledge.”

Dr. Mehreen, looking back to your early days, what ignited your passion for nature and wildlife conservation, especially when some might find it a less financially rewarding path?

The concept of conservation didn’t seem alien because I grew up in an environment that fuelled this passion. Also, every religion emphasizes the importance of maintaining balance in Nature, entrusting humans with the responsibility of preserving this equilibrium.

The chapters in the holy Quran elaborate on various life forms and their benefits.

As a Muslim, I draw inspiration from the simple life of Prophet Mohammad, peace be upon him. His judicious use of water during ablutions and his kindness to all life forms inspired me in my childhood and continue to influence me.

If I have to name people in my circle who acted as inspiration in my life, it would be my grandmother and my father. They have always taught me to lead a minimalist life and instilled lessons of conservation in their daily chores. Whether it’s the sensible use of water while washing clothes, utensils, and daily cleaning, or the adoption of traditional methods like using a luffa sponge made out of bitter gourd, composting kitchen waste, and cultivating the habit of organic gardening.

It was these teachings that ignited the spark in me. And now, when I’m passing the same teachings, it gives me an immense happiness. It delights me to see Kashmiri youth recognize their roots through our discussions on traditional methods.

Witnessing the pride in their eyes as they share stories related to nature conservation is incredibly fulfilling. There’s nothing more rewarding than discovering like-minded individuals eager to be directed in a positive direction.

Before we explore the connection between humans and the natural world, could you describe what Nature means to people in this region and how it contributes to their well-being and identity?

Renowned for its pristine natural spaces, the valley of Kashmir is deeply connected to mountains, pine trees, gushing streams, snow, meadows, and the beautiful innocence of its people and their culture. These natural elements bring a profound sense of peace.

The intrinsic connection to Nature is reflected in our poetry, literature, art forms, and lifestyle, all inspired by the beauty of the environment. Whether rich or poor, there’s a universal desire to have a view of snow-clad mountains, highlighting our collective aesthetic sense.

Personally, in times of stress, I find solace in taking a stroll or sit-

ting quietly, listening to the soothing sounds of birds. I believe many share this sentiment. The absence of man-made noises adds to the heavenly experience of this place.

Considering global concerns about biodiversity, what’s your perspective on the current status in Kashmir? Can you share insights into the unique aspects, challenges, and positive developments shaping the region’s biodiversity? What measures do you think are crucial for preventing further loss and fostering conservation?

Kashmir holds a unique biodiversity in terms of endemism, presenting a complex set of challenges for conservation. Limited scientific data on various wild species, including flagship and lesser-known ones, hampers ecological studies and conservation planning. Consequently, we need to start conservation efforts from the ground up.

The grim situation of the Hangul population, surviving at just 350 individuals over the last four decades, highlights a pressing issue. The troubling female to fawn ratio adds complexity to the challenge. Information gaps extend to other ungulates, primates, reptiles, amphibians, and insects, are impeding our understanding of their interactions with each other and with humans.



fit for local communities, currently lacking in Kashmir.

It’s time to confront the issue at hand. We must consider the pressures we’ve imposed on the region’s biodiversity and reflect on the potential long-term consequences.

Local residents, especially the younger



THE CURRENT STATE OF WILDLIFE IN KASHMIR IS A CAUSE FOR CONCERN.

Past years of challenges have left many aspects unchecked. While it’s somewhat challenging to predict the future, Kashmir was one of the places where Project Hangul was launched alongside Project Tiger at the National Level.

Rising cases of Human-Animal interactions further underscore the need for data.

Our wetlands, scrublands, and forests also present concerning figures, with even the famous Dal Lake facing degradation.

Decreasing species richness indicates that water conditions no longer support diversity. Shaping regional biodiversity requires collaborative efforts from all stakeholders, including policymakers, legislatures, enforcement agencies, researchers, and local communities.

Immediate measures involve raising awareness through various channels and establishing a comprehensive database with constant monitoring.

What specific threats do conservation efforts face in Kashmir, and how serious do you perceive the problem to be? What factors contribute to the urgency in addressing these conservation challenges?

While the root cause of conservation is understood here, effective contributions are lacking. This reluctance may stem from a loss of trust in policies, potentially not favouring the common masses, or a historical exclusion of locals in decision-making.

Successful conservation necessitates equal involvement and bene-

generation, need to step up and initiate discussions about the repercussions of the ecological imbalance we’ve created.

Despite challenges, what gives you hope for the future of Nature conservation in Kashmir?

I believe every place, despite challenges, harbours a ray of hope. Over the years, I’ve encountered young minds who genuinely aspire to witness an ecologically healthy Kashmir.

People who have joined me at Wildlife Research and Conservation Foundation (WRCF) work voluntarily for this cause, driven by a shared desire for positive change.

My hope is vested in these individuals who work relentlessly to spread the message.

Could you introduce the Wildlife Research and Conservation Foundation (WRCF), its inspiration, and how it has evolved in fostering wildlife conservation and biodiversity awareness?

The roots of WRCF were planted in 2016 when my colleague and I visited a local school to share insights about the lesser-known Langur of Kashmir. Our aim was to ignite curiosity in children by narrating stories about this unique species.

Observing a poster in the school

that depicted ‘A for Antelope,’ it struck me that without familiarity with the Langur, how could the students relate to an Antelope?

This realization lingered, leading to discussions with friends, and eventually, the formalization of the idea into a full-fledged organization.

In 2018, starting with just two members, WRCF has now grown to include four core members from diverse educational backgrounds, all dedicated to contextualizing ecological concepts with relevant examples. We’ve also had interns and volunteers from across the country contributing remotely to our cause.

Since our inception, we’ve actively engaged with over 10,000 individuals across Jammu & Kashmir through various initiatives, including Nature Camps, Outdoor sessions, Scientific workshops, lecture series, and fun-based teachings.

In 2020, we organized the valley’s first wildlife photography competition, a groundbreaking event in J&K and Ladakh that encouraged public participation in building a database.

With over 1,000 photographs from 150 participants, the competition was a huge success. We’ve published this data in the form of a coffee table book, highlighting the region’s Mammals, Birds, and Insects.

WRCF endeavours to place J&K on the global map for its biodiversity, collaborating with national and international organizations to promote nature education.

Additionally, we’re developing resource material for nature-based studies, aiming to integrate it into the school curriculum.

What does wildlife conservation mean for the common person?

Wildlife conservation, in simple terms, is the effort to protect and preserve the diverse plants and animals that inhabit our environment.

Explaining this concept to the average person is a challenge. Initially, when we discussed the importance of saving Kashmir’s declining wildlife, we often faced skepticism, with some questioning its relevance in our busy lives.

However, over time, I’ve met parents, especially mothers, who simply want their children to learn about wildlife—the plants and animals around us. They believe that understanding and appreciating nature is a crucial step toward protecting it.

Considering the unique wildlife in Kashmir, how do you see the future of wildlife conservation unfolding? What actions can individuals take for a positive trajectory?

The current state of wildlife in Kashmir is a cause for concern. Past years of challenges have left many aspects unchecked.

While it’s somewhat challenging to predict the future, Kashmir

was one of the places where Project Hangul was launched alongside Project Tiger at the National Level.

Comparing the results, the Tiger populations have shown positive trends, but the Hangul remains unchanged, highlighting existing challenges. The laws are in place but require respect, implementation, and enforcement by both government agencies and stakeholders.

At the organizational level, we at WRCF strive to raise awareness about biodiversity and our interdependencies with it.

However, effective conservation requires collective efforts from the government and the public.

Crucially, it involves how young minds are educated, teaching them to respect and care for nature. The future belongs to them, and fostering a sense of belongingness and conservation is a key focus of our efforts.

Conservation often requires policy support. How conducive is the policy environment in Kashmir, and are there specific policy changes you believe would enhance conservation efforts?

The policy-making process in Kashmir appears to be sluggish, possibly due to conservation not being a top priority or insufficient advocacy. The focus on rapid development, leading to concrete jungles, often comes at the expense of ecological considerations in this eco-sensitive zone.

Visionary policy makers are crucial to align policies with the region’s ecology. On a positive note, there have been instances, like when residents near Manasbal lake raised concerns about a waste management plant. WRCF collaborated to develop an eco-legal plan, aligning government planning with ecological harmony.

India has enacted various laws covering Air, Water, Environment, Wildlife, Soil, and other elements of Nature. Strict adherence to these laws is essential for effective policies.

Media can play a vital role in shaping public perception and support for conservation action. In the realm of Nature and wildlife conservation, how do you leverage traditional and social media platforms to contribute to raising awareness and shaping public perceptions?

Media can indeed significantly influence public support for conservation. Through our social media channels, we engage with people daily, sensitizing them about pressing issues and raising awareness.

Our social media team dedicates substantial effort to gather authentic information, create engaging posts, and target the right audience. We take the responsibility seriously to share accurate information about nature and its conservation.

Additionally, we have published important scientific findings in reputable peer-reviewed journals, aiming to spotlight Jammu & Kashmir on the global map for its active conservation efforts.

As someone who has attended numerous global conferences, how does the global perspective from international conferences influence your approach to local conservation efforts?

International conferences provide a unique platform for like-minded individuals globally to explore and discuss shared conser-



NATURE CONSERVATION IS A SHARED MORAL RESPONSIBILITY.

Those interested in making meaningful impact can start by making small lifestyle changes. Embrace evidence-based conservation, relying on high-quality scientific evidence. Cultivate curiosity, knowledge, and a strong will to drive meaningful change.

vation challenges.

These gatherings facilitate the exchange of ideas and solutions. By sharing our local conservation challenges at these conferences, I’ve received valuable suggestions from experts in the field, which have proven to be fruitful for our approach to local conservation efforts.

In regions like Kashmir known for natural beauty, how can ecotourism balance promoting sustainable travel and protecting ecosystems? Are there specific practices to enhance its positive impact?

It’s crucial for places like Kashmir to strike a balance between tourism and sustainable practices. Unplanned tourism can lead to issues seen in other regions. Popular destinations here face overburdening, resulting in environmental challenges.

Regulated and sustainable tourism, with tourists making eco-conscious choices, is key. Learning from successful eco-tourism models, especially in Himachal Pradesh, emphasizes the importance of local community awareness to mitigate negative impacts on sensitive ecosystems.

Regarding the crucial role of mountain communities, how do you believe they can be effectively engaged and made aware of their impact on nature and wildlife? What strategies are essential for their active participation in conservation efforts?

Unless the aspirations, ethnicity and rich culture of mountain communities are considered, no conservation effort is going to yield success. Engaging mountain communities effectively requires recognizing their aspirations, culture, and ethnicity.

Conservation efforts must incorporate their traditional knowledge, ensuring a sense of ownership. Honorary ownership, empowering communities, and integrating their traditional justice systems can foster active participation, preserving the harmony they’ve historically maintained with nature.

As someone with a distinguished career, what is your advice for those aspiring to make a meaningful impact in nature conservation?

Nature conservation is a shared moral responsibility. Those interested in making meaningful impact can start by making small lifestyle changes. Embrace evidence-based conservation, relying on high-quality scientific evidence. Cultivate curiosity, knowledge, and a strong will to drive meaningful change.

Any advice for those seeking a career in nature and wildlife conservation?

Explore, understand and research, and make effective engagement with society. These are the prerequisites for a successful and meaningful career in nature and wildlife conservation. I would suggest understanding nature, for nature.

— The interviewer is a senior scribe from Pukwama.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday personally received Russian President Vladimir Putin at Delhi's Palam Airport, marking the start of his two-day state visit to India.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Kashmir Slips

recommended standards for safe breathing. Cold temperatures, widespread use of fire-wood, vehicle emissions, waste burning and traffic congestion are contributing to the build-up of pollutants. The situation is being worsened by calm weather conditions that are trapping polluted air near the surface rather than allowing it to disperse.

Experts attribute this to a stagnation layer forming over the Valley. Cold and dense air settles close to the ground during winter, while weak winds fail to lift pollutants. Current Western Disturbances remain too feeble to trigger rainfall or snowfall that would help clear the air.

With temperatures dropping to around minus 4 degrees Celsius, the combination of intense cold and limited air circulation is keeping smoke and dust suspended across urban and semi urban belts of Kashmir.

Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif Keng also said calm and cold weather is creating an atmospheric lid over the Valley. Pollutants remain trapped near the surface instead of dispersing upward or blowing away.

According to him, weak Western Disturbances are failing to produce rain or snow that could clean the air. A stronger weather system is required for any improvement. Until then, the current conditions are likely to continue.

Delhi continues to remain in the very poor category, averaging around 310 on the AQI scale. The gap separating big city pollution from the Valley's readings has narrowed significantly, showing that hazardous air is no longer confined to major metros.

As per AQI classification, values between 0 and 50 indicate clean air, 51 to 100 moderate and 101 to 200 unhealthy for sensitive groups. Between 201 and 300, the impact becomes widespread and can affect overall public health.

Health professionals have reiterated caution for the coming days since pollution levels are expected to remain high until strong weather systems bring precipitation or winds capable of dispersing the trapped pollutants. (inputs from KNO)

10 More Days

level of streams and rivers is expected to fall further, which may impact drinking water supply and hydroelectric power generation in the Union Territory," he added.

He said, "Dry conditions are likely to dominate despite the arrival of a couple of weak Western Disturbances during this period."

According to the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) centre in Srinagar, light to mild days are being observed, while night temperatures have dipped below freezing in most parts of the Kashmir division.

On Wednesday, Srinagar recorded a high of 12.6 degrees Celsius and a low of minus 4.0 degrees Celsius. Qazigund registered 14.2 and minus 3.6, Pahalgam 12.0 and minus 4.8, and Gulmarg 7.0 and minus 1.0 degrees Celsius.

Dry conditions are being reported in the Jammu division as well, with Jammu city recording 21.9 and 8.0 degrees Celsius. Banihal saw 18.4 and 2.1, while Bhaderwah recorded 16.9 and 0.4 degrees Celsius.

Major stations including Kupwara, Baramulla, Pulwama and Mirpur also reported clear skies with no signs of precipitation.

Weather experts say that although a few weak Western Disturbances may pass over the region, they are unlikely to bring significant rain or snowfall needed to improve water levels and break the dry pattern.

Putin Touches

with bright lights and flowers for the occasion. Their conversation over dinner was expected to set the tone for Friday's 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit, which is likely to produce several tangible outcomes.

Defence Ties In Focus

Defence cooperation will be at the centre of the talks. India is expected to fast-track pending S-400 Triumf air defence system deliveries

and pursue deeper co-production, including joint R&D, moving away from an exclusively buyer-seller dynamic. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, after wide-ranging discussions with his Russian counterpart earlier in the day, described Russia as a "time-tested, special, privileged and strategic partner," noting the significant expansion of defence ties since the 2000 Strategic Partnership declaration. The S-400 systems, Singh noted, proved highly effective during Operation Sindoor.

There may also be discussions on the possibility of Russia supplying Su-57 fifth-generation fighter jets, with India currently in the process of evaluating options alongside major contenders such as the Rafale, F-21, F/A-18, and Eurofighter Typhoon.

Russian Oil

Energy cooperation is set to feature prominently as well. Russia is understood to have offered additional discounts on crude oil amid a recent dip in India's purchases following the latest round of US sanctions on Russian oil producers. The impact of those sanctions—and their implications for India's energy security—will be closely reviewed. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov recently acknowledged that India's oil imports may decline "for a brief period" due to Western restrictions, but said Moscow was working proactively to stabilise supplies.

Trade will be another key pillar of the summit. India remains concerned about a ballooning trade deficit largely driven by its large-scale purchases of Russian crude. While India's annual procurement of Russian goods and services stands at about USD 65 billion, Russian imports from India amount to only around USD 5 billion. New Delhi is expected to push for significant expansion of Indian exports, particularly in pharmaceuticals, agriculture, food products, consumer goods and fertilisers—Russia currently supplies three to four million tonnes of fertiliser to India annually. Discussions are also expected on the proposed India-Eurasian Economic Union free trade agreement.

A number of agreements are likely to be signed following the summit on Friday, including those aimed at insulating bilateral trade from external pressures, facilitating the movement of Indian workers to Russia, and expanding logistical support under a broader defence cooperation framework. Cooperation in emerging technologies and small modular nuclear reactors is also on the agenda.

On Friday, Putin will be accorded a ceremonial welcome and tri-services guard of honour at Rashtrapati Bhavan, followed by a visit to Raj Ghat to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi. The leaders will then hold restricted and delegation-level talks at Hyderabad House before attending a business event jointly organised by FICCI and Roscongress at Bharat Mandapam. In the evening, President Droupadi Murmu will host a state banquet for the Russian leader, who is expected to depart New Delhi around 9 pm.

Putin's arrival marks one of India's most consequential diplomatic moments of the year. As New Delhi navigates unprecedented geopolitical headwinds while striving to preserve its strategic autonomy, the outcomes of the Modi-Putin summit will be watched closely in capitals across the world.

Trump Had No Role

in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha said the development came after India's diplomatic and military response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, orchestrated by Pakistani terrorists. "India launched Operation Sindoor in response to the attack on civilians. Our armed forces hit terrorist infrastructure across the border."

"Pakistan's DGMO contacted the Indian DGMO on May 10, 2025, seeking cessation of firing and military activities along the Line of Control. The proposal was accepted the same day, leading to the current ceasefire understanding," the Minister said.

Referring to speculation about international intervention, the Minister said the United States President Donald Trump had no involvement in the ceasefire process or discussions

between the two sides.

Replying to another question on political consultations, the government said an all-party meeting was held on May 8, 2025 to brief political leaders on the developments under Operation Sindoor.

Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and MPs who were part of overseas delegations were later updated as well. The reply stated, adding that the ceasefire understanding formed part of India's broader strategy to counter Pakistan-sponsored terrorism while ensuring that major political stakeholders remained informed on issues concerning national security.

J&K Has Highest

including those in J and K, has already been electrified under DDUGJY and SAUBHAGYA, both of which have now been closed.

Under the ongoing Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), the Centre continues to support States and UTs, including Jammu and Kashmir, in strengthening distribution networks and electrifying remaining households wherever possible.

Responding to a query on land acquisition for transmission lines, the government clarified that land remains with the original owner and compensation, if required, is provided as per State guidelines.

Diagnostic Facilities

and big data analysis into diagnostic processes for accuracy and speed and to strengthen the bridge between Science and Medicine.

"Healthcare system must focus on enhancing diagnostic accuracy and reducing time to treatment. Mainstreaming the Precision Medicine approach through advanced diagnostic tests is crucial. Labs should develop modern infrastructure to transform data into clinical insights for doctors," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor made valuable suggestions for developing preventative strategies and improving public health.

"First, empower the pathology field with cutting-edge advancements and develop standard protocols for patient treatment through multidisciplinary research.

Secondly, identify and bridge gaps in educational programs by developing new training modules.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the healthcare sector has seen historic transformation. He urged all stakeholders to work together to expand digital records and the Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) facility to remote areas and link smaller health centers with larger labs for expert advice.

Dr Ashutosh Gupta, Principal GMC Jammu; Dr Usha Kini, President Indian Association of Pathologists & Microbiologists (IAPM); Dr. Reeni Mallik, Vice President IAPM; Dr. Ranjan Agarwal, Honorary Secretary, IAPM; office bearers of IAPM and International Academy of Pathologists-Indian Division (IAP-ID), Pathologists and Medical Professionals attended the inaugural session.

Reservation Policy

orders on Wednesday, while a similar exercise was held in Jammu a day earlier. "The scheme ensures that a family member of a deceased government employee is provided a government job to help them cope with the crisis".

The CM said there are some procedural issues in the orders which they will rectify, but the cases have been processed and the orders have now been handed over.

Responding to a query on investigations into the Nowgam blast, he said all concerned cases are under examination. "All of them are being investigated. Where relaxation is required, it will be made. Otherwise, normal orders will be issued," he added.

On the Darbar move and winter secretariat functioning, CM Omar said ministers and officers continue to operate from Srinagar during winter. "Every week, one minister is on duty

here. People should get relief and their work should be done," he said.

On being asked about renaming of Raj Bhavan to Lok Bhavan, he said that names were secondary to delivery of governance. "Changing the name doesn't do anything. People don't care about what we call ourselves; they want to see work," he said.

Hands Appointment

employees who die in service to receive either a government job or financial compensation.

Addressing the gathering, Omar reiterated the government's resolve to dispose of all pending cases under SRO-43 and RAS-2022 in a time-bound, transparent manner, with relaxations extended wherever warranted under the policies.

Expressing empathy with families who approach the government following personal bereavement, Omar said the compassionate appointments are rights guaranteed under an established policy framework, and not acts of favour.

He said the government's endeavour is to stand firmly with the affected families during their most difficult moments and provide them with the institutional support they are entitled to.

The chief minister said the lacunae in processing the cases need to be corrected and that the onus is on the government to complete the formalities rather than making candidates run from pillar to post to obtain clearances for months. ONS

'Public Holiday

declaring an official holiday to commemorate National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, Omar said the late leader's legacy is cherished by the people with or without a government order.

"Sheikh Abdullah lives in the hearts of the people regardless of whether there is an official holiday or not," he told reporters.

Reaffirming his party's long standing demand, Omar stressed the immediate need for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. He said only a fully empowered elected government can take independent decisions on matters like public holidays and administrative policies.

"Statehood should be restored at the earliest so that the elected government can function

J&K Bank Sanctions

said empowering 10,000 young entrepreneurs under Mission Yuva reflects our deep-rooted commitment to drive self-reliance and inclusive growth in J&K.

"This milestone is not just about numbers; it represents the spirit of our youth taking charge of their future with confidence and purpose," he said.

Chatterjee said the bank remains steadfast in its support of this transformative programme that strengthens the region's socio-economic fabric while empowering the next generation of entrepreneurs.

Mission Yuva aims to motivate and equip young individuals to start their own ventures through financial support, capacity-building and grassroots mentoring.

SC Seeks Details

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi also issued notices to the Centre and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities on a PIL filed by acid attack survivor Shaheen Malik that the victims be categorised as persons with disabilities to ensure access to welfare schemes.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta assured the court that the issue would be taken up with "due seriousness" by the government.

The bench termed as "national shame" the prolonged delay of 16 years in Malik's own case, which has been pending since 2009 before a Rohini court here.

Malik, who also argued personally, said that she was attacked in 2009, yet the trial has still

not concluded. "'Mere saath 2009 mein attack hua tha, abhi tak trial chal raha hai' (I was attacked in 2009; the trial is still going on)," she said.

Till 2013, nothing happened in the case and the trial, which is now taking place in Rohini in Delhi, is now at the stage of final hearing, she said.

Expressing surprise over the delay of over 16 years, the CJ said, "The offence is of 2009 and the trial is not completed! If the National Capital cannot respond to these challenges, then who will deal with them? It is a shame on the system! This is a national shame."

The CJ asked Malik to file an application in the PIL itself explaining why the matter has not been concluded, assuring her that the court may even take suo motu cognisance.

The CJ said the trial in her case must be held on a day-to-day basis.

"Issue notice. Learned Solicitor General who was present in the court has graciously accepted notice.

"He has also expressed concern about the causes raised in the instant petition. We also direct the registrar generals of all high courts to furnish the details of pending trials in the cases of acid attack victims in their respective jurisdiction," the bench ordered.

The CJ said that the aspect of pendency of cases and covering acid attack victims within the definition of persons with disabilities will be taken up after four weeks.

The bench, however, said that it will take up next week the issue of the delay in the trial in Malik's case at a Rohini court here.

During the hearing, Malik highlighted the plight of victims who are forced to ingest acid, often surviving with artificial feeding tubes and severe disabilities.

The CJ expressed shock and said he had heard about the incidents of acid-throwing but had never come across cases where victims were forced to consume acid.

CJ Kant further remarked that these offences ought to be tried in special courts, given the gravity and the impact on survivors.

"This is a mockery of the system. There should be no sympathy for such persons (accused)," he said.

The perpetrators "should meet with the same ruthlessness as done by them," the solicitor general said.

Major Travel Chaos

that more than 550 flights were cancelled at different airports, including 172 flights at the Delhi airport, on Thursday.

There were at least 118 flight cancellations at the Mumbai airport, 100 at Bangalore, 75 at Hyderabad, 35 at Kolkata, 26 at Chennai, and 11 at Goa. Flight cancellations were reported at other airports also.

"IndiGo has been experiencing a sharp rise in cancellations, reaching approximately 170-200 flights per day, which is substantially higher than normal," the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in a statement.

Meanwhile, IndiGo on Thursday informed aviation regulator DGCA that it will reduce flights from December 8 and stable flight operations will be fully restored by February 10, 2026.

The civil aviation ministry and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) held a detailed review meeting with the airline officials.

IndiGo has informed the regulator that corrective actions are underway; stable flight operations will be fully restored by February 10, 2026 while more cancellations are expected in the next few days.

The airline will reduce flight operations from December 8 to minimise disruptions.

DGCA has asked IndiGo to submit a detailed roadmap covering projected crew recruitment vis-à-vis induction of aircraft as well as the plan for crew training, roster restructuring, safety-risk assessments, and mitigation measures.

"IndiGo is directed to submit the FDTL relaxations required to normalise the flight operations for DGCA review," the statement said.

CM Omar Seeks Wider Consultations Ahead of Any Voter Roll Revision

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) to hold consultations with political parties over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, saying clarity was needed to address issues raised by several groups.

Speaking to reporters after attending the passing-out parade of the Army's Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAKLI) regiment, Abdullah, as per KNO said political parties should be briefed on the revision process

to avoid speculation.

He further said that electronic voting machines were reliable but could be influenced if not handled with transparency, and stressed the need for all stakeholders to understand the SIR exercise.

Omar also referred to the 2023 delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir, saying the addition of seven Assembly seats had altered the electoral landscape in a manner that favoured one political side.

"Similar concerns could surface if the voter roll revision is not explained to the public and political actors," he cautioned.



The Chief Minister congratulated 713 cadets who passed out

from the JAKLI training centre and said the regiment has long played a significant role in defence duties on the country's borders. He conveyed his good wishes to the Agniveers who will now be deployed to different units across India.

Commenting on Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to New Delhi, Abdullah said India and Russia have maintained strong diplomatic ties for decades and that discussions between the two governments could have a wider impact on global affairs.

"Improved engagement between Moscow and Kyiv through

diplomatic initiatives would be in the interest of peace," he said.

On the birth anniversary of National Conference (NC) founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, the Chief Minister said the J&K administration cannot declare a public holiday under the current constitutional arrangement.

He said the matter would be within the government's authority only after full statehood is restored.

Omar added that tributes to Sheikh Abdullah continue each year, noting that the Sher-e-Kashmir Best Cadet award was presented during the parade.

'Nature's Library' in Kashmir gets National Geo-Heritage Tag

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Guryul Ravine in Kashmir—home to one of the world's most complete fossil records of the Permian-Triassic mass extinction—has been declared a national geo-heritage site by the Geological Survey of India (GSI), recognising its global scientific value and extraordinary preservation of 252-million-year-old geological history.

The fossil-bearing section at Guryul Ravine records the "Great Dying," the largest mass extinction in Earth's history, when nearly all life forms vanished. Located at Vihi in Khanmoh on Srinagar's outskirts, the site also preserves traces of what scientists believe could be the world's earliest documented tsunami within its one-metre-thick boundary section.

What makes Guryul Ravine exceptional, experts said, is its 3-metre-thick boundary section, far larger than the globally known Meishan section in China, which measures just 27 cm. This extensive thickness provides a clearer, uninterrupted geological timeline of the extinction and recovery phases.

Speaking to KNO, Mohsin Noor, Senior Geologist and Nodal Officer for Guryul Ravine, said the section remains unparalleled in the region and holds critical clues about ancient climate, biodiversity collapse, and geological transitions.

"Guryul Ravine marks the exact Permian-Triassic boundary and contains one

of the world's most detailed records of the 'Great Dying.' Its 3-metre composite boundary makes it scientifically more significant than the 27-cm Meishan section in China," he said. "The layers here also preserve the earliest known tsunami deposits, making this site globally unique."

Noor said Kashmir hosts exceptional geological diversity spanning vast time periods. "The Guryul Ravine at Khanmoh is among the Valley's most significant geological sites, spread over 9.8 lakh square metres with a face length of over 1.4 kilometres in the Zabarwan foothills," he said.

The geologist said the site's "fascinating fossils" have attracted global scientific attention and strengthened its potential as a major geo-tourism destination.

Rare invertebrate fossils collected from the Ravine are preserved at the SPS Museum in Srinagar, and also at the Geoscience Museum, Department of Geology & Mining, J&K, located in Budgam. Noor was also an active member in the establishment of the Geoscience Museum.

The Permian rocks of the Kashmir Himalayas exhibit striking lithological variation—from fluvio-glacial and volcanic deposits to continental and marine formations—making them crucial for scientific research. The Ravine preserves an uninterrupted sequence across the Permian-Triassic boundary, including mixed fossil assemblages marking key climatic and biological

shifts.

"This fossiliferous zone is among the world's best-known Permian-Triassic type sections, home to an illustrious faunal assemblage of marine and terrestrial fossils that offer a biological window into the mass extinction event," the Nodal Officer said.

While similar boundary sections exist in Iran and China, Noor said they lie in remote terrains. "Guryul Ravine is easily accessible, and its proximity to markets gives it unique global significance."

The site's rock formations show a transition from arenaceous to argillaceous and carbonate sequences. The earliest Triassic layers begin with the ammonoid Otoceras woodwardi, a key marker fossil.

Noor recalled that during an international geological conference in Jammu in 2007, experts raised concerns over quarrying at the site. This prompted the Department of Geology and Mining to stop quarrying, restrict access, and fence the area to protect the fossil zone.

The Guryul Ravine fossil park is currently maintained by the Department of Geology and Mining through the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT), Srinagar.

"The Guryul Ravine is nature's library—holding secrets of historical geology and ancient climate change," the geologist said, adding that the site is open to tourists, students, and researchers from across the world.

Dry Spell Triggers Rise in Cold-Related Illnesses Across Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As Kashmir continues to experience an unusually dry and biting cold spell, health facilities across the Valley are witnessing a steady rise in patients complaining of common cold, cough, fever, throat irritation and other winter-related respiratory ailments.

Doctors estimate that more than 10 per cent of daily OPD cases are now linked to these seasonal infections, a number that has been climbing with each passing day due to the cold and dry weather.

They said the combination of dry air, sharp temperature drops, and increased indoor confinement has created perfect conditions for viral infections to multiply and spread.

Speaking to KNO, Dr Zahoor Ahmad Mir, a doctor posted at the district hospital in south Kashmir, said the weather has played a crucial role in the recent surge.

"Dry and cold conditions cause viruses to survive longer, and the throat and nasal passages lose moisture, making people more susceptible to infections," he said. "That is why we are seeing a consistent inflow of patients with cold and flu-like symptoms."

Dr Mir added that most cases are mild but can turn serious for vulnerable groups such as infants, the elderly, pregnant women and those with chronic illnesses.

Another doctor said he examined dozens of similar cases over the past week. Respiratory tract infections



tend to increase sharply whenever the Valley passes through prolonged dry spells, said Dr Yasir Ahmad Shah.

"In many hospitals, over one-tenth of our daily patients are coming with cold, cough, mild fever, sinus issues or throat infections. People need to understand that these are typical winter illnesses, but timely care is important," he said.

Dr Shah added that patients with asthma, COPD, heart diseases or diabetes may experience aggravated symptoms during such weather transitions and should monitor their health more closely.

Doctors said the rise in winter infections is driven by various factors, including dry air weakening the respiratory system's defences, increased indoor gatherings with poor ventilation, and the use of heating appliances like bukharis, gas heaters, and kangris, which are enclosed spaces where viruses thrive.

They said smoke from wood and coal irritates airways and can trigger infections, while vitamin D deficiency due to limited sunlight exposure lowers

immunity. Dust accumulation in homes during winter further aggravates breathing issues.

They said prolonged use of smoke-emitting heating devices significantly affects children and the elderly. "We see many cases where throat irritation and persistent cough start due to smoke exposure and later turn into full-fledged infections," Dr Shah added.

Health officials advise simple preventive measures, such as maintaining proper ventilation inside homes, avoiding excessive use of heating devices, ensuring chimneys and exhausts are functional, drinking warm fluids, eating nutritious food, keeping homes clean and dust-free, wearing masks in crowded indoor spaces, and avoiding unnecessary antibiotics. They also recommend that vulnerable groups consider getting flu vaccinations after consulting their doctors.

The situation is likely to continue if the weather remains the same, they warned, adding that if the dry and cold spell persists, the number of patients with winter infections will continue to grow.

Workshop Held on Online Portal for Recruitment Rules Updation

ARI & Trainings department organized a Workshop-cum-Training programme on online portal for updation of Recruitment Rules (RRs), a major reform initiative aimed at bringing transparency, efficiency, and uniformity in the process of framing, amending and approval of RRs across all Ministries and departments at Convention Centre here today.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Higher Education, Shantmanu was the chief guest on the occasion.

ACS, PW(R&B), A.K. Singh; Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings, Shabnam Kamili; various Administrative Secretaries, senior officers of different departments, General Managers of Government Press, designated Nodal Officers from all the departments, representatives of BISAG and other concerned officers were present during the workshop.

Addressing the gathering, ACS Shantmanu acknowledged the efforts of the ARI & Trainings department, adding that this initiative marks a significant step towards modernizing governance. He highlighted that the Single Window System for RRs will not only save time but also bring clarity, accountability, and consistency in government recruitment process.

ACS, A.K.Singh while speaking on the occasion said that this new system is expected to cut approval time by over 75 percent and every stage of the process shall be digitally traceable and also supports the Government's Digital India initiative.

Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings, Shabnam Kamili acknowledged the fact that the RRs are the foundation of government service management, determining eligibility, promotion norms, and service structure for various posts. She added that until now, the process of framing and amending these rules involved multiple layers of approval, leading to delays and procedural complexities. (Observer News Service)

ACB Finalises Chargesheet in 2023 Bribery Case

Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau on Thursday presented a chargesheet against the then Assistant Engineer BDO Office Suresyar Chadoora in a trap case.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau said that it presented Charge-sheet in case FIR No. 25/2023 under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 of Police Station ACB Srinagar Kashmir against accused public servant namely Tanveer Ahmad Dar, then Assistant Engineer BDO office Suresyar Chadoora, in a bribery case before the Additional Special Judge Anti-Corruption Court Srinagar.

"The FIR was registered on 21-12-2023 on a written complaint alleging therein that aforesaid accused demanded Rs 2,000 as bribe for clearing of NREGA Bills. A trap was laid down and the accused was caught red-handed while accepting Rs 2000 as bribe from the complainant," it reads.

It also said that the bribe money was recovered on spot and chemical tests later confirmed the presence of phenolphthalein on the accused's hands.

"Based on the facts and circumstances together with cogent evidences brought on record, the investigation established the commission of offence u/s 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 against the accused public servant namely Tanveer Ahmad Dar, then Assistant Engineer BDO office Suresyar Chadoora," it reads. (Observer News Service)

In J&K, 81 % Households Have Tap Water Connection

The Union Government on Thursday informed the Lok Sabha that Jammu & Kashmir has achieved 81.22% coverage of rural households with tap water supply under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The figures were shared in a written reply by Minister of State for Jal Shakti, V. Somanna.

As per data, J&K has a total of 19.26 lakh rural households, of which 5.75 lakh (29.89%) had tap water connections at the launch of JJM in August 2019. Since then, an additional 9.88 lakh households (51.33%) have been provided with tap water supply, taking the total to 15.64 lakh households.

The reply stated that while significant progress has been made, nearly 3.62 lakh rural households in the UT are still awaiting tap water connectivity, with works at various stages of implementation as part of the saturation plan.

Nationally, over 12.52 crore households have been connected since 2019, raising overall rural tap water coverage to over 81%. The Ministry also shared findings from an independent functionality assessment, noting that 76% of tap water connections surveyed across the country were fully functional in terms of quantity, quality, and regularity. (Observer News Service)

J&K Received Rs 37,978 Cr for National Highways in 5 Years

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Union Government on Thursday informed the Lok Sabha that Jammu & Kashmir received Rs 37,978 crore for the development and maintenance of National Highways over the last five years, with almost full utilisation of funds each year.

According to the details available, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways allocated funds to J&K in a phased manner.

The break up provided by the government stated: Rs 2,932 crore in 2020-21, Rs 6,817 crore in 2021-22, Rs 7,370 crore in 2022-23, Rs 10,528 crore in 2023-24 Rs 10,331 crore in 2024-25. The data shows continuous investment in National Highway expansion, upgradation and maintenance across the UT.

The Government also

revealed that J&K recorded 2,020 road accidents on National Highways in 2024, leading to 426 fatalities, marking an increase in deaths compared to 2023, when 294 people were killed in 2,342 NH accidents. The Ministry said road accidents are "multi-causal," involving human error, road conditions, vehicular issues and environmental factors.

According to KNO, in terms of construction activity, J&K saw 976 km of National Highway works awarded during the last five years, including 248 km in 2020-21, 287 km in 2021-22, 120 km in 2022-23, 244 km in 2023-24, and 77 km in 2024-25.

The reply also revealed that while Advanced Traffic Management Systems (ATMS) have been introduced on several major corridors in other States, no ATMS project has been taken up in J&K till date.

J&K Toll Revenue Crosses Rs 507 Cr in Last Fiscal Year

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Thursday said six toll plazas are currently operational on National Highways in Jammu and Kashmir—generating Rs 507.56 Crore in 2024-25 and 290.41 crore in the ongoing fiscal year.

The disclosure was made in a written reply by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha.

According to the Ministry, J&K recorded toll revenue of rupees 507.56 crore in 2024-25, while the collection in the first seven months of the current financial year (April-October 2025) stood at rupees 290.41 crore.

Toll receipts have seen a steady rise over the last decade, from rupees 0.11

crore in 2014-15 to rupees 409.96 crore in 2022-23 and rupees 436.86 crore in 2023-24, the data shows.

The Ministry also stated that toll collection continues either by concessionaires or by the Government even after the concession period ends, in line with the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008.

Responding to concerns raised over traffic congestion at toll points, Gadkari informed the House that the Centre has decided to roll out Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) electronic tolling, aimed at barrier-less collection using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) with AI analytics and RFID-based FASTag systems. "A phased implementation will follow based on the performance of the initial sites identified for MLFF," (KNO)

JK Cement Holds Second Retailers Meet

SRINAGAR: JK Cement Limited, one of India's leading grey cement manufacturers, on Thursday organised its second consecutive Retailers Meet in Srinagar, celebrating the achievements of its channel partners across Kashmir for the month of November 2025.

The event brought together retailers from across the Valley, recognising their performance and contribution to the company's growing footprint



in the region. During the programme, JK Cement felicitated top-performing retailers with gifts that included a laptop, iPhone, smartphones, home ap-

pliances and various electronic items. All participating retailers also received appreciation gifts as a gesture of gratitude for their continued support.

Addressing the gathering, State Head (Sales & Marketing) Feroz Ahmed Shah lauded the consistent market performance and reiterated the company's commitment to transparency, teamwork and shared growth with its retail network. (Observer News Service)

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.

GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR

Baghi-Alli-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in | Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

EXTENSION NOTICE 5TH .

Subject: This office e-NIT No. 51-JS-PHE/GWDS/ Mech. of 2025-26, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./ 10907-22, dated: 31-10-2025 Bearing Tender ID No. 2025_PHE_293881_16 (for SI. No: 2 of e-Nit).

Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 03-12-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	10-12-2025 Up-to 03:00 AM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	11-12-2025 Up-to 01.00 PM

NOTE:
All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endst: nos.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./ 14765-79
Dated: 03-12-2025
DIPK-8722-25
DT: 04/12/2025

Sd/= Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

2ND ASHES TEST

Starc's Three Wickets Jolt England on Day 1

Agencies

BRISBANE: Mitchell Starc struck for a third time on Day 1 of the second Ashes test, swinging momentum again for Australia just as England was settling into an almost conventional rhythm in cricket's longest format.

After removing Ben Duckett and Ollie Pope to have England reeling at 5-2 in the third over Thursday, Starc returned to dismiss Harry Brook in his first over of the middle session.

With his 415th career wicket, the 35-year-old Australian surpassed Pakistan great Wasim Akram (414 from 104 tests) as the most successful left-arm fast bowler in test cricket.

It was a jolt England could have done without, Brook caught at slip slashing outside off stump and falling for 31 from 33 balls to end a



54-run fourth-wicket partnership with Joe Root just as the sun was going down.

Root shared a 117-run stand with Zac Crawley (76) to lift England to 122-3 and then partnered Brook in another innings-reviving stand.

He was unbeaten on 68 and skipper Ben Stokes was 14 with England at 196-4 at the end of the second session, ushering England to its highest total of the series so far following two batting failures in the eight-wicket loss in the first

test at Perth.

Starc took 10 wickets in Perth under standard test conditions.

He's the most prolific bowler ever in day-night test cricket, taking 81 wickets with the pink ball in 14 matches leading into this one.

With the lights on and the ball starting to shape around, anything could happen before stumps.

EARLY GOING

Stokes won the toss and opted to bat for the second time in the series, and may have regretted it initially when Duckett was out on the sixth ball – the 26th time Starc has taken a wicket in the first over a test innings – and Pope was out in the third over.

On the plus side Crawley, who was out for ducks in both innings in Perth, survived Starc's two-wicket opening burst and posted a half-century in the first session as England went to the first interval at 98-2.

He got off the mark with a boundary and, apart from two half-chances when he drove up-pishly at Starc and Boland before he'd reached 50, he was composed.

Recalled paceman Michael Neser broke the 117-run third-wicket stand when Crawley attempted an extravagant pull shot and got an under edge through to the keeper. He was out for 76 off 93 balls.

NO LYON

The most contentious selection of the series so far was Australia's choice to recall Neser in a five-man pace attack at the expense of spinner Nathan Lyon, who missed out for only the second time on home soil since his debut in 2011.

The selection committee later described it as a "once off" because of the conditions. (AP)

YSS Budgam Launches Orientation Course for REKs



The District Youth Services & Sports Office (YSS) Budgam on Thursday launched an Orientation Training Course for Rehbar-e-Khel (REKs) at SAMIE School Beerwah, with a focus on fencing, taekwondo, wushu and karate. The programme is being held on the directions of Director General YSS, Anuradha Gupta.

The training, scheduled to run through December 9, is aimed at upgrading the technical and instructional capabilities of REKs to strengthen sports coaching at the school level. Officials said the course includes both theoretical inputs and intensive practical sessions.

The inaugural session was attended by Abdul Rouf Bukhari, Principal of SAM College of Education, who commended YSS Budgam for initiating capacity-building measures for grassroots sports instructors.

Participants reported high enthusiasm and said the training would help them deliver more structured and effective coaching to student-athletes across the district.

YSS Budgam has in recent years expanded its outreach through similar programmes, with officials emphasising that such initiatives are central to improving youth fitness and promoting sports excellence in the region. (Observer News Service)

Selectors Set to Include New Faces in Pak Squad for T20Is

Press Trust of India

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board's selectors are not ruling out the possibility of including some new faces in the T20 squad that will be playing three matches in Sri Lanka from January 7 to 11.

This is because the PCB had issued NOC to six main players to appear in the Big Bash League in Australia which runs from December 14 to end of January before it announced the three-match series in Dambulla this week.

This is the first time so many Pakistani players are taking part in the BBL including Babar Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Muhammad Rizwan (their debut seasons in the event), Hasan Ali, Haris Rauf and Shadab Khan.

With the exception of Rizwan, who has not been picked



in the national T20 squad since December 2024, all the others are either playing or are set to play in the format for Pakistan team. Cricket Australia had made it clear before permitting its teams to sign on the Pakistan players that they would be available for the entire season.

"The understanding between CA and PCB was that Pakistan didn't have any international

Root Finally Scores an Ashes Century in Australia

Agencies

BRISBANE: Joe Root has finally scored a hundred in an Ashes test for England in Australia, checking off one of the few milestones missing from his impressive cricket CV.

Test cricket's No. 1-ranked batter ended a 15-test century drought Down Under dating to 2013 when he reached triple figures on Thursday in the first night session of the second test at the Gabba.

Root is on his fourth Ashes tour to Australia where his previous highest test score was 89.

He scored 0 and 8 in the eight-wicket loss in the series-opening test in Perth.

"Even Australians have to admit he is a great now," former England captain Alastair Cook said on



broadcaster TNT Sports.

Root was 88 not out at drinks midway through the night session. He moved into the 90s for the first time in Australia with a boundary off Brendan Doggett. He hit another boundary next ball to go to 96. With Root on 98, Will Jacks chased a wild shot against Mitchell Starc and was out for 19 to end their 40-run stand. England was 251-7.

Not to be outdone again,

Narine Becomes First Cricketer to Take 600 T20 Wickets

Known for his variations for the longest time, mystery spinner Sunil Narine etched his name in history after becoming the first bowler to claim 600 wickets in competitive T20 cricket.

He achieved the milestone during the World ILT20 game for his franchise Abu Dhabi Knight Riders against Sharjah Warriorz on Wednesday.

Following the match, Abu Dhabi Knight Riders presented Narine with a special edition jersey featuring the number 600 to commemorate his unprecedented feat.

The 37-year-old cricketer from Trinidad reached the landmark by claiming the wicket of Tom Abell. This achievement is a testament to Narine's status as one of the greatest T20 bowlers to take the pitch. Over the years, he has represented the likes of Kolkata Knight Riders, as well as the Abu Dhabi Knight Riders, Trinbago Knight Riders and Los Angeles Knight Riders with distinction.

"The Knight Riders family stands immensely proud of Narine's extraordinary achievement, recognising that this record may well stand the test of time as one of cricket's most enduring milestones," the franchise said in a press release on Thursday. (PTI)

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