



Road **Safety** First

WEAR A SEAT BELT

A seat belt holds more than straps — it holds your safety and survival



Department of Information & Public Relations, J&K
in collaboration with **TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF J&K**

[@diprjk](#) [@dipr_jk](#)
[@informationprjk](#) Information & PR, J&K

DIPK-8866/25 Dated: 10.12.2025

Race Begins For 7 New Ropeways In J&K

Technical Bids Open For A Slate Of Mountain Ropeways That Could Reshape Travel To Major Tourist And Pilgrimage Sites.



Peerzada Mohsin Shafi

Srinagar: The plan to lift travel in Jammu and Kashmir to higher ground took a clear step Wednesday as the National Highways Authority of India opened technical bids for preparing Detailed Project Reports for seven proposed ropeways across the Union Territory. Four consultancy firms have entered the contest. Bernard Gruppe ZT GmbH, ILF Consulting Engineers India, Aakar Abhinav Consultants and SA Infrastructure Consultants are now being evaluated on their technical proposals.

One of them will help shape projects that could change how people move through some of the region's most remote valleys. The government first invited bids for five ropeways in September 2025. The list soon grew to seven, stretching from

the high meadows of Sonamarg and Doodhpathri to the pilgrimage routes of Baltal and Pahalgam, and further south to Bhaderwah, Sanasar and the Shankaracharya hilltop in Srinagar.

According to the bid documents, the chosen consultant will compare global and Indian ropeway systems and study eight benchmark projects. The work will look at technology choices, terrain challenges, safety standards, equipment requirements and expected passenger demand.

Officials say the goal is to bring modern, efficient and safe ropeway systems to mountains that are both beautiful and fragile. If built, the ropeways could cut long, winding road journeys into short aerial rides. They are expected to ease congestion on busy routes, shrink travel time for pilgrims and tourists and offer an **| More on P6**

J&K Faces Major Rain Deficit, Fire Risk Rising Jhelum Falls Below Zero Gauge As Dry Spell Deepens

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is facing a severe rainfall deficit, with the region recording only 6.1 mm of precipitation between November 1 and December 9 against the normal 43.1 mm, indicating an 86 percent shortfall, official data shows.

The prolonged dry spell, which has persisted since early November, has begun to impact water systems. The Jhelum River at Sangam has slipped to minus 0.59 ft, falling below the zero-gauge level. Though not the lowest on record, it is among the lowest readings observed in recent years. With no major rain or snowfall expected over the next week, river levels may decline further.

The lack of precipitation has also increased



vulnerability to forest fires in several districts, as surface heating, dry vegetation and depleted soil moisture have created favorable conditions for fire outbreaks.

Meteorologists attribute the current situation to multiple climatic factors rather than a single trigger. While some have linked the dry phase to the Madden-Julian

Oscillation or broader ENSO patterns, experts caution that the influence of such systems is limited and not directly predictive of rainfall in Jammu and Kashmir.

Minimum temperatures have remained below freezing in many parts of Kashmir. Srinagar recorded minus 1.9 degrees Celsius, Gulmarg **| More on P6**

Centre Intensifies Glacier Monitoring In J&K

The Union Government on Wednesday said it is monitoring glaciers in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh through multiple national programmes to study the effects of climate change on the Himalayan region.

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh said the Ministry of Earth Sciences, through the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), has been monitoring **| More on P6**

15-Day Winter Break In J&K Courts From Jan 1 KO Correspondent

Srinagar: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on Wednesday announced a 15-day winter vacation for all district Courts across Kashmir Province, Ladakh, and several courts in Jammu Division.

According to a notification, the winter vacation will be observed from January 1 to January 15, 2026 (both days inclusive).

The order states that the vacation applies to all District Courts of Kashmir Province, and to courts located in District Kishtwar, District Doda, and the courts at Batote, Gool, Banihal and Ukhral in District Ramban, and Bani in District Kathua of Jammu Division. All courts functioning in the Union Territory of Ladakh will also remain closed for the said period.

The notification further directs the Principal District & Sessions Judges and Chief Judicial Magistrates of the concerned districts to ensure appropriate **| More on P6**

US SOCIAL MEDIA CHECKS

Cancellation Of H-1B Interviews Triggers Outrage

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Thousands of Indian H-1B visa applicants have been left in uncertainty after the United States abruptly postponed their pre-scheduled visa interviews by several months, following enhanced scrutiny of applicants' social media activity and online profiles.

Applicants who were due to appear for interviews later this month have received official emails informing them that their appointments have been pushed as far as May next year. The rescheduling covers all applicants who were originally given interview slots from **| More on P6**

Allow Students To Learn By Interest, Not Pressure: LG

» 'NEP Is PM Modi's Biggest Gift To Nation' » Says AI Will Revolutionize Classrooms And Mentoring

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday urged educational institutions to allow students to pursue learning based on their interests and abilities rather than pressure, stating that curiosity and critical thinking must



remain the strongest pillars of modern education.

Addressing the 40th anniversary celebrations of Lawrence Public School at Abhinav Theatre in Jammu, the Lieutenant Governor said the world is undergoing rapid transformation driven by advanced technologies, and schools must adopt new tools to nurture creativity. **| More on P6**

'Counter False Narratives To Protect Historical Truth'

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said that there is a need to counter false narratives to protect

historical truth and national pride, while highlighting Veer Savarkar's contribution to India. He was speaking at the Veer Savarkar **| More on P6**

Govt Orders Depts To Block Stray Dogs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Amid a rapid surge in the stray dog population across the Valley, the Kashmir administration has directed all government departments to fortify boundary walls and install effective barriers to stop stray animals, particularly dogs, from entering official premises.

The directive follows repeated complaints of dogs straying into hospitals, educational institutions, offices and other public facilities. Stray dogs roaming inside parking areas, office compounds and even hospital corridors have raised serious safety concerns for employees, students, patients and visitors.

Officials said immediate corrective measures **| More on P6**

Pathway Dispute

HC Fines Three Brothers ₹50K For Suppressing Facts

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday imposed costs of Rs 50,000 on three brothers from Kupwara for deliberately suppressing material facts in a dispute concerning encroachment on a public pathway.

A bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal held that the petitioners—Farooq Ahmad, Showkat Ahmad Sheikh, and Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din—had approached the court with “unclean hands” and imposed costs “to maintain the sanctity of the judicial process and to ensure that no party approaches the Court while suppressing material facts”.

The court observed that the pathway/link road in question



was constructed by the Rural Development Department. Meanwhile, some locals of the area, being aggrieved by obstruction, approached the Deputy Commissioner Kupwara who by way of the order directed the removal of the obstruction.

Later the Revisional Court after going through the material on record upheld the order of the Deputy Commissioner **| More on P6**

WORLD'S FIRST

Social Media Ban For Children Begins In Australia

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Australia on Wednesday became the first country to ban social media for children under 16, blocking access in a move welcomed by many parents and child advocates but criticised by major technology companies and free-speech advocates.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese welcomed the ban as families took back power from tech giants but warned the implementation would be difficult.

Starting at midnight (1300 GMT on Tuesday), 10 of the largest platforms, including TikTok, Alphabet's YouTube and Meta's Instagram and Facebook, were ordered to block children or face fines of up to A\$49.5 million (\$33 million) under the new law, which is being closely watched by regulators worldwide.

“This is the day when Australian families are taking back power from these big tech companies, and they're asserting the right of kids to be kids and **| More on P6**

'Why Situation Precipitated, Are You helpless?'

HC Questions Centre, Orders IndiGo To Compensate Passengers

Airline CEO Apologizes; Says Disruptions Not Deliberate

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: HC Questions Centre Over IndiGo Crisis, Orders Compensation

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday pulled up the Centre for failing to prevent the massive disruption caused by IndiGo flight cancellations and asked why the situation was allowed to escalate, leaving lakhs of passengers stranded and airfares soaring.



“What have you been doing? Why was this crisis allowed to arise?” a bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela **| More on P6**

DGCA To Deploy Staff Inside IndiGo HQ

Aviation watchdog DGCA will station its personnel at IndiGo's headquarters as it steps up oversight on India's largest airline, which continues to cancel dozens of flights despite saying operations have stabilised. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) **| More on P6**

KO Classifieds

PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

You can do it all here

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



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Srinagar | Thursday | 11-12-2025

2

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION SUB OFFICE KUPWARA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed /appeared in secondary school Examination (SSE)class 10 th under Rollno .J27062062 .Session:- Annual Regular 2025 . through the Jammu and kashmir Board of School Education . the error has been committed by the concerned school /parent my Mother's name has been recorded with the Board as Gulshana Begum while as actual my Mother's name is Parveena Begum



Now i have applied for correction /rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar if anybody having any objection in this regard may file the same before office of the Deputy Secretary, Certificates -(KD) Kashmir Division -undersigned within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice.after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained . This is published for the information of the general public .The correct particulars be recorded as under :-

Name:- Mushaid Hussain Najar
S/O:- Ali Mohammad Najar .
M/N:- Parveena Begum
D.O.B:- 01.03.2009
R/O:- Udiipora . Tehsil . Langate .Distt Kupwara .

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his/he adhaar card as Aisha Jan while her correct name is Aisha Binti Sajad . 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..

Sajad Ah Wagay
F/o Aisha Binti Sajad R/o Ganowpora Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name & has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Abdul Ahad Ganaie S/o Ghulam Mohd (DOB 23-09-1993) While My Correct Name is Abdul Gani Ganaie S/O Ghulam Mohammad Ganaie R/O Hardushoora (DOB 21-08-1998) . 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..

Abdul Gani Ganaie
S/O Ghulam Mohammad Ganaie
R/O Hardushoora

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been inadvertently recorded in my Aadhaar Card as Rokhsana Baigum Bearing Aadhar No 9992 3983 7031 while my correct name is Posha Begum . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained..

Posha begum
D/o AB hamid wani
R/o Machil kupwara

FKO

Subject.Grant of registration of the proposed paying Guest/ homes tay unit under the name & Style of M/s.DOULAT INN " situated at Magarmalbagh srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Mr. Bashir Ahmad Dar S/o Mohammad Ramzan Dar R/o Magarmalbagh srinagar intends to apply in the office of the prescribed authority of Director of tourism for registration of my proposed paying Guest house/Home stay under the name and style" M/s. DOULAT INN" situated at Magarmalbagh srinagar under Tourist Trade Act1978/82/2011-12 .

Whereas,I will submit landownership certificate from concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy commissioner concerned rent/lease deed/partnership deed/issued by concerned sub-registrar , judicial magistrate (if applicable NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as home stay), Character certificate of the applicant from the concerned police station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration public notice inviting objections,if any in the print media,list of family members Name,age,and photograph self attested by owner, photographs of the unit as mentioned in the applicant (such of exterior and individual be rooms and bathrooms) , inspection report by the committee (The recommendation of the inspection committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view the type of accommodation and amenity, adhar card.Now before my case is processed for registration by the prescribed authority.The matter is hereby notified for information of general public/organizations for objections if any and the same the same should reach to the office of prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the valley.objection received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be proceeded under rules as per merit

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name, DOB and residence has been wrongly mentioned in my Aadhaar card bearing Aadhaar no 94803604 8059 as Mehbooba Sheikh, DOB 10-10-1970 R/O Pethmakhama instead of Mahbooba Sheikh, DoB 10-03-1970 R/O Sail Beerwah as per School records. Now I am applying for its correction if anybody having any objection in this regard may file to same BDO office beerwahwithin three (03) day from the date of publication of this notice. after that no objection will be entertained.

Mahbooba Sheikh
D/O Gh Ahmad Sheikh
R/O Sail Beerwah

bmj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 10th class discharge certificate somewhere. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Govt higher secondary school nadihal Bandipora within seven day . After that no objection shall be entertained.

Abdul aziz malla S/o. Gh mohi ud din malla
R/o. Gundl dachna Tehsil: Bandipora
Dist: Bandipora
Mob no: 9797916886

bmj

Children In Climate Vulnerable Districts Of India 25% More Likely To Be Underweight: Study

Press Trust of India

Children in India districts that are highly vulnerable to climate change could be 25 per cent more likely to be underweight, compared to those in less vulnerable districts, indicating how climate vulnerability can impact public health outcomes, a study has found. Districts highly vulnerable to climate change consistently underperform on achieving health targets, such as stunting and problems accessing healthcare, compared to less vulnerable districts, the study published in the journal PLOS one said.

Researchers from Delhi's Institute of Economic Growth said that with 80 per cent of India's population living in areas highly vulnerable to extreme weather events such as cyclones, floods and heatwaves, risks due to climate change could undermine the country's progress on several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Member states of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, a blueprint for ensuring peace and prosperity for people and the planet by 2030. Seventeen SDGs have been described which include ending poverty, achieving gender equality and improving access to clean water and sanitation.

Low and middle-income countries are projected to experience the worst ef-



fects of climate change owing to geographical location, such as tropical regions, and a limited capacity to adapt. The researchers analysed data from the National Family Health Survey-Round 5 and 'Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture' (CRIDA), which provides information on a district's climate vulnerability.

The study also found a 38 per cent higher likelihood of a non-institutional delivery — birth occurring outside a healthcare facility — in districts highly vulnerable to climate change.

"The chance of children being underweight and that of women having non-institutional deliveries, is (25

The chance of children being underweight and that of women having non-institutional deliveries, is (25 per cent and 38 per cent) higher, respectively, in districts that are highly vulnerable to climate change than districts that are less vulnerable

per cent and 38 per cent) higher, respectively, in districts that are highly vulnerable to climate change than districts that are less vulnerable," the authors wrote.

"Districts that are highly vulnerable to climate change consistently underperform on the studied health targets as compared to districts which are less vulnerable to climate change," they said.

Climate vulnerability was also related with problems accessing healthcare. The team also found a higher chance of six per cent and 14 per cent for wasting — a low weight for height — and stunting in highly vulnerable districts.

"Districts which are highly vulnerable in terms of climate, underperform on health metrics, including stunting, wasting, being underweight, having non-institutional deliveries and facing problems in accessing health care," the authors said.

They added that the findings establish the need to account for how climate change impacts health outcomes, apart from the socio-economic and access-related factors conventionally considered relevant, in low and middle-income countries such as India.

Risks due to climate change need to be urgently addressed, including an effective adaption in health, to ensure desired health and well-being outcomes can be achieved and sustained amidst rising climate risks, the team said.

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

Ph. No. 0194-2458118

TENDER NOTICE INVITING E- TENDERS

FRESH NIET NO:50 e-Tendering/2025-26

Dated: 08-Dec-2025

For and on behalf of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors for the following work:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Est. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost Tender Document (Non-refundable)	Earnest Money (CDR)	Time of Completion in days/ Weeks	Class of Contractor (Civil)	Technical Sanction/ Dated	Head of Account
01.	Development of Paid Car Parking on NH-44 Sgr Bypass at Housing Colony Bemina RHS	Rs. 49.61/-	Rs. 1100/-	Rs. 99220/-	25 Days Strictly	AAY/ BEE	12 Dated: 08/09/2025	AFA

- Accord of Administrative Approval: Available

Other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

CRITICAL DATE SHEET

1	Publish date	08-12-2025
2	Document download date	08-12-2025 04:00 PM To 15-12-2025 04:00 PM
3	Bid submission/uploading date	08-12-2025 04:00 PM To 15-12-2025 04:00 PM
4	Bid Opening date	16-12-2025 11:00 AM
5.	Submission of hard copy for successful bidder	2-12-2025 10:00 AM To 04:00 PM

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- The Earnest Money (EMD) in respect of the advertised Cost of the work should be 2% in shape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer LRWD SMC.EMD2% of the successful bidder will be discharged when the bidder has signed the Agreement & furnished the required Performance Security
- The L-1 contractor shall have to furnish the performance security @5% in shape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer LRWD SMC of the value of contract valid till DLP before issuance of LOA / LOI. In case of L-1 failing to provide performance security @5% for the works within 7 days after being notified, his bid shall be cancelled and work shall be executed through other sources U/R at the risk , cost and responsibility of L1.

- 2.01. In Case of abnormally low bids: the successful bidder will have to provide additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG as per the breakup given below pledged to Executive Engineer Left River Works Division SMC Sgr (Tender receiving authority) as per circular issued by J&k Finance department (Codes Division) under No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated: 08-08-2025. Moreover, the additional performance security percentage shall be rounded off the next lower percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is below 0.5% or next higher percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is 0.5% or more.

S.No.	Percentage of unbalanced bid via advertised cost on account of low rates	Additional Performance Security
1.	Upto and including 10% below	NIL
2.	>10% upto and including 20% < below project cost Example: if the bid is 12% below project cost, that's 2% below the 10% limit Additional security = [0.1% * (12-10)] = 0.2% of bid price.	Incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of the bid below 10% of project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
3.	>20% or more below project cost. Example: if the bid is 25% less than project cost, that's 5% below the 20% limit Additional Security = [1%+(0.2% * (25-20))] = 2% of bid price.	Incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price

- In Case of Holidays/office happens to be closed on the date of opening of bids. Bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The intending tenderer /bidder should attach sales tax clearance certificate with upto date Validation without which no tenders/bids will be entertained.
- The bid shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer LRWD, SMC at Old Funds Office Building Karan Nagar near National School Municipal Park on 16-12-2025 at 11:00 AM.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Bank Receipt/ e- Challan pledged in favour of Chief Accounts Officer SMC in the Municipal Account No: 0216010200000007 payable at J&K Bank Brach. Scanned copy of the same with mention of NIET No. & Serial no. to be uploaded along with all other documents. The bidder shall be barred / black list as per law for tender fee in form of Bank Receipt, tender fee receipt and other relevant documents including Bid Security (CDR/ FDR/BG) duly filled up, if found with any ambiguity or unattested, correction / overwriting for any work, such tender / bid shall be considered as invalid bid and shall be out rightly rejected and action U/R shall be initiated. The Bid shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the Bid due date.
- Name of the Bank:- Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
- Branch:- Balgarden, Srinagar
- Bank Account No:- 02160102000000007
- IFSC Code:- JAKA06GARDEN
- MICR Code: 190051008
- 6(a). Any payment for Tenders fees through online mode shall necessarily mention the following information. (Sender Name, Account No of Sender/Beneficiary, Transaction ID, Reference ID, Transaction date and time, The Remarks should necessarily mention NIT NO, SNO and LRWD). Further use of pencil in writing (NIT No and S. No) on tender fees and EMD must be avoided.

No.SMC/EE/LRW/2809-2818

DIPK-NB-2719/25

Dated: 10-Dec-2025.

Sd/-
Er. Nisar Ahmad Wangoor,
Executive Engineer,
Left River Works Division,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.



CITY

Data Analysis Workshop Begins at KU's DMS

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Management Studies (DMS), University of Kashmir (KU), started a three-day workshop on Data Analysis in Business Research and Econometrics at the Main Campus.

The workshop is designed to strengthen researchers' analytical capabilities and introduce practical tools for handling and interpreting business data.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said that universities must equip young researchers with skills that help them analyse and use data responsibly and meaningfully.

"Sound data practices lead to better research outcomes and informed decision-making. Workshops like this help scholars engage with evidence rather than assumptions," she said.

Dean Academic Affairs

KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, said that training in data analysis is essential for producing research that is both rigorous and relevant.

Dean Research KU, Prof. Mohammad Sultan Bhat, Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, and Dean, School of Business Studies KU, Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Darzi, also spoke on the occasion, noting that such platforms help young scholars build confidence in using analytical tools and understanding research methodologies.

They highlighted that strengthening skills in data handling and model interpretation is essential for producing reliable business research and for responding to emerging industry challenges.

Earlier, Head, DMS KU, Prof. Bashir Joo, in his welcome address, said that the workshop is part of the department's ongoing efforts to create practice-oriented learning spaces for emerging researchers.

Students Debate Bills, Policies at Youth Parliament

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Social Welfare, SANK-ALP-Hub for Empowerment of Women (Mission Shakti) Srinagar, in collaboration with Amar Singh College, on Wednesday organised a Youth Parliament under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative.

The programme was aimed at introducing students to the workings of democratic institutions by simulating a parliamentary session. Through this exercise, participants took on the roles of the Prime Minister, Ministers and Members of Parliament, debating bills, proposing resolutions and engaging in structured discussions that mirrored the functioning of the legislature.

The initiative sought to strengthen leadership qualities, civic awareness, democratic understanding, public speaking skills and tolerance among students—equipping them with the ability to comprehend complex public issues and contribute meaningfully to society. Students were divided into ruling and opposition benches, creating a vibrant and dynamic environment for debate and decision-making.

The event was attended by Chief Planning Officer Srinagar, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; District Social Welfare Officer Srinagar, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad; Principal Amar Singh College, Prof. Aijaz Ahmad Hakak; officials from SANK-ALP-Hub for Empowerment of Women, faculty members and students of the college.

From Office of the Advocate

Javid Ahmad Navoo

In the case of

Tabasum Nabi D/o Gh Nabi sofi W/o Nayeem Ahmad Khan resident Hardishora kunzar at present pattan

2. Shagufta Parveen d/o Gh Nabi sofi resident of Wanigam payeen (cavators)

V/s

1.Mohmad Ashraf Bhat S/o Gh Nabi Bhat

2. Mudasir Ahmad Bhat

3. Irfan Ahmad Bhat

Both Sons of Mohammad Ashraf Bhat

4.Manzoor Ahmad Ganie S/o Ab Majeed Ganie

5.Nazir Ahmad Ganie s/o Gh Ahmad Ganie residents of pattan

6.Bashir Ahmad Bhat s/o Ab Ahad bhat resident Golipora khore pattan Non Caveators

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

fko

اړنځياټ بوټي

عنوان :- درخواست مخياڼې عبدال دباب گوډري دلمه دجهان گوډري ساکيندلو بمراد

عطاگلي OBC تحت 176 SRO بحق پريش احمد

اشتهار هرخاص وعام

معاظمه مندرجه عنوان الصدور میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفیکٹ بذمره تمام پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیرکا دوائی ہے اس بارے میں پنواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل واقعی گوډری ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور سائل سیلو میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سائل کا کتبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

عبدال دباب گوډری دلمه دجهان مزدوری 75 سال 10000

زوندیکم زودجه عبدال دباب گھریلکام 65 سال

فردوس احمد پسر۔۔۔ مزدوری 27

زاهده بانو دختر گھریلکام 25

ریض احمد پسر۔۔۔ تیل میں 24

سائل مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفیکٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کتبہ کی سالا ت آمدنی 10,000 روپے تک ہے۔ سرٹیفیکٹ زیربحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزریا

عترض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمہ اخبار سارسات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عراض عراض عدالت حد اکثر فی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے بیجا کوئی عراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

FKO



Colourful Santa decorations fill a shop's shelves as Christmas draws near. KO Photo Abid Bhat.

Citywide Inspection Held for Srinagar's Winter Response Systems

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, along with SMC Commissioner Faz Lul Haseeb, on Wednesday conducted an extensive citywide inspection to review Srinagar's snow-clearance preparedness ahead of the winter season.

The visit aimed to assess ground readiness of men and machinery, control room functioning, inter-departmental coordination and the overall winter response mechanism across key departments.

The DC and Commissioner were accompanied by Chief Engineer MED Bodh Raj, ADC Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, ADC Aadil Fareed, Joint Commissioners SMC Nuzhat Khurshid and Syed Abul Qasim, Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, SDM West Irfan Bahadur, Superintending Engineers of R&B, MED, SMC, and other senior officers.

The inspection covered vital locations including the MED Snow-Clearance Control Room at Shalteng, the Integrated Command & Control Centre (ICCC) at HMT, the SMC Control Room, and the JAKLINE Yard. Officers reviewed response mechanisms, the availability and condition of equipment, communication systems, and readiness of field teams.

At the MED complex in Shalteng, the DC and SMC Commissioner inspected the deployment of men and machinery and took stock of coordination systems established to manage snowfall and related emergencies. Officials briefed them that 45 snow-clearance machines are in a state

of readiness for deployment across 35 routes, covering 1,634 km under the Mechanical Engineering Department's jurisdiction.

Both officers stressed the need for seamless inter-departmental coordination, 24x7 control room function-

and fully prepared to respond to any eventuality arising from snowfall.

At the ICCC HMT, the officers assessed the Centre's operational readiness for real-time monitoring of winter arrangements and interacted with officials from multiple departments



The DC and SMC Commissioner inspected the deployment of men and machinery and took stock of coordination systems established to manage snowfall and related exigencies"

ing, and prompt response systems for addressing public grievances during winter emergencies. They emphasised proactive planning, timely deployment of machinery, and efficient communication to ensure uninterrupted essential services.

The DC underscored the importance of swift mobilisation of snow-clearance machinery to avoid disruptions, while the SMC Commissioner directed field teams to remain alert

stationed there for round-the-clock surveillance and information dissemination, especially during emergencies.

Later, they inspected the SMC Control Room at JAKLINE Yard, Batamaloo, reviewing machinery availability and preparedness for upcoming snow-clearance operations.

Officials reiterated their commitment to ensuring a prompt, coordinated winter response for the residents of Srinagar.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (U T) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MACHINERY DIVISION KASHMIR, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR.

| Fax No: 0194-2497093 | xenmds-kmr@jk.gov.in |

CORRIGENDUM 04

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

References: -

- 1 This office e-NIT No.MDSK/TS /2025-26/54 Date:29-10-2025 (Tender ID: 2025_PWDJK_293574_1)
2. This office corrigendum No. 01 dated: 14.11.2025 issued vide No: MDSK/TS/3833-38 Dated: 14.11.2025
3. This office corrigendum No. 02 dated: 15.11.2025 issued vide No: MDSK/TS/3850-53 Dated: 15.11.2025
4. This office corrigendum No. 03 dated: 26.11.2025 issued vide No: MDSK/TS/4037-40 Dated: 26.11.2025

Due to no response to the above referred eNIT up-to last date of uploading of bids the critical dates are extended as under: -

S.No.	Description	Previous Dates	New Dates.
01.	Last date of downloading/ uploading of bids	10-12-2025 upto 09:00AM	19-12-2025 upto 06:55PM
02.	Date of opening of bids online	10-12-2025 at 02:00 PM	20-12-2025 at 02:00 PM

In view of no response despite repeated date extensions the following amendment is made:

Claus no as per eNIT.	As per corrigendum No 01 dated: 14.11.2025	Amended to
Work experience (clause V of tender notice)	The bidder shall have to furnish documentary evidence of having executed similar nature of work (Pumps ,DG sets/piping network) in any Govt./Semi. Govt./PSU during last 7 years along with work completion and performance report issued by the officer not below the Rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent as per the following criteria; - i. One similar completed work costing not less than 40% of the estimated cost. or ii. Two similar completed works each costing not less than 25% of the estimated cost or iii. Three similar completed works each costing not less than 15% of the estimated cost.	The bidder shall have to furnish documentary evidence of having executed similar nature of work (Pumps ,DG sets/piping network) in any Govt./Semi. Govt./PSU during last 7 years along with work completion and performance report issued by the officer not below the Rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent as per the following criteria; - i. One similar completed work costing not less than 20% of the estimated cost. or ii. Two similar completed works each costing not less than 15% of the estimated cost or iii. Three similar completed works each costing not less than 10% of the estimated cost. Note: The firms having successfully executed works in this Division under Saffron Mission in the past shall have to upload details of works executed which shall be verified by the concerned AEE during tech. evaluation, and the same shall be considered in lieu of work experience only after verifying the credentials.

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

No: MDSK/TS/4787-91
DIPK-8889/25 DATED: 10-12-2025

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MACHINERY
DIVISION KASHMIR

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
19 Jumada al-Sani
1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 54
ZUHR	12:22
ASR	3: 45
Magrib	5:25
ISHA	6: 50

This Day In History

- 359 - Honoratus, first known Prefect of the City of Constantinople, takes office.
- 384 - St Damasus I dies and ends his reign as Catholic Pope. Began reign 366
- 1282 - Llywelyn ab Gruffydd/Llywelyn the Last, last native Prince of Wales is killed at Cilmeri, near Builth Wells, south Wales. Reigned from 1259.
- 1395 - John "Eleanor" Rykener, a male cross-dressing prostitute, is brought to court in London for "committing that detestable unmentionable and ignominious vice" in late medieval England's only recorded case on same-sex intercourse (verdict unknown)
- 1419 - Heretic Nicolaas Serrurier exiled from Florence
- 1477 - Duchess Maria of Burgundy ends the 'Great Privilege' in states of The Netherlands
- 1572 - Spanish troops begin siege of Haarlem
- 1602 - Surprise attack by forces of the Duke of Savoy and his brother-in-law, Philip III of Spain repelled by citizens of Geneva. Commemorated since as Fête de l'Escalade.
- 1618 - Russia & Poland signs Peace treaty of Dailino
- 1917 - German-occupied Lithuania proclaims independence from Russia
- 1931 - Japan leaves the Gold Standard
- 1937 - Italy withdraws from League of Nations.
- 1940 - Russian general Georgy Zhukov warns of German assault
- 1941 - Australian state cricket associations, South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales decide at meetings with new Prime Minister John Curtin to abandon all interstate first class matches for the duration of WWII
- 1946 - Spain suspended from UN
- 1946 - UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) established (Nobel 1965)
- 1950 - British Physicist Cecil Frank Powell awarded Nobel Prize in Physics for his study of nuclear processes and the discovery of the pion
- 1959 - Emilio G. Segrè publishes his discovery of the antiproton, a sub-atomic antiparticle for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1959
- 1964 - Che Guevara speaks at the United Nations General Assembly in New York City. An unknown terrorist fires a mortar shell at the building during the speech.
- 1967 - People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) established
- 1969 - Libya adopts constitution
- 1972 - Astronauts Cernan & Harrison become 11th & 12th people on the Moon
- 1981- Argentine President General Roberto Viola flees
- 1981- El Mozote massacre: Salvadoran armed forces kill an estimated 900 civilians in an anti-guerrilla campaign during the country's civil war.
- 1981- Former world heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali's 61st and last fight; loses to Trevor Berbick by unanimous decision in 10 rounds at Queen Elizabeth Sports Centre, Nassau, Bahamas
- 1981- Spacelab I arrives at Kennedy Space Center
- 1981- UN Security Council chooses Javier Pérez de Cuélla of Peru as the 5th Secretary-General of the United Nations
- 1985- Computer store owner in Sacramento California killed by package bomb
- 1990-US 69th manned space mission STS 35 (Columbia 11) returns from space
- 1993- Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle elected President of Chile
- 1994- Russian Federation forces attack city of Grozny, beginning the First Chechen War, in which the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria gains its independence from Russia
- 1994- Russian troops enter Chechnya
- 1997- Delegates from 150 industrial nations attending a UN climate conference in Kyoto, Japan, reach agreement to control heat-trapping greenhouse gases
- 2001- The People's Republic of China joins the World Trade Organization.
- 2016- Kyrgyzstan votes in a referendum to change the constitution to give the government more power

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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

KO VIEW

Kashmir’s Burnout
Generation

Most Kashmiri students stay up late at their laptops, balancing lectures, assignments, and chores during the day. Nights stretch long with little sleep. For many, this has become everyday life.

The valley moves with the energy of its youth. Hostels, libraries, and small homes fill with the soft tapping of keyboards and the low hum of study groups.

Students carry responsibilities beyond studying. They work part-time jobs, tutor online, or run small gigs to support their families as expenses rise and incomes stay limited.

Some deliver parcels, manage social media pages, or help local businesses with online orders. These efforts, often invisible to outsiders, are lifelines for families battling uncertain times.

Most urban students handle work alongside classes. They move from classrooms to libraries to home spaces, meeting responsibilities that often feel bigger than their age.

Long commutes, crowded buses, and steep hills add to the physical strain. Days start early and end late, leaving little room for meals, exercise, or leisure.

Pressure comes from all directions. Classrooms are crowded, study hours are long, and hostels are cramped. Tired faces and subdued conversations show the toll of exhaustion. Students struggling to keep up with academics often fear judgment, while those excelling carry the weight of high expectations.

Sleep is short, energy runs low, and each day feels like a balancing act.

Doing well in school carries family hopes and social expectations. Students balance academics with domestic duties, leaving little time for themselves. Siblings, chores, and responsibilities often take priority over personal interests or hobbies.

The constant push between duty and personal growth becomes a persistent source of stress.

Families encourage hard work and see education as a path to stability. These expectations often become constant pressure. Mental health support is limited, and students rarely speak openly about stress. Counselling services are scarce, and social stigma discourages many from seeking help.

Even small victories, like completing an assignment or helping a sibling, offer only brief relief.

Young Kashmiris carry their ambitions while keeping their households afloat. Burnout shapes daily life as financial strain, family expectation, and academic demands collide.

Their determination and devotion are clear, but their struggles also highlight the pressing need for support.

Students need space to rest, focus, and grow without being stretched too thin.

“At the risk of sounding somewhat pompous, Kashmiris are an intelligent people (in relative terms). But this intelligence has to be used in directions that redound to broader and wider reform of our society. Maybe a good starting point would be to understand Orientalist tropes about us and prove them wrong!



Wajahat Qazi

Orientalism, a hoary discipline and a corpus of texts that probed into the vitals of non-Western societies, was poignantly and trenchantly critiqued by the late great Edward Said.

The intellectual of intellectuals and scholar of scholars postulated, rightly, that Orientalism sought to denigrate non-Western societies by positing the ‘East’ as the ‘West’s’ ‘exotic other.’

Defined by a certain essentialism that held there was an irreducible essence to both the East and the West, and that the West was superior, this was brilliantly dissected, analyzed, and adumbrated by the great Edward Said.

Some attributes in the Orientalist schema about the peoples of the East were that they were ‘lazy’, ‘indolent’, ‘sensual’, and ‘childlike’, among other things.

The great Edward Said also stated that Orientalism became entangled with power and thereby morphed into a handmaiden of imperialism and colonialism.



This corpus of study became the predicate that justified colonial intervention in non-Western societies.

So far, so good. Said, the genius, was spot on. But, for a moment and for the sake of hypothesis, let’s subtract Orientalism’s entanglement with power and colonialism/imperialism.

Minus this, were Orientalism’s assessments and assertions correct about non-Western societies?

Granted that some of the scholarly edifice of colonialism was built on stereotypes, but stereotypes are premised on half-truths.

There, then, by inference, must have been something right and some truth to Orientalism. If there is some truth to Orientalism, what is that?

characterizations are incorrect?

Yes, there will be variations and differing intensities, but can any of us claim that there is a robust work ethic in Kashmir? That we are scrupulously honest? That we are not a quarrelsome people?

In all likelihood, the answers to these questions would correspond to Orientalist assertions about us.

The aim of this essay is not to reinforce or validate Orientalist assertions and characterizations of us Kashmiris. The larger idea is a wake-up call.

Just a glimpse around us and our ‘habitus’ is enough to assert that, ‘the more things have changed, the more they have remained the same.’

We might have become a ‘car-

meaning and an anchor.

No. Not at all.

Tradition and values that make us who we are are the sine qua non of our existence.

All that is being suggested here is that we introspect and jettison aspects that are insalubrious and ungainly: laziness, poor work ethic, indolence, and other negative character traits that we all know about.

This task falls on all of us, but more so on the intelligentsia.

But, in actual and real terms, what is observed is that those who know about Orientalism, for example, use it as a crutch to ‘talk back at the Orientalists’ by ‘returning the proverbial gaze.’ Is this enough?

No. It is not.

If meaningful reform of our society is the ‘name of the game,’ then any critique of it, well-meaning or motivated, has to be taken on board.

The natural follow-up to this has to be, to repeat, introspection and an across-the-board effort at reform. Is this possible?

Definitely.

At the risk of sounding somewhat pompous, Kashmiris are an intelligent people (in relative terms). But this intelligence has to be used in directions that redound to broader and wider reform of our society.

Maybe a good starting point would be to understand Orientalist tropes about us and prove them wrong!

The author holds a Distinction in International Relations from the University of Aberdeen and combines scholarship with real-world engagement. He has worked in academia and media, including as Associate Editor at Kashmir Observer.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Protect The Plate

Smart regulation and honest practices can bring health and stability to daily living.

Irshad Mushtaq

In Srinagar’s old markets, you can hear people talk about where their chicken comes from, how clean the shops are, and whether the meat they buy is safe.

These conversations unfold between crowded stalls where families choose food with care. A plate of meat feels like comfort in Kashmir. It carries tradition and warmth. It also carries risks when safety rules fall through.

A doctor in downtown Srinagar told me how many young people come in with stomach troubles caused by poor hygiene and contaminated food. His clinic is small, stacked with files, and full of stories that share the same message. Illness that could have been avoided keeps returning because the rules meant to protect people rarely show up in everyday practice.

Kashmir eats more meat than most places in the country. Many homes rely on chicken or mutton several times a week. Strong regulation becomes more than routine paperwork. It safeguards public health. Regular checks, clean work areas, and clear certificates in shops would help families trust what they bring home. A simple signboard showing compliance can make a big difference in a place where trust has worn thin.

People often connect food safety to other worries. They talk about scams in finance, misleading products, and deals that feel unfair. The feeling is the same across sectors. They want protection that works.

Kashmir needs healthier practices backed by steady enforcement.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Letter to Editor

Why So Many Kashmiri Parents Feel Alone Today

Kashmiri parents often speak of a loneliness that arrives long before old age. It settles slowly inside homes that once echoed with small footsteps and laughter. Many mothers and fathers say they feel unseen in families they spent their lives holding together. Their stories make us face a hard truth: something important in our relationships is fading.

The roots of this shift often lie in early childhood. A baby enters the world with a wide-open heart, eager for every bit of warmth and care. Those first three years pass in soft moments that shape the parent-child bond. Soon after, life changes.

Children are placed in crèches and pre-schools, and the long routine

begins. By five, they spend most of the day in classrooms. Parents wait for them to return home with stories, only to watch evenings turn into another round of tutoring.

The rest of the night slips into the pull of phones that fill the silence without offering real company.

This pattern continues for years. Schools, coaching centres and screens start to feel more present in a child’s life than the people at home. A young person grows up knowing how to perform well, how to follow routines, how to stay busy, although they often feel unsure when it comes to emotional closeness.

The bond with parents, once natural, becomes thin from lack of time and shared experiences.

Many parents see the result when their children become adults. Some grown children keep a polite distance. Others seem unsure how to care, or how to express affection.

It is easy to label this as indifference. But it is often the outcome of childhoods that offered structure but little space for connection. The child was never uncaring. The bond simply never had the room it needed to grow.

Families are not to blame alone. Daily life pushes parents toward constant work, pressure, and speed. Childhood becomes something to manage rather than something to enjoy. Only later, when parents look back and children look forward, does the ache of distance become clear.

There is still a way to mend this. The early years matter. A child who grows up hearing stories, sharing meals, and feeling seen carries that memory for life. These simple moments shape how they love, how they respond, and how they return home in times of need.

Stronger families begin with presence. Parents deserve more than duty. They deserve affection that grows from years of closeness. Children deserve a home where they feel truly held.

Small changes in daily life can rebuild a connection that lasts.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bilal Ahmad
gibilal25@gmail.com

Can Kangaroo Inspire a Screen Change in Kashmir?

Algorithms shape identity and emotion faster than parents can intervene.
Lessons from Australia urge serious action in Kashmir.

Ikkz Ikbal

The first time I saw a ten-year-old with a phone in a Kashmiri village, she held it like it was part of her.

Her eyes moved quickly from one picture to the next, fingers swiping faster than I could follow.

Around her, apple trees swayed in the wind and the mountains stood still, but she was lost in a world I couldn't reach.

Australia's recent decision to bar social media for children under 16 suddenly made me wonder: could we offer our children a similar refuge?

This is no trivial regulation. The eSafety Commission in Australia reported that 96 percent of children aged 10 to 15 are active online, and seven in ten have encountered harmful content.

Videos that shock, images that disturb, and words that wound are not anomalies but part of a daily digital diet.

When a country responds by suspending under-16 social-media accounts and holding platforms accountable for age verification, it is asserting a profound principle: childhood cannot survive as a playground for algorithms.

The digital world has upended childhood itself. A child today does not simply grow up in a classroom or a street corner. He grows up inside a stream of content curated by machines that know nothing of care.

Viral videos imprint on developing minds faster than a month of lessons, trends shape identity more effectively than books, and a parent's counsel often feels faint against the lure of an endless scroll.

In this light, Australia's ban reads less as a restriction and more like a protective seatbelt.

Evidence from around the world reinforces the urgency. Exposure to harmful content is relentless, even passive. Experimental reductions in screen time show improvements in sleep, mood, and overall mental



CHILDREN DESERVE TIME TO EXPLORE, IMAGINE, FAIL, AND WONDER. They deserve friendships, curiosity, boredom, and learning, rather than an endless cascade of algorithmic judgments shaping who they should become.

health.

Platforms engineered for adults fail at structural safety for children, no matter how many parental controls they promise.

The smoke of harmful content and the fire of manipulative algorithms are inhaled together by young users.

India faces a more complicated landscape. Its population is vast, digitally diverse, and mobile-first.

Devices are shared. IDs are often absent. Parents are frequently unprepared to supervise.

Social media here is not only entertainment. For many children, it is a lifeline to community, learning, and opportunity.

A wholesale ban would stumble against these realities.

Instead, India could embrace the spirit of Australia's move. The conversation should shift from prohibi-

tion to protection.

Algorithms, not children, require scrutiny. Toxic creators remain untouched if we only restrict minors. Kashmir must demand transparency, swift removal of harmful content, and consequences for platforms that amplify abuse.

Age-tiered access could help protect children. Kids under 13 could have restricted, carefully curated accounts. Those between 13 and 15 could use social media with parental approval and limited screen time. Full access could begin at 16, with platforms held accountable for safety.

Parents need guidance. Many do not know what their children consume, how to set boundaries, or recognize risks. Schools should teach digital literacy to adults as well as children.

Education itself must adapt. Media literacy, online ethics, cyberbullying awareness, and emotional resilience should be woven into the curriculum instead of being treated as side lessons.

Children need alternatives. Safe, creative digital spaces, as platforms for learning, storytelling, and hobbies, can offer growth without exposure to harmful content.

Protection alone is insufficient without something constructive to replace what is removed.

Freedom has limits when maturity is absent. A child scrolling endlessly at midnight, witnessing vulgarity or cruelty, or absorbing anxiety from online ridicule is not free. They are vulnerable. Society has an obligation to intervene.

Australia's ban signals swiftness



AUSTRALIA'S BAN SIGNALS SWIFTESS THAT TRANSCENDS BORDERS.

Kashmir may not replicate the law exactly, but it can adopt its seriousness, its recognition that childhood is at stake.

that transcends borders. Kashmir may not replicate the law exactly, but it can adopt its seriousness, its recognition that childhood is at stake.

The screens are raising children faster than adults can guide them. Ignoring that reality is an abdication of responsibility.

Children deserve time to explore, imagine, fail, and wonder. They deserve friendships, curiosity, boredom, and learning, rather than an endless cascade of algorithmic judgments shaping who they should become.

The choice is ours: let the digital wilderness raise the next generation or step in to protect the space that belongs to childhood itself.

Children deserve a childhood. Not an algorithm.

— The author is a principal and education advocate based in Kashmir. He can be reached at ikkzkbal@gmail.com.

Love in the Cracks of Life

When two kindred souls meet, even the smallest moments can bloom into something extraordinary.



Lily Swarn

Assumptions, Henry Winkler once said, are the termites of relationships.

Just because we have a mind that wanders, we don't need to start imagining all sorts of things about another person.

Our unchecked thoughts can easily ruin a perfectly beautiful moment.

It's never wise to give up on someone you can't go a day without thinking about.

There is always more to relationships than needs and small acts of self-appeasement. There is feeling, patience, and the work of understanding.

When the heart breaks into a merry salsa and the eyes sparkle with anticipation, it could be because of a cherished child, a trusted old friend, a heartthrob, or even a touch of divine intervention.

Humans often enter your life as if by witchcraft, appearing just when you need their presence the most. Mother Teresa said that intense love never measures. It only gives.

The flow of love in relationships is often irrational, for reason and logic rarely find space in a caring heart.

The day we understand that relationships are meant to be treasured,



WHEN TWO PEOPLE WITH THE SAME LITTLE QUIRKS MEET IN THE WINDING BY-LANES OF LIFE, SPARKS ARE BOUND TO FLY. It's as if the heavens themselves celebrate the meeting of two loving souls, even if they're both a touch unhinged in their own spiritual ways.

not possessed, we begin to breathe easier and build stronger bonds.

Fetters and shackles can never hold a relationship together. They only sour it, the way milk curdles when you forget to keep it in the fridge.

Promises are for the fickle. What really holds a relationship together

is pure, selfless love. You don't need fancy words or sweet promises when the love is real.

The one who truly matters is the person who silently looks out for you, who won't let the light fade from your eyes, and who loves you so deeply that he doesn't even realize how this beautiful madness took over someone who once thought he was so sensible.

When two people with the same little quirks meet in the winding by-lanes of life, sparks are bound to fly. It's as if the heavens themselves celebrate the meeting of two loving souls, even if they're both a touch unhinged in their own spiritual ways.

But the cold winds of mistrust and control can easily crush the tender beginnings of love.

Still, look at the hardy flowers that grow in the cracks of rugged mountain paths. They bloom anyway, filling the air with their fragrance, no matter how small a corner life has given them.

Love is like that. It sings softly, the way the old song goes: "Tum mujhe bhool bhi jao toh yeh haq hai tum ko, meri baat aur hai, maine toh mohabbat ki hai."

— Lily Swarn is an acclaimed poet, novelist and essayist, and the author of *A Drop of Cosmos*. She can be reached at sukhish83@gmail.com.

Breaking the Mold

In the wake of rising dropout rates, new initiatives are helping Kashmiri girls reclaim their education and confidence.

Kulsuma Bano

I first met Aasiya in a small village classroom. She sat at the back, hunched, eyes fixed on the floor.

Months earlier, she had stopped coming to school, unable to keep up with lessons she once loved.

Mathematics made her anxious, reading aloud felt like a spotlight she could not step into, and at home, the expectations were relentless: sibling care, household chores, and whispers of an early marriage she did not want.

Her story is not unique in Kashmir countryside ridden with complex realities.

Walking through the dusty lanes to the Human Welfare Voluntary Organization's Adolescent Learning Center, I realized how many girls like Aasiya had slipped away from school silently, almost invisibly.

Their absence was easy to overlook, until you stepped inside one of these centers, and heard the raw, unspoken stories pouring into the air.

The ALCs are different from traditional schools. There are no rigid rows, no pressure to memorize. Instead, mats cover the floors, girls gather in circles, and voices echo over group activities.

When Aasiya arrived, she hovered at the edge, hands clenched in her lap, as facilitators encouraged discussions about things rarely spoken of: changes in their bodies, emotions, and cycles.

For the first time, she learned that cramps were not shameful, that mood swings did not make her weak, and that asking for help did not make her inadequate.

One afternoon, a facilitator asked the girls to share something that had been troubling them. Aasiya hesitated, the words caught like stones in her throat.

Then, slowly, she spoke about the anxiety that made her avoid school, the embarrassment around her periods, and the frustration at falling behind.

The room stayed silent, listening. She looked up, and the eyes around her were kind, rather than judgmental.

That moment, I realized, was as vital as any math lesson, maybe more so. In the weeks that followed, Aasiya began to change. She practiced read-



AASIYA IS STILL LEARNING AND FINDING HER FOOTING, BUT SHE WALKS TALLER NOW, carries her own voice, and meets the world with a small but unshakable confidence.

ing aloud with her peers, first whispering, then louder, until she could tell a story to the group.

She joined math games that turned numbers into puzzles instead of threats. She even helped lead an activity, encouraging others and learning that her voice had power.

For the first time, she felt agency over her own life.

The centers address the multiple pressures that pull girls away from education: gender norms, lack of menstrual hygiene management, and the silent suffering of mental health issues.

They do this in lived experience, discussion circles, and collaborative problem-solving.

Adolescents make decisions about

what they want to learn and how. They are seen and heard, and most importantly, they belong.

Watching Aasiya walk home after a session, clutching her notebook with a small, proud smile, I understood how crucial these spaces are.

She had stepped out of invisibility into a world that recognized her. Her confidence did not come from grades or tests, but from being respected, understood, and trusted.

In villages where girls have long been told to shrink, yield, and wait for others to decide their future, ALCs are teaching them to expand, speak, lead, and imagine.

The change is subtle, but unmistakable. Girls who once hid behind desks now volunteer to read, present, and question. Adolescents who had abandoned learning are returning, rebuilding their skills alongside a sense of self-worth that had been eroded.

Education, here, is a form of recognition, a permission to grow.

Aasiya is still learning and finding her footing, but she walks taller now, carries her own voice, and meets the world with a small but unshakable confidence.

These learning centers are lifelines of rural Kashmir, offering hope, and a chance to shape one's own path.

— The author holds an M.A. in Gender Studies from Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, and works with the Human Welfare Voluntary Organization (HWVO).

Trump Again Claims He Stopped India-Pak War

KO Web Desk

New York: US President Donald Trump has once again said that he personally ended the May conflict between India and Pakistan, claiming once again that the two nuclear-armed neighbours “were going at it” before he intervened – a statement India has repeatedly rejected.

Addressing a rally in Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania, Trump told supporters, “In 10 months, I ended eight wars, including Kosovo and Serbia, Pakistan and India, they were going at it. Israel and Iran, Egypt and Ethiopia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.”



Trump has made the claim nearly 70 times, insisting that he halted the four-day exchange of drone and missile strikes that followed India's Operation Sindoor, launched on May 7 in response to the Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians. India and Pakistan agreed to

de-escalate on May 10, but New Delhi has consistently maintained that no third party was involved in ending the hostilities.

At the same rally, Trump said Cambodia and Thailand were “fighting again” and added that he would make a phone call “tomorrow” to stop the conflict. “Who else could say I’m going to make a phone call and stop a war of two very powerful countries? But I’ll do it,” he said.

Trump also defended his hardline immigration stance, claiming the US now has “reverse migration” and announcing a permanent pause on what he described as “Third World migration.” He used derogatory

language to refer to several countries, saying the US should accept migrants from nations like Norway and Sweden instead.

Recent guidance from US Citizenship and Immigration Services has introduced new country-specific negative factors for applicants from 19 nations, including Afghanistan, Haiti, Somalia, Iran and Venezuela. These are the same countries targeted under a travel ban announced earlier this year restricting the entry of their nationals into the US.

Trump said his administration will continue to tighten enforcement and remove foreign nationals it considers security risks.

2016 Attempt-To-Murder Case Kupwara Court Sentences Pak National To 10 Yrs Jail

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Principal District and Sessions Court, Kupwara, has awarded a concurrent sentence of rigorous imprisonment to a Pakistani national convicted in a 2016 attempt-to-murder and illegal arms case registered at Police Station Sogam.

Principal Sessions Judge Manjeet Singh Manhas sentenced Hanzullah Yaseen Raie alias Abu Ukasa, a resident of Bhawalpora, Punjab province of Pakistan, to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 10,000 under Section 307 of the RPC. In default, he will

undergo three months' simple imprisonment. He has been handed another 10 years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 5,000 under Section 7/25 of the Arms Act, and five years' rigorous imprisonment with a Rs 5,000 fine under Section 14 of the Foreigners Act. Default in fine payment will attract one-month simple imprisonment for each offence.

The court ordered the sentences to run concurrently, noting that all offences stemmed from the same transaction. It also granted set-off under Section 428 CrPC, counting the accused's custody since June 20, 2016,

toward the sentence. Records show he has already spent over nine years in detention.

Observing that the case did not fall within the “rarest of rare” category, the court cited mitigating factors including voluntary confession and absence of injuries to security personnel while ensuring the sentence remained proportionate to the gravity of offences.

Upon completion of the sentence and subject to remission, the convict will be dealt with under the Foreigners Act, including repatriation to Pakistan, the court said. A free copy of the judgment was directed to be provided to him. (KNT)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Race Begins

eco-friendly option at a time when road pressure is rising.

The Detailed Project Reports will decide whether each route is feasible and what kind of system makes sense on the ground.

The reports will also shape cost estimates and the strategy for phased construction. Once approved, the projects will move to execution.

For Jammu and Kashmir, the ropeway plan is part of a wider push to upgrade infrastructure, expand tourism and open new jobs in areas where work is scarce.

Officials say the effort could redefine access to some of the region's most visited peaks and valleys.

J&K Faces Major

minus 5.5 degrees and Zojila minus 18 degrees. Jammu stood at 8.4 degrees Celsius.

Weather forecasters say weak western disturbances may bring light precipitation in the higher reaches over the next two weeks. However, the overall outlook suggests continued dryness until a more active system develops.

Centre Intensifies

Himalayan glaciers under the Cryosphere and Climate programme, a component of the PACER sub-scheme.

NCPCR has been monitoring representative glaciers in the western and eastern Himalaya to understand glacial responses to climate change and their impact on downstream hydrology.

Dr Singh said the Department of Science and Technology has supported several research and development projects on Himalayan glaciers under the National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem and the National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change.

The National Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) Risk Mitigation Programme, implemented by the NDMA in four states and the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, aims to establish Early Warning Systems to strengthen GLOF response.

The government said several Indian institutions and universities monitor Himalayan glaciers for studies, including glacier retreat and mass loss. The mean retreat rate of Hindu Kush Himalayan glaciers is 14.9 ± 15.1 metres per annum, with retreat rates varying across river basins.

NCPCR has been monitoring six glaciers in the Chandra basin in the western Himalaya since 2013, and field research is conducted through the 'Himansh' station.

Data shows the basin has lost about 6 per cent of its glacial area over 20 years. Annual retreat rates in the basin range from 13 to 33 metres.

The Union Minister further said more than 20 national institutions and state universities conduct glacier research, including the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Geological Survey of India, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, National Institute of Hydrology, National Remote Sensing Centre, Divecha Centre for Climate Change, and universities in Delhi, Kashmir, Jammu, Ladakh, and several Indian Institutes of Technology.

Two glacial lakes in Sikkim – South Lhonak and Shako Cho – are monitored in real time.

Three Centres of Excellence for Glacial Studies were established at the Universities of Sikkim, Tezpur and Kashmir under programmes of the Department of Science and Technology.

On the ground, the retreat of glaciers such as Kolahoi is already reshaping ecosystems and livelihoods.

Once a major source of irrigation for rice paddies, apple orchards, saffron fields, and grazing lands, Kolahoi has thinned significantly, exposing bare rock and altering alpine habitats.

Scientists report that species such as musk deer, Himalayan ibex, and Hangul face shrinking habitats, while predators like snow leopards are increasingly spotted near villages.

Dr Shakeel Ahmad Romshoo, a renowned geologist and VC of IUST, said the glacier loses about 0.65 metres of ice thickness for every 1°C rise, reducing autumn streamflow and threatening water security downstream.

Historical data show Kolahoi has lost nearly a quarter of its area over six decades, with ongoing pollution, deforestation, and rising temperatures accelerating melt.

Experts warn that continued retreat could reshape agriculture, biodiversity, and human settlements across Kashmir, while glacial lake outburst floods pose an additional hazard. (KNO)

15-Day Winter

arrangements for the disposal of urgent criminal matters during the vacation period within their respective jurisdictions.

Govt Orders

have been sought, including repairing broken fencing, sealing gaps in boundary walls

and installing gates or other physical barriers wherever needed. Departments have also been instructed to ensure round-the-clock security checks at entry points.

Authorities acknowledged that stray dogs have become a Valley wide concern, with frequent incidents of attacks and packs increasingly visible in markets and dense residential areas. The government is also examining longer term solutions in coordination with municipal bodies and other relevant departments to effectively manage the issue.

All departmental heads have been asked to comply with the instructions on priority and maintain controlled, safe environments in government premises.

Allow Students

problem-solving and innovative thinking. He praised the school for its legacy, values and contribution to holistic education, noting that its alumni have excelled and are serving the nation with pride.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed that the role of teachers is evolving as classrooms modernize. With the arrival of Artificial Intelligence in education, teachers will shift from being information providers to mentors who guide students, understand their individual strengths through data insights, and help them grow into confident learners.

He said a hybrid classroom model that uses digital platforms will ensure that quality, technology-driven education reaches every student, bridging access gaps.

Educational institutions must focus on four key priorities: access, equity, quality and outcome, the Lieutenant Governor said. He added that schools should ensure students are prepared not only for higher education but also for the fast-changing global workplace.

He underscored the importance of instilling culture, language, compassion, non-violence and brotherhood in students, along with developing their skills for the future.

Sinha described the National Education Policy (NEP) as the “biggest gift” given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the nation, asserting that the policy has transformed the fundamentals of teaching and learning in India.

He said, “PM Modi gifted the National Education Policy to the country. It lays emphasis on problem-solving, scientific temper and skill development among students,” the LG said, highlighting that critical thinking and curiosity—central elements of the NEP—have always been part of India's cultural ethos. “Critical thinking and curiosity are nothing new; they are rooted in our culture. Education develops independent thinking,” he added.

During the event, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated several women achievers for their contributions across different fields. The celebration was attended by senior officials, dignitaries, faculty members, parents and students.

'Counter False

International Impact Award ceremony organised by High-range Rural Development Society (HRDS India) in New Delhi.

“Savarkar, the valiant son of Mother India endured tremendous hardship but every moment of his life was dedicated to freedom and development of this soil,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He commended HRDS India for its initiative, stating that it reminds the world of Savarkar's “unmatched contribution to the motherland” and helps restore his legacy in the “collective consciousness” of the citizens.

Recalling Savarkar's role in the freedom struggle, the Lieutenant Governor said: “Savarkar is a symbol of India's success, India's strength, India's prosperity, India's resolve, India's dedication, India's sensitivity, India's simplicity, India's perseverance, India's culture, and India's dreams.”

“For Savarkar, India was never merely a piece of land, but the centre of human civilization,” he added.

Sinha felicitated the award winners for their “exceptional devotion and contribution to society and nation building”, urging them “to be the light to guide humanity towards peace, progress and prosperity”.

“Veer Savarkar International Impact Award sends a message that the time has come to reclaim India's ancient glory and dedicate ourselves to achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat @ 2047,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Members of HRDS India and prominent personalities from different fields were present at the ceremony.

Cancellation Of H-1B

December 15 onward.

Many of those affected had already travelled to India and now cannot return to the US for work, as they lack valid visa stamps required for re-entry.

Several applicants shared their situation online, saying the sudden shift has disrupted travel plans and jeopardized employment

schedules. One applicant posted that their December 18 appointment in Chennai was cancelled soon after completing biometrics and rescheduled to April 30, 2026.

It is understood that interviews for other visa categories are also being postponed due to the expanded vetting norms. The overall number of people impacted remains unclear.

The US Embassy in India has advised applicants not to visit consulates on their original dates. “Arriving on your previously scheduled appointment date will result in your being denied admittance,” a statement said.

Immigration experts and applicants have voiced strong concern. Houston-based immigration attorney Emily Neumann said the cancellations have introduced “no predictability” in the process and are creating serious challenges for both businesses and employees who need to travel.

The Trump administration has tightened H-1B visa regulations under its broader immigration review, including deeper checks of applicants' online presence. The programme allows US employers to hire foreign professionals with specialised skills for up to six years. Indians account for about 71 per cent of all approved H-1B applications, according to US Citizenship and Immigration Services data.

In September, President Donald Trump also signed a proclamation significantly increasing H-1B visa fees, adding to the concerns of those dependent on the programme.

With interview dates now months away, thousands of Indian professionals find themselves stuck at home, waiting for clarity before they can return to their jobs in the United States.

HC Fines Three

which was affirmed by the Appellate Court as well.

The Bench noted that a Civil Court at Sogam on a suit brought by private respondents had already, on 12 July 2024, restrained the brothers from interfering with the pathway. Despite being fully aware of the order, the court said, the brothers neither challenged it nor disclosed it in the petition before the High Court.

“This deliberate and wilful suppression amounts to abuse of process,” the Bench observed, adding that litigants cannot pursue parallel proceedings before different forums on the same subject.

“Upon careful consideration of the material placed on record, it reveals that the petitioners have approached this Court after having suffered dismissal before both the appellate and revisional authorities,” the bench said. However, the Bench said, the brothers did not place on the record that a civil suit on the same subject matter was pending before the Civil Court and that an interim restraint order had already been passed on 12 July 2024.

“This Court is of the considered view that such deliberate suppression of material facts, cannot be condoned by this court as the petitioners (brothers) have not come to this court with clean hands and have tried to play fraud with this court to get an interim order more particularly when there was a restraint order against the petitioners for the same pathway.”

What the brothers could not achieve directly is sought to be achieved by fraud and indirectly by suppressing material facts, the Bench said. “This court cannot shut its eyes to such conduct on the part of the party seeking equitable right,” the court said, underlining that the law of equity does not permit a party to secure indirectly what it is prohibited from claiming directly.

The law does not permit parties taking conflicting routes to achieve the same objective, particularly in cases, where the matter is directly and substantially in issue before a competent civil court, the Bench noted.

Setting aside the revenue orders only on the ground that they proceeded despite a civil suit being pending, the High Court directed the brothers to pursue their remedy exclusively before the Civil Court.

“Accordingly, with a view to deprecate such practice of suppression of material facts, this Court imposes a cost of Rs.50,000/- on the petitioners 9brothers), to be paid jointly by them, within a period of two weeks, which is to be deposited in the Advocates' Welfare Fund of this Court.”

Social Media Ban

for parents to have greater peace of mind,” Albanese told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. “This reform will change lives. For Australian kids ... allowing them to just have their childhood. For Australian parents, enabling them to have greater peace of mind. But also for the global community, who are looking at Australia and saying, “Well, if Australia can do it, why can't we?” Albanese later told a Sydney gathering of reform supporters, including parents who blame social media for a child's suicide.

Facebook, Instagram, Kick, Reddit, Snapchat, Threads, TikTok, X, YouTube and Twitch face

fines of up to 49.5 million Australian dollars (USD 32.9 million) from Wednesday if they fail to take reasonable steps to remove the accounts of Australian children younger than 16.

The prime minister urged children to “start a new sport, new instrument, or read that book that has been sitting there for some time on your shelf,” ahead of Australia's summer school break starting later this month.

Culture Shock

Parents reported distraught children discovering they'd been shut out of platforms as the landmark law took effect. Some young children reported fooling the platforms' age estimation technology by drawing on facial hair. Parents and older siblings are also expected to help some children circumvent the restrictions.

Some were anxious about adjusting to life without social media, but others were less concerned.

“I'm not really that emotional about it,” said 14-year-old Claire Ni. “I'm kind of just, like, neutral.” Luna Dizon, 15, said she still had access to her TikTok, Instagram and Snapchat accounts but worried about “culture shock” once the ban took full effect.

“I think eventually, without (social media), we'll learn how to adapt to it,” she added.

While the government has said the ban would not be perfect in its operation, about 200,000 accounts were deactivated by Wednesday on TikTok alone, with “hundreds of thousands” more to be blocked in the next few days.

Many of the estimated 1 million children affected by the legislation also posted goodbye messages on social media.

“No more social media ... no more contact with the rest of the world,” one teen wrote on TikTok.

The rollout caps a year of debate over whether any country could practically stop children from using platforms embedded in daily life and begins a live test for governments worldwide frustrated that social media firms have been slow to implement harm-reduction measures.

Australia to report ban is working

The ban will be enforced by Australia's eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant. She said the platforms already had the technology and personal data about their users to enforce the age restriction with precision.

She would send the 10 targeted platforms on Thursdays notices demanding information on how the age restriction was being implemented and how many accounts had been closed.

“We will provide information to the public before Christmas on how these age restrictions are being implemented and whether preliminarily we see them working,” Inman Grant said. (inputs from AP, Reuters)

HC Questions Centre,

asked, directing the government and IndiGo to ensure adequate compensation to affected passengers.

The court questioned whether authorities were “helpless” despite IndiGo failing to fully implement Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms by November 1. It also objected to other airlines charging up to Rs 35,000 to Rs 39,000 for tickets during the crisis, calling it “a pound of flesh”.

The bench said the chaos not only caused harassment to passengers but also hurt the economy. It asked the Centre and DGCA to explain enforcement measures and submit the inquiry committee's report by January 22, if ready.

Senior advocate Sandeep Sethi, appearing for IndiGo, attributed the crisis to a “combination of internal and external factors” such as technical glitches, weather and congestion. The court, however, asked the airline to compensate not just for cancellations but also the hardships faced by travellers.

IndiGo Chairman Vikram Singh Mehta apologised in a video message, saying, “We are truly sorry” and announced that external experts will assist in identifying the root causes and corrective action. He denied allegations of deliberately engineering the disruption or compromising safety, saying IndiGo has followed pilot fatigue rules.

The court directed authorities to normalise the situation quickly and ensure airlines deploy sufficient crew to comply with safety regulations.

On Wednesday, IndiGo cancelled nearly 220 flights at three major airports.

IndiGo has been facing heat from both the government and the passengers for cancelling hundreds of flights since December 2, citing regulatory changes in the pilots' flight duty.

Meanwhile, IndiGo Chairman Vikram Singh Mehta on Wednesday said that the airline's board will examine every aspect of the recent flight disruptions at the carrier.

In a video message, he also said that the board has decided to involve external technical experts to work with the management and help determine the root causes that led to the disruption.

“On December 3, an unexpected chain of events led to large-scale flight cancellations ... Thousands of our passengers were left stranded ... I know how much distress this has caused. I want to say very simply and very clearly, we are sorry,” Mehta said.

“We did not meet your expectations during those days. And for that, we are truly, truly sorry,” he said.

Over the past week, there has been a lot of criticism, “some fair, some not,” Mehta said.

“The fair criticism is that the airline let you down. We owe answers to our customers, to our government, to our shareholders and, equally importantly, to our employees. We assure you that we will examine every aspect of what went wrong and we will learn from it,” he said.

The board has decided it will involve external technical experts to work with the management and help determine the root causes and ensure “corrective action” so that this level of disruption never occurs again, he stated.

He, however, said that there are some allegations like IndiGo engineering the crisis and “compromising safety” are “untrue”.

“IndiGo has followed the pilot fatigue (FDTL) rules as they came into effect. We operated under the new rules throughout... both in July and November. We did not attempt to bypass them, nor did we do anything that negatively impacted our unblemished track record of safety,” he said.

The disruptions of last week did not happen because of any “deliberate action”, Mehta said.

“They happened because of a combination of internal and unanticipated external events”, including minor technical glitches, scheduled changes linked to the start of the winter season, adverse weather conditions, increased congestion in the aviation system, and implementation of/ and operation under the updated Crew Rostering rules, Mehta said.

DGCA To Deploy Staff

has formed an oversight team of eight senior captains, and two of them, along with two government officials, will be stationed at IndiGo's Gurgaon headquarters to monitor cancellation status, crew deployment, unplanned leave, and routes hit by staff shortages.

“Both these teams will submit a daily report,” the DGCA said in the two page order.

DGCA also summoned IndiGo Chief Executive Pieter Elbers to appear at its office on Thursday and submit a complete report, along with comprehensive data and updates, relating to the recent operational disruptions, according to a statement.

Meanwhile, DGCA has decided to carry out immediate on-site inspections to assess IndiGo's operations across 11 domestic airports, according to an official order on Wednesday.

All assigned officers will visit their respective airports in the next 2-3 days, and submit a comprehensive report to the Director of Operations for the flight safety department at the DGCA in New Delhi within 24 hours of their visit, the order said.

IndiGo has already submitted its revised flight schedule to DGCA after the government slashed its winter schedule by 10 per cent.

Since last week, IndiGo cancelled thousands of flights nationwide after failing to plan for tighter safety regulations. The cancellations peaked on December 5 and have declined since. The airline on Tuesday said its operations have stabilised and were back to normal levels.

But the cancellations continued with nearly 220 flights at three major airports, including Delhi and Mumbai, cancelled.

As part of the winter schedule for 2025-26, the airline has been operating over 2,200 flights per day.

The latest order is part of a suite of actions by authorities that followed IndiGo, which controls over 65 per cent of the market share, cancelling more than 4,000 flights since December 2 that left tens of thousands of passengers stranded, upending their vacation plans, important meetings, and weddings.

Separately, the Delhi High Court on Wednesday questioned the central government for not taking timely action to check the crisis, asking why the situation was allowed to precipitate.

“The question is why, at all, this crisis arose and what have you been doing?” a bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said and directed the government and the airline to take steps to adequately compensate the affected persons.

The bench directed that by January 22, the next date of hearing, if the inquiry initiated by a committee into the disruption in flight operations over the past week is complete, its report should be submitted to the court in a sealed cover.

DGCA, which previously issued a show cause notice to IndiGo's CEO and chief operating officer to explain the disruptions, has set up a four-member panel to probe the lapses.

Flight Operations Stabilizing at Srinagar Airport

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Asserting that numerous flights have been taken to enhance passenger comfort and maintain operational efficiency, Srinagar International Airport Director Javed Anjum on Wednesday said that flight operations at the terminal are stabilizing.

"Srinagar Airport, like many others, was also affected due to cancellations," Anjum told a select group of media men, as per KNO. "On the first day we had five cancellations and 16 the next. But gradually, the situation started improving, seven, six, and then five. The operations are now stabilizing," he added.

Anjum said passengers are being kept informed in real time



through multiple channels.

"We intimate passengers through our Twitter handle, press groups and IndiGo messages. IndiGo Airlines is also informing travellers in advance about flight cancellations and accommodating them on other

flights," the Director said.

"We are hopeful that in the coming days, we will achieve 100 percent on-time performance."

On passenger facilities, Anjum said cleanliness and comfort have been made a top priority.

"Our toilets and washrooms are monitored throughout the day. We have deployed a special female team led by a ladies' supervisor to maintain women's washrooms," he said.

He added that the airport has ensured better crowd management and additional seating for travellers. "We have adequate seating arrangements both on the city side and inside the terminal, so passengers can sit comfortably, especially in cold weather," he said.

"Crowd management is efficient. There is no congestion in departure halls or queue areas," he added.

Anjum also highlighted the airport's efforts to assist passengers with special needs. "We have a dedicated health test facility at the airport that helps

elderly passengers, women with children, wheelchair users and people with disabilities or special needs," he said.

The Director also shared that the airport's focus remains on providing a smooth and comfortable travel experience. "Our goal is to make Srinagar Airport a passenger-friendly space where everyone feels cared for and informed, even during operational challenges," he said.

As already reported by KNO, the flight operations at Srinagar Airport neared normalcy on Tuesday as IndiGo resumed most of its services.

The airline's CEO, also shared that the airline is back on its feet and also apologizes for delays and cancellations.

INDIGO CHAOS: Jammu Airport Sees Minimal Impact

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Stating that the Jammu air terminal was among the least affected during the recent nationwide IndiGo flight disruptions, Jammu Airport Director Devender Yadav on Wednesday said flight operations at the airport remain fully stable.

Addressing a press briefing at the Jammu Airport Conference Hall, Director Yadav, according to KNO said, "All stakeholders worked in very close coordination to ensure uninterrupted facilitation and smooth movement of passengers, during recent IndiGo disruptions."

He said, "Flight operations at Jammu Airport have been stabilised and the airport remained

least affected during the recent IndiGo flight cancellations and delays occurring at various airports nationwide."

The Director said that the Airports Authority of India staff, CISF, airlines, ground-handling teams, 'May I Help You' desks and housekeeping staff played a key role in maintaining seamless operations.

He also said special assistance was provided to senior citizens, children, pregnant women and passengers with reduced mobility. "Ad-hoc seating was arranged in various areas and station managers of concerned airlines were instructed to remain present for direct supervision," the Director added.

Highlighting the focus on hygiene, Director Yadav said additional housekeeping staff were

deployed, toilet cleaning frequency was increased and supervisors were instructed to intensify monitoring across the terminal. "All food and beverage outlets were directed to maintain sufficient supplies and remain operational throughout flight handling hours to ensure no disruption in passenger services," he added. Housekeeping teams, the director said, ensured the overall cleanliness of washrooms, common areas and terminal premises, maintaining a high level of hygiene.

He said IndiGo's reservation counters remained fully manned to assist passengers with bookings, refunds and flight adjustments. "Hotel accommodation was provided to passengers affected by flight cancellations and

refreshments to those delayed, as part of the airline's facilitation measures," Yadav said.

"Full refunds have been processed for all cancelled flights, ensuring passengers did not face any financial inconvenience," he said.

The Director said that information sharing was prompt and transparent, with passengers being informed via SMS, public announcements and display systems about any delays, cancellations, or changes in flight status. "The most important thing is that at Jammu Airport, there was no law and order issue, no security incident and no medical emergency reported during this period," he said.

He said that no baggage was left behind and the airport staff continuously engaged with pas-

sengers to collect feedback and resolve concerns on the spot. "Despite the disruptions at other airports, operations of all airlines at Jammu Airport remained normal," he said. "We recorded zero stranded aircraft, zero stranded passengers and maintained normal operations throughout."

Director Yadav also said that under the directions of the Honourable Minister of Civil Aviation, the airport ensured adequate seating, drinking water, food availability, hygiene of washrooms, medical support and sensitive handling of aggrieved passengers. "Through coordination and teamwork among all stakeholders, we ensured no crowding or congestion in the airport premises," the Director said.

'Satellite Internet Considered for Remote Areas of J&K, Ladakh': GoI

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Union Ministry of Communications on Wednesday informed the Lok Sabha that satellite-based technologies systems such as Starlink could be deployed in the future for the areas of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh where fibre deployment is not feasible to install.

It also informed the house that the two UTs have received Rs 562.91 Crore over the last five years for strengthening mobile and broadband connectivity under various Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) schemes.

According to KNO, the ministry in a written reply said that it has not conducted any separate survey exclusively for disaster-prone areas. Telecom preparedness during disasters continues to be monitored regularly through field reports, telecom service providers (TSPs), and coordination with local authorities."

The union government further said that Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are already in place to ensure telecom readiness and response during natural calamities across J&K and Ladakh.

It also stated that no separate disaster-specific training programmes were conducted in rural belts of the UTs. "Though preparedness is maintained through advisories and review mechanisms."

The ministry said that "Satellite-based technologies including LEO, MEO systems like Starlink may be considered in the future for regions where fibre deployment is not feasible, such as remote and mountainous zones of the Union Territories. Under BharatNet, 5,034 Gram Panchayats nationwide have already been made service-ready using satellite connectivity."

CS Pushes for 100% Panchayat Saturation



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chaired a high-level meeting of the Information Technology Department to review the functioning of Common Service Centres (CSCs), assess the range and quality of services being delivered to citizens, and chart out a roadmap for expanding their reach across all districts of J&K.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department and Power Development Department; Principal Secretary, Finance; Secretary, Information Technology; Secretary, J&K Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board; Managing Director, JPDC; Chief Executive Officer, JaKeGA; State Head, CSC-SPV, besides other senior officers of the concerned departments.

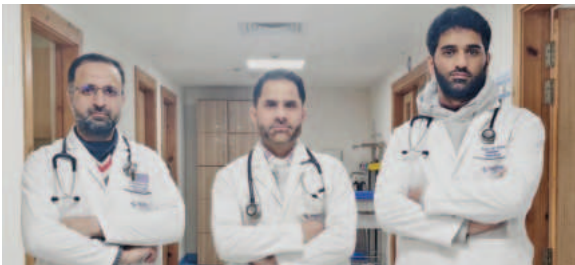
Deputy Commissioners attended through video conferencing from their respective offices.

Taking a detailed appraisal of CSC operations, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for a comprehensive analysis of their reach at the panchayat level and directed the department to formulate a focused plan to ensure saturation of CSC services in every panchayat of the UT.

He underscored the transformative potential of digital and online services, noting that CSCs play a critical role in enabling citizens to access a wide range of services at their doorsteps. Emphasising timely action, he called for the preparation of a concrete three-month action plan for onboarding new services on the CSC portal and for close monitoring to ensure their successful implementation. . (Observer News Service)

Paras Health Leads Valley's Lung Care Push

Nearly 100 doctors from across the valley attend a Continuing Medical Education session, exploring advanced respiratory diagnostics, ICU care, and life-saving interventions.



Syed Sammar Mehdi

SRINAGAR: In a spacious hall at Paras Health Srinagar, nearly 100 doctors from across Kashmir gathered this week for a high-level Pulmonology Continuing Medical Education session.

The program, themed "From Scope to Solution: The Changing Face of Pulmonary Care," offered a platform for clinicians to discuss evolving respiratory challenges, review complex cases, and refine approaches to advanced pulmonary care.

The hospital's Pulmonology department combines modern diagnostic and interventional capabilities, including Pulmonary Function Tests (PFT), Diffusing Capacity of the Lungs for Carbon Monoxide (DLCO), radial and convex probe Endobronchial Ultrasounds (EBUS and CP-EBUS), thoracoscopy, and bronchoscopy.

Support extends to a 24-hour emergency service for acute respiratory cases, backed by a dedicated critical-care

team under Dr. Ali Imran, who oversees ICU management equipped with high-quality ventilators, High-Flow Nasal Cannula (HFNC) systems, Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP), Bilevel Positive Airway Pressure (BiPAP), and other modern technologies.

The CME brought together senior pulmonologists including Dr. Navid Nazir Shah, Professor and Head of Chest Medicine at GMC Srinagar; Dr. Sanuallah Shah, Head of Pulmonary Medicine at SKIMS Soura; Dr. Javed Ahmad Malik, Professor and Head of Pulmonary Medicine at SKIMS Medical College Srinagar; and Dr. Rafi Jan, Head of Chest Medicine at GMC Anantnag. They shared insights from hands-on management of complex respiratory conditions.

Dr. Mohamad Yousoof Dar, Unit Head and Associate Director of Pulmonology at Paras Health, spoke about interventions for high-risk patients and the increasing need for precise pulmonary procedures.

1996 Mob Attack

Ex-JKLF Commander Javed Mir Arrested Under UAPA

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: J&K Police on Tuesday arrested separatist leader and former Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) commander Javed Mir in connection with a nearly three-decade-old mob clash case in Srinagar. Mir, also known as Javed Nalka during the peak of militancy in the 1990s, was taken into custody by personnel from Shergarhi Police Station, officials said.

The case pertains to a 1996 incident in the Naaz Crossing area of Srinagar, where a procession accompanying the body of a slain terrorist commander allegedly

turned violent and attacked police personnel. The FIR is registered under provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Arms Act. The JKLF, which evolved into a separatist political organisation after laying down arms, was banned under the UAPA by the Centre in 2019 following the pulwama terror attack.

Mir remained active in separatist political circles for years, but his activities significantly reduced after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. His arrest comes a day after Srinagar Police apprehended another separatist leader, Shakeel Ahmed Bakshi, in the same case.

Centre Includes Nine J&K Blocks in Development Push

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Union Ministry of Planning has informed the Lok Sabha that it has included nine blocks from Jammu and Kashmir in its Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) list, targeting improved governance in underdeveloped areas.

The ABP was launched in January-2023 that covers a total of 513 blocks across India as an extension of the Aspirational Districts Programme. "The initiative focuses on enhancing outcomes

in key sectors like health & nutrition, education, agriculture, basic infrastructure and social development through convergence of existing schemes and continuous monitoring."

According to KNO, the nine J&K blocks have been selected under the programme includes Marwah Kishtwar, Markote Poonch, Khwas, Rajouri, Khari Ramban, Tulail Bandipora, Singhpora Baramulla, Manzagam Kulgam, Keran Kupwara, Ichegoza, Pulwama and Thakrakote Reasi.

10 Vacancies of Judges in High Court of J&K & Ladakh

As many as ten positions of judges are vacant in the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Against a sanctioned strength of 25, the court is currently functioning with only 15 judges.

Official data available with KNO shows that the approved strength of judges for the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh is 25 -comprising 19 permanent judges and six additional judges.

Of them, 15 are currently in position, leaving 10 vacancies in the High Court, which has jurisdiction over both Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Union Territories.

The shortage is expected to go up as two sitting judges - Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul and Justice Javid Iqbal Wani - will retire on January 20, 2026, and March 23, 2026, respectively. Their retirement will raise the number of vacancies to 12.

Of the judges currently in position, eight are from the Bar quota and seven from the Service quota, leaving nine and one vacancy in these respective quotas. Appointments to the High Court are made under a 66:33 quota system, with 17 judges to be drawn from the Bar and eight from the judicial service.

High Court judges are appointed by the President on recommendations of the Supreme Court Collegium. The process is initiated at the High Court level, where the Chief Justice, in consultation with the two senior-most judges of the court, identifies potential candidates for elevation. (Observer News Service)

J&K Bank Commissions Two New ATMs in Doda

S R I N A G A R :

Strengthening its digital banking footprint in remote areas, J&K Bank commissioned two new ATMs at Ghat and Bhagwa in Doda district, offering improved access to round-the-clock banking services for local residents and businesses.

The ATM at Ghat branch was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, in the presence of Zonal Head Vinay Gupta, Cluster Head Kumar Sorab, Branch Head Vinod Singh and local customers. A brief function was held afterward, during which the DC distributed sanction letters to youth under Mission YUVA and various government-sponsored schemes including REGP, Vishwakarma and PMEGP.


Appreciating the Bank's outreach, the DC said the new ATMs would greatly benefit people in remote pockets by providing reliable and convenient banking facilities.

The second ATM at Bhagwa was inaugurated by Zonal Head Vinay Gupta, accompanied by Cluster Head Kumar Sorab and Branch Manager Imran Abbasi.

Gupta said expanding touchpoints in districts like Doda remains central to the Bank's goal of inclusive banking, adding that the institution will continue to support livelihood and financial inclusion initiatives across the region.

A sanction letter distribution ceremony under government-sponsored schemes also followed the inauguration.





सत्यमेव जयते

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) PROJECTS DIVISION III, SRINAGAR.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 45-P of 12/2025 Dated: -08-12-2025

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage basis for the below mentioned works from approved and eligible Contractors Registered with UT of J&K Govt. CPWD, JKPWD, MES, Railways, and other State/Central Governments as per pre-qualification criteria in this bid document for each of the following works: -

TABLE 1								
S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Incl: GST & Carriage) (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money @ 2% of Adv. Cost (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	
1	Upgradation of Garden Lights with Control System and all allied Accessories at Various Bungalows at M A Road Srinagar	22.11	800/-	44220/-	45 Days	Approved Registered Electric Contractor	CAPEX	
2	Upgradation of electric network by way of Main Power Control Panel Board / MCCB / Cable and all Allied Accessories at Pump Station / Dy Director Office Estate Press Colony Pratap Park Srinagar.	14.57	600/-	29140/-	40 Days			
3	Upgradation of electric network by way of Security / Street LED Lights, Pole Cabling, Control Panel at Darbar Move Flats at Pampore Srinagar.	13.83	600/-	27660/-	40 Days			
4	Upgradation of electric network by way of Main Power Control Panel Board / MCCB / Cable and allied Accessories at Bungalows (M-1 to M-6) at Tulsi Bagh Srinagar	7.80	300/-	15600/-	30 Days			
5	Upgradation of electric network by way of electrification of Vacant/ Renovated Flats at New Phase Tulsi Bagh Srinagar.	6.99	300/-	13980/-	30 Days			
6	Upgradation of electric network by way of Main Power Control Panel Board / MCCB / Cable and all allied Accessories in Various Building Blocks at Budshah Srinagar.	9.10	600/-	18200/-	35 Days			
7	Electrification including all allied accessories for Newly / Renovated Flats at Budshah Srinagar	11.49	600/-	22980/-	40 Days			
8	Upgradation of Main Power Feeding Pannel/Cabling and Security Lights at Front and Rear Side at Bemina Colony Srinagar	9.52	600/-	19040/-	35 Days			
9	Upgradation of electric network by way of Main Power Control Panel Board / MCCB / Cable and all allied Accessories in Various Buildings Blocks/ Bungalows at Jawahar Nagar Srinagar	11.37	600/-	22740/-	40 Days			

Position of AAA : Authorized by Director, Estates Department J&K
Position of TS : Accorded
Position of Funds : Available
Project Authority : Estates Department, J&K

1. SCHEDULE OF TENDER: -
• The Bidding documents consisting of pre-qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the scheduled date given below in Table

Table 2	
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents
3	Bid submission Start Date
4	Bid Submission End Date
5	Date and Time of Opening of Bids (Online)

2. DOCUMENTS COMPRISING THE BID: -
• Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)
• Bill of Quantities (BOQ)
• Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status/ place of registration and principal place of Business.
• Those cards which stand renewed/ generated through www.jkpwdsms.gov.in are eligible for bidding only.
• Valid GSTIN Registration No. & Pan No. along with the latest GST Return Form GST-3/ GSTR-3B i.e., latest clearance certificate.
• The confirmation status of GST-3/ GSTR-3B will be verified online
• If it is determined to be invalid, the defaulting contractor shall be barred from participating in the future tendering process.
• Only digitally issued and renewed contractor registration cards through www.jkpwdsms.gov.in shall be accepted for contractors registered with PW(R&B) department.
• Valid Electric Registration Card having its registration on www.jkpwdsms.gov.in with same credentials as in their Registration Card shall be eligible for bidding
• Employer's reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to cancel the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of grounds for the employer's action.
• Earnest money/ Bid Security & tender document Fee indicating name of the work/ NIT No. therein.
• No documents which have / have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents.
• Class of Contract is strictly as per Column number 7 in table 1.
• No other CARD and Certificate is accepted.
• All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English language.
3. All other terms and conditions are as per PWD Form 25/ Double agreement Form) and this detailed NIT

DIPK-8875-25
DT: 10/12/2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PW (R&B) Projects Division III
Srinagar.

Liverpool defy Salah crisis by beating Inter Milan in Champions League

Agencies

Liverpool bounced back from a damaging row with Mohamed Salah by beating Inter Milan 1-0 on Tuesday (December 9, 2025) and kicking their Champions League campaign back into life.

Dominik Szoboszlai's late penalty gave the Reds a huge win at the San Siro in the absence of Egypt star Salah, who was left in England after publicly criticising manager Arne Slot at the weekend.

Liverpool fans loudly chanted Slot's name at the end of a largely drab match which was decided by Felix Zwayer's decision to give the English champions a perfect chance to snatch the points.

Inter's players were enraged at the awarding of the spot-kick for a light shirt tug by Alessandro Bastoni on Florian Wirtz, but it gave Slot a happy end to a troubled few days.

The closest either team came to scoring before then was when



Ibrahima Konate had his close-range header ruled out, after a lengthy VAR check, for a Hugo Ekitike handball in the 37th minute.

Top eight
Tuesday's win puts Liverpool on 12 points from six games and inside the top eight positions

which offer direct qualification for the last 16, ahead of Wednesday's fixtures.

Inter, meanwhile, are fifth on the same tally but have lost their last two European fixtures and created nearly nothing against an injury-hit Liverpool who were missing not just rebel star Salah

but also unfit Cody Gakpo, Federico Chiesa and Wataru Endo.

Last season 16 points was enough to skip the play-offs and Cristian Chivu's team are by no means guaranteed that as they host Arsenal before travelling to Borussia Dortmund in their final two league phase fixtures.

And another defeat in a big game means dropping out of the top eight is a real prospect.

Liverpool's trip to Milan has been dominated by Salah's extraordinary criticism of Slot, who on Monday admitted that he had "no clue" as to whether the rebel attacker had played his last game for the Reds.

Salah sparked a firestorm when he said he felt like he had been "thrown under the bus" by the club and no longer had a relationship with Slot after being left on the bench for Saturday's 3-3 draw at Leeds, the third match in a row for which he has been relegated to the role of substitute.

His outburst led to Saudi Arabia saying on Tuesday it will do

"whatever it can" to recruit the 33-year-old in January, even though he signed a new contract in April.

Liverpool had won just four times in 15 matches in all competitions coming into Tuesday's match but Inter failed to pile any early pressure on their opponents.

Inter didn't have their first shot of any description until the 37th minute while Liverpool, who were nowhere near their best, had good attempts from Curtis Jones and Ryan Gravenberch before Konate's header was eventually ruled out.

That woke up both Inter and a strangely flat home crowd of nearly 74,000 and Lautaro Martinez ended up wasting the best chance of the first half when he headed Alessandro Bastoni's cross straight at Alisson Becker.

But the second half was a total flop and as the minutes passed, it became clear that a stalemate was fine for both teams until Szoboszlai rifled home his winning penalty.

Injuries Test You Mentally: Hardik

India's ace all-rounder Hardik Pandya feels a positive mindset has helped him return to the ground "stronger, bigger and better" after injury setbacks led to self-doubt.

Pandya's return from a nearly two-month layoff due to left quadriceps injury propelled India to a massive 101-run win against South Africa in the opening T20I here on Tuesday.

The 32-year-old all-rounder blazed to an unbeaten 28-ball 59 and 1/16 with the ball as he announced his return to the side after suffering the injury during the Asia Cup.

"My mindset was really about coming back stronger, bigger, better. Injuries test you mentally and at the same point in time, it kind of puts a lot of doubts... and a lot of credit to the loved ones," said Pandya in a video posted on bcci.tv.

"I've stood strong, I've done a lot of things with grace and that has helped me to become even more confident, back myself and really trust my skillset... I really believe in myself as a player. I've always believed that if you don't believe in yourself, how would others believe you," Pandya, who will be a key member in India's T20 World Cup campaign in two-months' time, added.

The cricketer said that he is someone who derives confidence from within and doesn't bother too much about what others think about him.

"I think I have been a very honest, very real person in life as well, which has helped me a lot. I don't really sugarcoat a lot of things in my life. It's never about the other person, it's never about how others think or how others perceive. It's always about how I feel inside (PTI)

Prince Pulls Up SA Batters After Record T20I Collapse

Tapan Mohanta

CUTTACK: At a loss to explain South Africa's capitulation in the series-opener, their batting coach Ashwell Prince said the visitors simply failed to answer the questions posed by India's "formidable" bowlers while being dismissed for their lowest T20I total of 74 here.

Chasing 176, South Africa folded in 12.3 overs in a 101-run defeat in the opening match of the five-match series that marked the beginning of the two sides' build-up towards the global showpiece in India and Sri Lanka from February 7.

"Obviously after a batting performance as such, that is one department that we will have to improve on quickly," Prince said at the post-match media interaction at the Barabati Stadium, here on Tuesday.

"I thought the Indian bowlers, quite a formidable bowling attack, asked a lot of good questions. Ultimately, as a batting unit, we're not able to answer the questions. Tonight we weren't up to the task."

The two-paced wicket with the odd one rearing up also troubled the South African batters as Indian bowlers exploited the conditions beautifully.

Prince said the bounce should not be an excuse as they are used to playing on lively wickets back home. "I think any score that you keep to under 180 in T20 cricket is a chaseable score absolutely. There was a bit of bounce, it seemed like, but being South Africans, we should be accustomed to bounce."

"As I said, the Indian bowlers asked a lot of good questions. Ultimately, we weren't able to answer," he said blaming the batting unit. The decision to bowl first after winning the toss seemed to have backfired but Prince said they did well to keep India's total in check. (PTI)



The District Youth Services & Sports Office (YSS) Budgam on Monday inaugurated a refresher-cum-training course for seven zones of the district at Higher Secondary School Chadoora. The programme is being held under the direction of Director General YSS J&K, Anuradha Gupta. The six-day training schedule, set for December 10-15, aims to upgrade the skills of REKs across multiple disciplines, including dancing, karate, martial arts and taekwondo. Sessions are being led by expert trainers to strengthen technical competence and raise performance standards at the grassroots level.

FIH Men's Junior WC India Beat Argentina 4-2 to Win Bronze

India produced a brave-heart performance, nullifying a two-goal deficit to beat Argentina 4-2 and clinch the bronze medal in the FIH Men's Junior World Cup here on Wednesday.

India, who won the title in 2016 in Lucknow, failed to finish on the podium on the last two occasions, ending fourth in 2021 in Bhubaneswar, and two years later in Kuala Lumpur.

India produced a valiant fightback with Ankit Pal (49th minute), Manmeet Singh (52nd) and Anmol Ekka (58th) converting penalty corners, while Sharda Nand Tiwari finding the net from the spot in the 57th minute.

Argentina were the better side on display at least in the first two quarters, scoring through Nicolas Rodriguez (3rd minute) and Santiago Fernandez (44th).

The Argentines controlled the possession of the match in the first quarter as India struggled to get a foothold.

Argentina secured their first chance in the third minute in the form of a penalty stroke following a foul by Anmol Ekka and Rodriguez made no mistake to hand his side the lead. The Indians were guilty of giving away the ball too easily, which put paid to their chances in the first 15 minutes. (PTI)

MIRAE ASSET Sharekhan

Achieve financial freedom

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

Contact: M I Securities - 9906518342 / 9906684475
1, 10 Samad Complex, Ma Link Road, Srinagar, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, Srinagar - 190001