



Adulterated Egg Alert: J&K Govt Orders Probe



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has ordered an urgent investigation into allegations that adulterated eggs containing potentially toxic or carcinogenic substances are being sold in the market. The action follows concerns raised by legislator Tanvir Sadiq,

who highlighted the issue through posts on his social media account.

According to an official communication from the office of the Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, the MLA had flagged reports suggesting that adulterated eggs were allegedly circulating in parts of Jammu and Kashmir. | [More on P6](#)

Banned Chemicals in 'Chemical Free' Eggs? Independent Report Sparks Food Safety Concerns

KO Web Desk

A fresh food safety scare has emerged after an independent YouTube channel claimed to have detected banned substances in a batch of eggs marketed as "chemical free," prompting renewed questions about India's monitoring of food contaminants. | [More on P6](#)

HC Slams Govt's Flip-Flop, Orders College At Aishmuqam

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Thursday directed the authorities to establish a Government Degree College at Aishmuqam, reaffirming that the site has consistently been recommended by expert committees constituted for the purpose more than a decade ago.

A bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal observed that the case demonstrates how "indecision, litigation, and administrative inconsistency can inflict unintended yet severe harm upon the public at large."

The judgment pertains to two writ petitions seeking the establishment of the Government Degree College at the petitioners' respective native places—Aishmuqam and Siligam.

Residents of Aishmuqam had filed the first petition in 2018, challenging Government Order

No. 300-HE of 2018 dated 24 April 2018, which sanctioned Degree College at Siligam.

In 2020, residents of Siligam filed a separate petition questioning Communication No. GDC/UT/2019/332-334 dated 21 November 2019, issued by the Principal, Government Degree College Utersoo, requesting the Chief Education

Officer, Anantnag, to arrange accommodation for establishing a Degree College at Aishmuqam. This communication led to a directive by the Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, instructing the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Pahalgam, to identify suitable accommodation at Aishmuqam.

"It is evident from the material on record that the root cause of the present litigation lies in the unexplained deviation made by the Government from its own contradictory orders," the Court | [More on P6](#)

Those Fanning Separatism Will Face Action: LG

» Hands Over Appointment Letters To 41 NoKs Of Terror Victims

» Warns of Reopening Old Terror Cases, Says Guilty Will Be Punished

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said concrete action is being taken to dismantle the terror ecosystem in the region, warning that those fanning separatism will face action as per law.

He made the statement while handing over appointment letters to 41 Next of Kin of terror victims from Jammu division, along with



LG Outlines 5 Resolutions For A Harmonious Future

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday urged the youth, writers, and thinkers of the country to lead the nation to new heights, describing them as visionary craftsmen capable of shaping India's future. He said the young generation is the rightful inheritor of India's eternal

traditions, customs and spiritual heritage. Speaking at the Shri Kailash Sanskrit Ratna Award 2025 ceremony in Jammu, the Lieutenant Governor said the country is witnessing a cultural renaissance after a long time. He stressed that young people must be equipped | [More on P6](#)

J&K Bank Unveils Major Suite of New Digital Services

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Strengthening its digital footprint and reinforcing its focus on customer convenience, J&K Bank today launched a comprehensive suite of new digital products and IT services at a function held at the bank's corporate headquarters. The rollout marks a significant enhancement of the bank's technology ecosystem, aimed at improving transaction ease, tightening security, and creating a seamless banking experience across platforms.

The services were launched virtually from the bank's Jammu office by MD & CEO



Amitava Chatterjee, Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, CGMs Sunit Kumar and Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat, general managers and senior officers attending the event at the Srinagar Corporate Headquarters, while divisional and zonal heads joined via video conference.

Speaking at the launch, MD

& CEO Amitava Chatterjee described digital transformation as "the spine of modern banking", emphasising that the bank is accelerating its shift from conventional branch-led operations to a full-fledged omni-channel, tech-enabled model. "With these new products and services, we are not just keeping pace with change; we are moving decisively into a future-ready ecosystem where customers can bank anywhere, anytime with complete confidence," he said.

He appreciated the bank's technology team for their efforts and termed the new offerings as | [More on P6](#)

Stray Dog Control Tightened J&K Orders Mapping Of Schools & Hospitals

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Housing and Urban Development Department on Thursday directed all urban local bodies to map schools, hospitals, stadiums and major transport hubs within two weeks and secure them against the entry of stray dogs. The directive includes mandatory quarterly inspections and humane ABC based removal of stray dogs from these sensitive areas, with a

detailed compliance report due in 30 days.

In a circular issued to all ULBs across the Union Territory, Commissioner Secretary Mandeep Kaur instructed officials to immediately implement measures mandated by the Supreme Court for managing stray dogs in institutional zones. The order requires a comprehensive two week exercise to identify all government and private institutions including schools, | [More on P6](#)

IndiGo Offers ₹10,000 Vouchers To Severely Impacted Passengers

Press Trust of India

New Delhi ~ IndiGo, which has been facing significant operational disruptions, on Thursday announced that it will offer travel vouchers worth Rs 10,000 to each passenger whose flights were cancelled or delayed for long during December 3-5.

The compensation would be in addition to the amount that needs to be provided to passengers for flight cancellations under DGCA norms.

In a statement, IndiGo said it regrettably acknowledges



that part of its customers travelling on December 3, 4 and 5 were stranded for many hours at certain airports, and a number of them were severely impacted by congestion. | [More on P6](#)

Light Snow Likely In Higher Reaches: MeT

Observer News Service

Srinagar The Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Thursday issued a fresh forecast for Jammu and Kashmir, indicating that the next two weeks will largely remain cloudy, with chances of light snowfall in the higher reaches and fog persisting in several areas of the region.

According to the MeT, December 11 and 12 will see partly cloudy conditions across J&K. Between December 13 and 17, the weather is expected to stay partly to generally cloudy, with the possibility of very light snowfall over a few higher reaches of North and Central Kashmir, mainly during late night or early morning hours.

The sky is likely to remain partly cloudy on December 18 and 19. For December 20 and 21, the MeT has predicted generally cloudy skies toward the evening, along with a chance of light rain or snow at scattered places in Kashmir and isolated locations in the Jammu division.

From | [More on P6](#)

Rain Deficit: Springs Dry Up Across Kashmir



Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded a seasonal rainfall deficit of 17 percent so far this season, with six districts in the Kashmir Valley receiving significantly below

normal precipitation, official data showed on Thursday. The prolonged dry spell has led to the drying of several major springs, affecting drinking water supply in many areas.

According to meteorological data for the | [More on P6](#)

J&K Sees 15.44 Lakh e-challans In 2024

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir issued 15,44,120 e-challans for traffic violations in 2024, with authorities recovering fines worth Rs 41.42 crore, the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

According to data, e-challan enforcement in J&K has risen sharply over the past three years. The UT recorded 4,35,530 challans in 2022, which increased to 12,38,589 in 2023 and | [More on P6](#)

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2

Balanced Humanised AI Design Enhances Customer Trust: Study

Press Trust of India

A balanced level of humanised Artificial Intelligence (AI) design in chatbots enhances customer comfort and trust, while excessive human resemblance can cause discomfort, a new research by the Goa Institute of Management (GIM) has found. The research has studied customer behaviour towards Artificial Intelligence enabled service agents, including as chatbots, digital assistants and service robots. Conducted in collaboration with researchers from Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), Kerala, the findings of this research have been published in the International journal of Consumer Studies. With AI reshaping the Frontline Service Encounters (FLSE), the study aims to explore "how do consumers perceive and interact with AI in every day service interactions". For the same, the research team consolidated findings from 157 peer-reviewed articles to identify the key



drivers, theories, and outcomes shaping consumer and AI interactions. The research team reviewed 44 top-tier journals and various domains of study such as hospitality, retail, banking, and healthcare to gather global insights into how AI adoption patterns differ across contexts and cultures. "Our findings show that when AI agents are designed with the right balance of humanisation, competence, and empathy, they can foster stronger consumer trust and engagement," Manu C, Assistant Professor, GIM, told

PTI. "The research found that a balanced level of humanised AI design enhances customer comfort and trust, while excessive human resemblance can cause discomfort. The AI interaction design, including appearance, empathy and interaction style strongly influence customer trust, engagement and satisfaction," he added. The study proposes an integrated framework that consolidates scattered findings into a unified model explaining how AI agent design, consumer

traits, and service contexts jointly affect customer outcomes. Based on the key findings, the study charts a detailed roadmap for advancing future research in AI and consumer behaviour. It proposes an integrated framework identifying key mediators, and moderators that shape consumer responses to AI service agents. "This model advances understanding of how AI design features, such as human-likeness, empathy, reliability, and consumer traits jointly influence trust, acceptance, and satisfaction," he said. Additionally, the research has also identified critical research gaps such as cross-cultural variations in AI perception, the role of social identity and trust in AI acceptance, and the ethical boundaries of AI humanisation. "The insights of this research have direct applications for service managers, designers, and marketers seeking to deploy AI responsibly in customer-facing roles. The research guides strategic decisions in industries, including hospitality, banking, and retail, where AI is becoming a core element of customer engagement," the research added.

PUBIC NOTICE

It is for the information of the general public that I am the father of three children, namely Muhid Bin Sajad, Mudha Sajad, and Muhib Bin Sajad. I intend to change their names as under:

- Muhid Bin Sajad to Shees Sajad Ahmad Dar
- Mudha Sajad to Sawda Sajad
- Muhib Bin Sajad to Sulayman Sajad Ahmad Dar

If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned offices within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Sajad Ahmad Dar,
S/o Abdul Ahad Dar,
R/o Palpora, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla,

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Date of Birth in my Aadhar Card has been wrongly entered as 09-08-1948 while my correct Date of Birth as per Passport is 10-08-1955. Now I want the same to be corrected if anybody has any objection in this regard He/ She may file his /her objection in the Office of the Concerned Authority, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Abdul Razaq Dar
S/O Gulam Mohammad Dar
R/O Uranhall Anantnag

JNA7780878931

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Ward's Name & DOB in Aadhar Card has been wrongly entered as Aadein Gul Bazaz & DOB is 10-09-2007 while my Ward's correct Name & DOB as per School record is Aadein Shabir Bazaz & DOB is 10-02-2009. Now I want the same to be corrected if anybody has any objection in this regard He/ She may file his /her objection in the Office of the Concerned Authority, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shabir Ahmad Bazaz
F/O Aadein Shabir Bazaz
R/O Syed Sahib Kadipora Anantnag

JNA7780878931

Office of the Advocate Ishfaq Rasool Sheikh And Associates

In the case of
1. Noor Mohammad Tantray
2. Mohammad Aslam Tantray
Both Sons of Ghulam Rasool Tantray
And Both Residents of Palhallan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla

Caveators

V/s
Public at large

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

Sd/advocate

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANSMISSION DIVISION-IIND, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR

Extension Notice I

Due to poor response, the date of submission of bids in respect of below mentioned e-NIT is hereby extended with the details enumerated below: -

S NO	E.NIT No.	Name of the work	Tender ID	Cost tender document (In Rs)	EMD Cost (In Rs)
1	eNIT No STD-II / 56 of 2025-26 Dated 02-12-2025	Soil testing, contouring and survey of land and Consultancy services for design, Estimation, drawings as per soil investigation Report, Vetting of Design by DIQC/NIT/ IIT etc., for civil works for the construction of 33/11KV 1*6.3MVA Receiving station at Bernina for providing Power supply to E-Bus charging station, under Srinagar smart city project.	2025_PDD_297302.1	Rs 200.00	Rs 2980.00

Last Date of Bid Submission extended up to	17-12-2025; 4:30pm
Bid Opening Date	18-12-2025; 2:30pm

No.: STD-II/9317-19/Ts
DIPK-NB-2728/25 Dated: - 11-12-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division-II,
Rajbagh, Srinagar

PUBIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Azizi Begum to (New Name) Azizi Gusani. In future I will be known as Azizi Gusani. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Azizi Gusani
W/o Abdul Ahad Gusani
R/o Mir Mohalla Abi Kara Pora Dalgate

fko

PUBIC NOTICE

In my Daughter's aadhar card her name is written as Adfar Majeed D/O Abdul Majeed Dar R/O khushalsar Zadibal Srinagar instead of Adfar D/O Abdul Majid Dar R/O Khushalsar Zadibal Srinagar

.Now I am applying for tthe correction of the same.if anybody has any objection in this regard can kindly contact the concerned authorities within seven days.After that no objection will be entertained.

Phn No:- 9622570892

INF

PUBIC NOTICE

In my Daughter's aadhar card her name is written as Azma Mehraj D/O Mehraj Din Kumar R/O Mohalla Naseem Bagh . instead of Fatima Mehraj D/O Mehraj Din Kumar R/O Mohalla Naseem Bagh Srinagar Jammu and Kashmir 190006

.Now I am applying for the correction of the same.if anybody has any objection in this regard can kindly contact the concerned authorities within seven days.After that no objection will be entertained.

Phn No:- 9797777781
Adhar No :- 4207 4667 1296

INF

PUBLIC NOTICE

My dob has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as 01-02-2003 instead of 01-07-2004. The correct DOB as per my school records is 01-07-2004. 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..

Fayaz Ahmad Cheachi
S/o Abdul Rashid Cheachi
R/o Shadab Karewa District Shopian

FKO

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION Uri

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

eNIT No. 86 of 2025-26/7277-85/R&B Uri e-tendering DATED: 11-12-2025

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

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ DOC (In Rupees)	E/Money (In Rs.)	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M. H of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
01	Balance work of College Canteen at GDC Boniyar	3.96	200/-	7920/	30 days	18.12.2025	DEE Class	Higher Education

Project Authority: Principal Govt Degree College Boniyar
Position of AA/TS: Accorded/Sanctioned

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11.12.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11.12.2025 from (11:30 AM) to 18.12.2025 (02:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	11.12.2025 from (11:30 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	18.12.2025 (02:00 PM)
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	18.12.2025 (03:00 PM) in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan debited under M.H-0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date)

3. At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful (1st lowest) bidder will have to provide Performance security @ 5% of Allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG at the time of contract award. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.

3 (a) Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debaring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

3. (c) The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited if:

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

(ii) Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter of intent.

(iii) Successful Bidder fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

(iv) If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security/EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri (tender receiving authority).

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

No.-2025-26/7277-85
DIPK-8903/25 Dated: 11-12-2025

Sd/= (Er. Imran Ali)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division, Uri.

Govt. Of Jammu & Kashmir (U.T) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION VAILOO

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No.96/7940-49 of R&B/Vailoo/2025-2026/e-tendering DATED:10/12/2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory J&K e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Approved Amount (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. in form of Treasury challen / Receipt (in Rs.)	Earn st Mone y (2% of Adv. Cost) (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Project Intending Department	Class of Contractor	Major Head of account
1	Construction of 04 ACRs (MS Rakhi Brah) Rakhi Brah Chittirgul	60.956	1600	121912	12 Months	Education	AAY Class	CSS DAJGU-A

Position of AA: Accorded
Position of TS: Accorded

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	10.12.2025
2.	Period of Downloading of bidder documents.	From 10.12.2025
3.	Bid submission Start Date	From 10.12.2025
4.	Bid Submission End Date	To 16.12.2025
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	17.12.2025 at 10.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Vailoo

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD in favor of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Vailoo (Tender inviting Authority) (NIT No. and Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt (If the Nit comprises of only one item, Name of work/Item No is not mandatory) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Vailoo (Tender receiving Authority). (The Date of EMD(CDR/FDR) should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and the validity at the time of opening of bids shall be for a period of 45 days beyond bid validity of 120 days)

2. The 1st Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of allotted cost as performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG (The bank guarantee should be valid for a period of 60days beyond the completion of the defective liability period) within 07 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of defective liability period of the work.

3. The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security.

4. Only those contractors are eligible for taking part in the bidding process whose contractor registration card is enrolled online on the JKPWDOMS portal and the Proof of that needs to be uploaded with this bid mandatorily.

5. The Advertised is cost is inclusive of GST@18%. The bidder has to quote the rate exclusive of GST.

6. Security Deposit shall be deposited by the contractor within 10 days of issuance of LOI, failing which the concerned tender

7. The contractor shall initiate the work within 10 days of entering into the agreement, failing which the undersigned shall terminate the contract and issue a fresh tender after imposing penalties viz forfeit security/LD as per T&C of the Bid document and recommend contractor for blacklisting.

8. The work shall be completed by the concerned contractor as per the timeline stipulated in the bid document/agreement, failing which action shall be initiated against contractor by forfeiting EMD and shall be recommended for blacklisting.

22.0 All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

DIPK-8911/25
dated: 11-12-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer PWD(R&B)
Division Vailoo

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

انبیائی رنج و الم کے ساتھ اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ جناب محمد یوسف آخون ابن غلام رسول آخون ساکنہ چک صدرہ، حضرت بل سرینگر طویل علالت کے بعد بروز جمعرات، 11 دسمبر، 2025ء کو اس دار فانی سے انتقال فرما گئے۔

مرحوم نہایت نیک سیرت، خوش اخلاق، منسلک اور پابند صلات تھے۔ انہوں نے پوری زندگی سادگی، تقویٰ اور خلوص کے ساتھ بسر کی۔ اللہ رب العزت مرحوم کی کامل مغفرت فرمائے، انہیں اپنے جوار رحمت میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا کرے

اور سوگواران کو صبر جمیل و اجر عظیم سے نوازے۔

آمین یا رب العالمین۔

اطلاع برائے فاتحہ خوانی

مرحوم کی فاتحہ خوانی بروز سوموار، 15 دسمبر، 2025ء، صبح 8 بجے مرحوم کے آبائی مقبرہ چک صدرہ بل، حضرت بل سرینگر میں ادا کی جائے گی۔

بعد ازاں مرحوم کے گھر پر پورے قرآن خوانی، دعا و مجالس ایصالِ ثواب جاری رہیں گی۔

تمام عزیز و اقارب، احباب اور اہل محلہ سے مؤذیانہ گزارش ہے کہ مرحوم کے لیے دعائے مغفرت و ایصالِ ثواب میں ضرور شریک ہوں۔

مرحوم کے لیے سورۃ فاتحہ اور تین مرتبہ سورۃ اخلاص کی درخواست ہے۔

صاحب تعزیت فرزند محمد مقبول آخون
ویرادر محمد افضل آخون
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إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

صاحب تعزیت فرزند محمد مقبول آخون

وہرادر محمد افضل آخون

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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
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KO VIEW

Kashmir's Not-So
Funny Fog

A tourist recently went viral after mistaking Kashmir's thick winter fog for pollution. The mix-up triggered a wave of online jokes and memes, but for those who live in the valley, the confusion is far from funny.

Winters in Kashmir can be merciless, bringing not just biting cold but air that often feels heavy, smoky, and harsh on the lungs. The line between fog and smog blurs long before it reaches social media.

From late autumn, households begin burning wood, charcoal, and leaves to stay warm. The smoke settles in the valley, mixing with naturally stagnant winter air and slowly degrading its quality. Oxygen levels drop, green cover vanishes, and the air turns toxic enough to make breathing a struggle.

Every winter, many Kashmiris head to warmer areas to survive the harsh conditions. This seasonal challenge puts people's lives at risk and disrupts the valley's way of life.

Winter in many cold countries is celebrated for its crisp air and snowy beauty. But the very atmosphere that should allow people to enjoy the season often carries a hidden risk in Kashmir. What should be a time of festivals, outdoor gatherings, and scenic wonder becomes a period of caution and retreat.

The solution cannot rely solely on relocation or passive endurance. People and policymakers must work together to rethink heating methods, manage waste burning, and restore green cover. Public education, eco-friendly alternatives, and proactive policies could help turn the tide before the problem worsens.

Kashmir, like much of the world, faces climate change and environmental degradation on multiple fronts. The fog mistaken for smog may have sparked laughter online, but it is a moment worth reflecting on.

It is a subtle nudge that the air we often take for granted needs care, consciousness, and concrete action.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

The Cost of
Empty Factories

Stronger infrastructure and simpler
rules can turn things around.

Irshad Mushtaq

An industrial estate outside Srinagar shows the state of Jammu and Kashmir's economy more clearly than any report. Long lines of locked factory units stand where steady production was once promised.

The latest RBI data confirms this reality: the region has only about a thousand factories, placing it near the bottom among Indian states. The gap with major industrial regions is wide because J&K never built the foundations needed for real growth.

For years, subsidies shaped its development story. These incentives were meant to attract investment and create jobs. Instead, many factories were set up only to claim benefits, not to produce goods or employ people.

When the support slowed, these projects collapsed, leaving behind empty buildings and disappointed workers.

Older sectors offer limited support. Tourism rises and falls with security concerns. Handicrafts, once a reliable source of income, now struggle against cheaper machine-made products. Apple growers face slow transport, damaged roads and storage shortages that cut into their profits. These challenges affect families directly, pushing many young people to look outside the region for work.

A stronger economy will depend on practical changes rather than new subsidy packages. Training that matches today's job market, smoother logistics and simpler rules can make it easier for businesses to survive and expand. Small enterprises can play a major role if they receive support with skills, credit and reliable transport.

Other states have turned their economies around by focusing on these basics, and J&K can do the same.

The author is a Srinagar-based
reputed financial advisor.



A New Pride in Old Hands

As globalization and imitation threaten centuries-old traditions, a new generation of Kashmiri artisans is reclaiming their craft through social media, direct trade, and pride in authenticity.

Musaib Bilal

“
Made in Kashmir
stands for something
deeper than the
words stitched on
a tag. A Pashmina
shawl, a carpet, or
a carved box carries
the memory of
the valley and the
craftspeople who
shaped it.

Srinagar in winter has a sharp, crisp air. Smoke curls from small tea stalls, streets glint under frost, and inside narrow workshops, artisans work with focus.

An elderly weaver smooths a Pashmina shawl across his lap, running his fingers over threads that took weeks, sometimes months, to knot.

Each piece tells a story of patience, skill, and generations of knowledge passed down like a secret.

These are the heart of a culture that has always expressed itself through its hands.

Kashmir crafts, including Pashmina, Kani weaves, carpets, papier-mâché, and walnut woodwork, have always been admired worldwide. Tourists and collectors marvel at them, and shops display them like treasures.

Still, behind the beauty, many artisans struggle. Machine-made imitations sell cheaply under Kashmiri names. Middlemen take most of the profits. Raw materials cost more each year, and months of labour often fail to cover basic living expenses.

Young people watch their parents work tirelessly and sometimes leave the craft from necessity.

The crafts have not lost value. The world has stopped valuing the people who make them.

But now, signs of revival are emerging from the valley.

Geographical Indication, or GI tagging, has given these crafts legal recognition. It protects artisans from imitation and recognize the work behind each piece. Crafts once seen as old-fashioned are now being seen as living heritage.

This recognition has opened doors for a new generation. Young

“
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hands that created it.

Kashmiris share videos of their fathers weaving, showcase walnut carving online, and sell directly to customers around the world.

For the first time, artisans tell their own story. People outside Kashmir see the hands behind the work, the hours of effort, and understand the real value of each piece.

Pride is returning to the craft, and a sense of purpose comes with it.

But revival is still slow and soft. Crafts thrive when artisans are paid fairly, materials are accessible, and work is relevant.

Learning digital skills, selling online, and building a brand are as important as weaving or carving.

When people see craftsmanship as a respected profession, young artisans feel encouraged to stay. They hold on to the tradition because it helps them build a life, not because they are forced to carry it.

Made in Kashmir stands for something deeper than the words stitched on a tag.

A Pashmina shawl, a carpet, or a carved box carries the memory of the valley and the craftspeople who shaped it.

In a fast-moving world of mass production, these works remind us that some things are made slowly, carefully, and with love.

Their survival depends on the people who make them.

When the world values both the craft and the craftspeople, the tradition lives on, reaching homes far from Kashmir while still rooted in the hands that created it.

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Letter to Editor

Microplastics Are Turning Kashmir Into a Toxic Zone

On a cold winter morning, a stream in central Kashmir seems pure and clear. A shepherd fills a pail for his flock, oblivious to the unseen shards of a growing modern problem flowing with it.

Tiny bits of broken plastic float through the water like uninvited guests, traveling from soil to crops to people without any warning, smell, or way to see them. Their silent invasion has left communities across the valley uneasy.

Plastic entered Kashmiri life as a promise of convenience. It wrapped medicines in hospitals, protected groceries from the dust of long journeys, and lowered costs for families with tight budgets. The material arrived as a marker of progress.

Over the years, something harsher unfolded. Streets filled with single-use

packets. Playfields collected bottles after picnics. Streams carried discarded bags through orchards. No corner of daily life remained untouched.

Researchers studying microplastics describe them as tiny particles that slip into everything: air, food, water and the bloodstream. Health scientists warn that these particles can disturb metabolism and damage cells. The long-term effects remain under study, though early findings suggest links to respiratory issues, hormonal disruptions and rising risks during pregnancy. Infants and children face the highest vulnerability due to their developing organs.

These concerns mirror wider global alarms, especially for communities with already limited access to safe water. According to World Health Organization estimates, hundreds of millions of rural

residents worldwide still struggle to secure clean drinking sources.

Kashmir's landscape absorbs this burden in ways that feel deeply personal. A fisherman in Bandipora pulls his nets from Wular Lake and finds them snagged with debris instead of trout. Farmers complain that soil packed with plastic loses its breathability, weakening crop cycles. Wildlife rescuers speak of injured animals caught in polythene waste along wetlands.

Each incident adds to a collective sense of erosion, of land, health and trust in what once felt pure.

Schools across the region have become frontline responders. Students carry handmade placards calling for change, while teachers run clean-up drives and fold sustainability into daily lessons.

These efforts nurture a new form of

civic responsibility. They also acknowledge the uncomfortable truth that community behaviour fuels much of the problem.

When households rely on disposable packaging, vendors hand out plastic bags with every sale, and tourists leave behind picnic waste, the valley pays the cost.

Solutions start with small steps. Carry cloth or gunny bags for shopping. Use fewer single-use bottles. Pick safer ways to store everyday items. Make sure trash is disposed of properly in towns and villages. Follow rules for production and recycling.

Every little change slows the spread of tiny particles that now touch almost everything around us.

Sincerely

Qysar Ul Islam Shah
farhaanqysar@gmail.com

Life on the Edge of Emergency in Kashmir

A first-person account of the pressures, frustrations, and small triumphs that define government hospitals in Kashmir.

Faizaan Bashir

I've spent the last three years wandering Kashmir's government hospitals, where every step feels caught between hope and despair.

I have watched, listened, and waited.

The scenes I've seen are flashes, bits of life that cut across numbers and reports.

They are patients and attendants living in waiting rooms thick with anxiety. The unspoken terror of illness presses against every wall.

SKIMS, the biggest hospital here, welcomes the city's emergencies with a sincerity that often goes unseen. Most doctors are committed, alert, and empathetic.

In an emergency, where seconds matter, they perform miracles under pressure. But, pressure is a constant companion.

In the triage room, two or three doctors shoulder the care of patients arriving with terminal injuries, struggling hearts, or suffocating lungs.

Each doctor is a gatekeeper between life and death, but there are moments when the system itself feels like the enemy.

Patients wait on gurneys or lean against the shoulders of their attendants. Wheelchairs glide across floors crowded with suffering. The room carries the weight of expectation and exhaustion, a crowded stage where speed meets scarcity.

The nurses disappear for minutes at a time, then reappear as if conjured, rushing to open injection vials, mix solutions, and deliver care with astonishing speed.

Their faces are calm masks over invisible strain, but the room seems stretched too thin for the demands of human life.

I have asked myself why triage cannot expand, why a few more doctors cannot be added, why patients cannot be spared some of the chaos.

These are simple calculations, ones that might alleviate unbearable pressure.



GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS ARE ESSENTIAL, AND FOR THAT, GRATITUDE IS DUE. WITHOUT THEM, LIFE WOULD BE FAR HARDER IN KASHMIR. But their abundance feels like scarcity when it comes to the human elements that make a hospital more than a building.

Outside triage, the echoes of suffering continue.

In the endoscopy and colonoscopy wings, assistants sometimes speak in ways that strip dignity from those already terrified. Pa-

tients arrive weary, poor, often alone. They enter these spaces hoping for relief, not confrontation. And yet the system compounds their exhaustion.

A medical store linked to the PM-

JAY scheme sits half a kilometer away, forcing the sick and weak to make one more journey that their bodies cannot endure.

Attendants carry frustrations as much as patients carry illness. They smile in front of staff and curse behind their backs. Their anger is not cruelty. It is endurance under pressure, a reaction to a system that gives too little while demanding too much.

Grievance redressal exists in name only. A patient cannot battle bureaucracies while lying on a gurney. An attendant cannot argue with forms, counters, and corridors that stretch endlessly.

The suffering becomes invisible, buried under the weight of institu-

tional indifference.

What these government hospitals lack is space, respect, and flexibility.

The architecture of care is overcrowded, inflexible, and unkind. When I compare government facilities to private hospitals, the difference is stark.

Private institutions may offer comfort and speed, but they are out of reach for most Kashmiris. Government hospitals carry abundance in infrastructure but scarcity in the elements that matter most: time, attention, and human dignity.

I cannot offer charts, statistics, or measurable variables to prove the suffering I have witnessed.

What I can offer are stories,



PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS MAY OFFER COMFORT AND SPEED, BUT THEY ARE OUT OF REACH FOR MOST KASHMIRIS. Government hospitals carry abundance in infrastructure but scarcity in the elements that matter most: time, attention, and human dignity.

flashes of human struggle pressed against walls that hold the echoes of cries, sighs, and whispered prayers.

Walking these corridors, I feel a mix of awe and despair: awareness of the dedication that exists alongside the crushing limitations that do not.

Government hospitals are essential, and for that, gratitude is due. Without them, life would be far harder in Kashmir.

But their abundance feels like scarcity when it comes to the human elements that make a hospital more than a building.

And the pain of this reality stays, silently but insistently, in every step I take through these hallways.

— The author holds a Masters in History and can be reached at peerfaizaanbhashir@gmail.com

Motherhood in Full Light

How an Iranian tradition shaped around Lady Fatima Zahra (S.A.) is finding meaning across the Muslim world.

Rubab Zahra

People everywhere grow up looking to their mothers as their first guides and protectors. Their care shapes homes and families, and it reaches far beyond, touching neighbours, communities, and even the generations that follow.

This love for mothers crosses borders and cultures.

In many Muslim communities, it takes on a special meaning during the celebration of Lady Fatima Zahra (S.A.), whose life is remembered as a model of kindness, courage, and devotion.

The observance began in Iran, tied to her birth anniversary, and has gradually become a beloved tradition for families in many countries.

Each year, on the 20th of Jamadi al-Thani, Iranians honour her birth as Mother's Day. The day becomes a gentle pause in the year, a chance to recognise mothers everywhere and to remember a woman whose life continues to inspire.

She is remembered as someone who cared deeply for her family, lived with purpose and carried her responsibilities with a full heart.

In many homes, the celebration starts with warmth. Children bring simple gifts, handwritten notes and small acts of care that express what is often hard to say.

Families sit together and share stories from Lady Fatima's life. They speak of her patience, her loyalty and the love she offered without hesitation.

These stories remind people that motherhood grows from emotional and spiritual bonds shaped by affection, effort and selflessness.

In Islamic cultures, mothers are viewed as the moral centre of society. They nurture the



THE DAY INVITES FAMILIES TO HONOUR THE MOTHERS IN THEIR LIVES, including grandmothers, great-grandmothers and women preparing for motherhood.

values that children carry into adulthood. They encourage dreams and offer comfort during difficult times.

The combined celebration of Lady Fatima's birthday and Mother's Day strengthens the belief that mothers uphold the emotional fabric of a community.

It encourages women to recognise their own strength and to offer that strength to their children, just as she did.

This understanding is reflected in Risalatul Huqooq, the classical treatise on rights by Imam Ali ibn Zain Al Abedin. The text describes a mother's sacrifices with deep care, explaining how she endures hunger, thirst, worry and sleepless nights so her child can grow in ease.

It concludes that no one can

truly repay a mother for what she gives without the mercy of God. The message speaks to the sacred nature of her role.

Lady Fatima's own life reflects this spirit.

She was born during a time of severe persecution faced by the Prophet, peace be upon him, and his early followers. She grew up surrounded by hardship, but remained close to her father, tending to him when he was harmed or insulted.

After losing her mother at the age of five, she became his greatest source of comfort. The beloved prophet called her Umm Abiha, the mother of her father, a name that reveals the depth of their bond.

Her adult life continued to show generosity and courage.

After her marriage to Ali ibn Abi Talib (A.S.), she cared for her modest home with calm dedication.

Narrations tell how she gave her wedding dress to a woman in need and how she carried water to the wounded during the Battle of Uhud.

Through her children and descendants, she helped preserve the teachings and intellectual traditions that shaped Islamic thought for generations.

Today, as the celebration is embraced by Muslim communities around the world, it serves as a reminder of her enduring legacy.

The day invites families to honour the mothers in their lives, including grandmothers, great-grandmothers and women preparing for motherhood.

All hold within them the same spirit of resilience, love and compassion that Lady Fatima embodied.

Happy Mother's Day.

— Rubab Zahra is a Kashmiri origin Irish citizen.

Lessons from My Mother

In Kashmir's hills and homes, a selfless mother silently builds a foundation that endures every day.

Zahoor Mehdi

I felt the strength of my mother's hands long before I understood what they taught me.

In our small home in Kashmir, she filled every corner with a presence as bright as the sunlight over the hills outside. Her lap was my first classroom, her voice the first guide I learned to follow.

Everything she said and did shaped the person I was becoming.

She taught me to speak with care, to fill my words with respect and warmth. The first prayers I learned were hers. Her voice guided me through syllables I could barely pronounce, shaping my understanding of gratitude and devotion.

Mistakes were met with gentle correction, turning early failures into lessons in humility and humanness.

I carry those moments with me still, like markers along a path I follow whenever uncertainty comes.

Her character was the real classroom. Patience unfolded in how she moved through the day, in how she faced life's hardships without complaint.

Kindness and strength were inseparable in her actions. She taught me that honesty carries weight, that compassion is measured in deeds, and that hard work is an unspoken responsibility.

These were not abstract concepts. I learned them by watching her face the ordinary and the extraordinary with equal grace.

I have felt the force of her prayers throughout my life. Behind achievements and small moments of ease, I have sensed their power, opening doors and lighting paths I could not see on my own.

She taught me to honour others, make life easier where I



REPRESENTATIONAL PHOTO



I HAVE COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE MOST PRECIOUS INHERITANCE HUMANS can receive is neither wealth, nor titles, but the shaping of their soul through love, wisdom, and example.

could, and approach each situation with gratitude.

These lessons have guided my relationships, work, and the

choices I make every day.

Even now, I watch her move through her routines with a balance I cannot replicate. She sets aside her own needs so that we might have more care, patience, and love. In her presence, the burdens of life feel lighter.

I have come to understand that the most precious inheritance humans can receive is neither wealth, nor titles, but the shaping of their soul through love and wisdom.

And as the fountainhead of that love and wisdom, my mother is my first school, my first light, and my first teacher.

Every lesson, prayer, and act of kindness she offered has carried me forward, giving me the strength to meet life with confidence.

In her patience and selflessness, I find both my compass and my anchor.

Her life, lived with devotion and care, remains the most vivid example I have of how one person can shape another.

— The author can be reached at malikzahoornehdi@gmail.com

Step Up Revenues & Cut Avoidable Expenditure: CM To Depts

Stresses Fiscal Discipline, Accelerated Works Under Capex and SASCI

Observer News Service

Jammu: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday reviewed the progress of District Capex, Constituency Development Fund works, SASCI projects and the overall fiscal position of Jammu and Kashmir, directing all departments to step up revenue generation and cut avoidable expenditure to maintain financial discipline.

At a high level review meeting attended by Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, senior finance and planning officials and all Deputy Commissioners, the Chief Minister assessed sector wise achievements, bottlenecks and the status of administrative approvals, tendering and awarded works for the 2025–26 financial year. Officers stationed outside Jammu joined the meeting through video conference.

Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D. Vaidya presented a detailed overview of expenditure under District Capex,



including Centrally Sponsored Schemes, while highlighting areas requiring intervention. The Chief Minister stressed that every department must work within fixed timelines, avoid procedural delays and ensure that both ongoing and newly sanctioned works move swiftly on the ground.

Calling for stronger fiscal discipline, he directed departments to “step up revenues across all streams and exercise strict control over avoidable

expenditure,” urging them to sustain momentum through the remaining months of the financial year.

The Chief Minister also reviewed progress on PRI, BDC and DDC recommended works, MLA priority works and the findings of the November 2025 physical verification reports. He asked Deputy Commissioners to ensure rigorous field monitoring, adherence to quality standards and timely submission of utilisation certificates.

A detailed review of SASCI Part I projects was held, covering both ongoing and newly initiated works. Omar Abdullah instructed officers to accelerate execution, proactively address bottlenecks and fast track institutional reforms under SASCI, noting that delays undermine the infrastructure and governance improvement agenda.

The meeting also assessed progress on financial inclusion initiatives including PM Shram Yogi Maandhan. The Chief

Minister called PM SYM a beneficial and socially significant scheme and directed Deputy Commissioners to intensify enrolment in uncovered pockets.

He urged all districts to expedite Capex execution, complete tendering and award of works without delay. On CDF, he called for closer coordination with MLAs and directed districts to replicate the transparent CDF management system used by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar through mandatory use of the designated portal.

Omar Abdullah also emphasised efficient utilisation of SNA and SPARSH funds, and cautioned against accumulation of unspent balances. Reaffirming the Government’s commitment to fiscal prudence, infrastructure expansion and people centric governance, he asked departments to maintain close coordination and ensure that 2025–26 becomes a year of visible progress in both project delivery and revenue performance.

Humanitarian Considerations Can’t Override Statutory Minimum Punishment: SC

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Humanitarian considerations cannot override the statutory minimum punishment mandated by the legislature, the Supreme Court said on Thursday while refusing to interfere with the sentence imposed on a woman in a narcotic case.

The apex court delivered its verdict on an appeal by the woman challenging a June 2024 order of the Madras High Court which upheld her conviction and 10 year sentence in the case lodged under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

While dismissing her appeal, a bench of justices Sanjay Karol and Vipul M Pancholi noted that the appellant, who was 24-year-old at the time of the incident in 2019, has urged the court to consider her age, lack of prior criminal history and responsibility towards her minor child.

The bench said while it was not unmindful of the appellant’s circumstances, the NDPS Act prescribes minimum mandatory sentence for possession of commercial quantity.

“The court has no discretion to reduce the sentence below the statutory minimum under

section 20(b)(ii)(C) of the NDPS Act. Humanitarian considerations, though relevant for executive remission, cannot override statutory minimum punishment mandated by the legislature,” the bench said.

It noted that according to the prosecution, the appellant and her husband were intercepted in September 2019 and after the police searched the vehicle, 23.5 kg of ‘ganja’ was seized.

An FIR was registered and later, a trial court convicted them for the offences under the NDPS Act and imposed 10-year sentence along with fine.

Both the convicts approached the high court, which confirmed the conviction and sentence imposed by the trial court.

The woman then approached the apex court challenging the high court verdict. Before the top court, her counsel argued that the prosecution’s case suffers from multiple infirmities and though the seizure took place in a residential locality, yet no independent witness was secured.

Arguing that the high court order was liable to be set aside, her counsel in the alternative said the appellant was a first-time offender and was the sole caregiver of her minor child.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Adulterated Egg

The minister’s office noted that the legislator publicly expressed concern about possible health risks to consumers, prompting an immediate review.

In response, the Minister for FCS and CA directed the Controller of the Legal Metrology Department to urgently examine the allegations and verify their authenticity. The department has been instructed to submit a detailed report within two days for the minister’s perusal.

Officials said the inquiry will assess whether adulterated eggs are indeed being sold and, if confirmed, identify the source and initiate corrective measures to safeguard public health.

Independent Report

According to news reports, laboratory tests conducted on a batch of eggs sold by Eggzo Nutrition reportedly detected two compounds—nitrofurin and nitroimidazole—both of which are prohibited for use in poultry and classified as genotoxic. Such substances are known to cause DNA damage over prolonged exposure.

Eggzo Nutrition, a startup that markets premium “cruelty free” eggs to health conscious consumers, has denied the allegations, stating that its products are safe, antibiotic free and compliant with all regulations. The test, however, was conducted on only one batch, and experts say broader sampling would be required to draw conclusions.

The incident has triggered public discussion in the backdrop of frequent reports of adulteration across essential food categories in India, including milk, spices, oils, pulses and fresh produce. Past investigations by various agencies have uncovered contaminants ranging from detergents and urea in milk, textile dyes in spices, talc on grains, and formalin in fish.

Data shows that between 2022 and 2023, around 1.77 lakh food samples were tested across the country, of which approximately 25 percent were found non-conforming. Experts say this represents only a fraction of the food consumed daily, with many products escaping routine testing.

Public health advocates have called for stronger oversight, stricter enforcement of bans on hazardous substances, and more frequent random sampling of food products across states. They also stress the need for clearer communication from regulators to rebuild consumer confidence.

Those Fanning

Paying homage to civilian martyrs, Sinha said the administration is committed to honouring their sacrifices. “Terror victim families were left to struggle in silence for decades. Justice was denied to these families. The deep scars were never healed. Such families are now being recognized, respected and rehabilitated. Jobs to real victims of terror and true martyrs reflect the commitment that the nation stands with them with concrete action,” he said.

Sinha added that the government’s mission is to restore dignity and economic security to families who paid the highest price. With Thursday’s appointments, he said a key commitment has been fulfilled.

The LG recalled the ordeals of several families, including that of Naseeb Singh from Rajouri, whose father Dharam Singh and four others were killed by terrorists on June 28, 2005. After two decades of struggle, Sinha said, the family can now look toward a new beginning. He also recounted the killing of Akhtar Hussain of Reasi in 2005, and the murder of SPO Sanjeet Kumar in Kishtwar in 2004, calling their stories “unspeakable grief carried for years”.

Referring to recent data presented in Parliament, the LG said, “Since the emergence of terrorism till 2019, 41,949 civilians had been killed. Terrorism, separatism and their ecosystem were responsible for these deaths.”

Sinha said the administration, under the leadership of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister, is working to eradicate terror networks. “We have not bought peace, but

established peace. The days of misgovernance are over. Now terrorists, separatists and their patrons are not given government jobs but they are being identified and given the harshest punishment for their deeds,” he said.

He cautioned that certain elements of the dying terror ecosystem are attempting to spread misinformation or negative narratives against the country and warned of strict action against them under the country’s established legal framework.

The LG also said that old cases will be reopened and the guilty, whether they are on this or that side of the border, will face punishment.

“Not only the current cases of terror victims, but even older cases will be reopened. Some have already been reopened. Whether terrorists are on this side of the border or the other side, they will face severe punishment for their heinous acts,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor appealed to the public to contribute to what he described as the Mahayagya of development in Jammu and Kashmir.

The event was attended by DGP Nalin Prabhat, Principal Secretary Home Chandraker Bharti, Commissioner Secretary GAD M Raju, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, senior police officers, deputy commissioners, civil society members and families of terror victims.

LG Outlines 5 Resolutions

with modern skills while also serving as protectors of India’s ancient knowledge systems.

“Youth should have passion for research like a scientist and the fragrance and wisdom of divinity like Adi Shankaracharya. Sanskrit, the world’s oldest living language, embodies a complete knowledge system. The vast intellectual legacy of great thinkers, scientists and sages can be utilised for technological and intellectual advancement,” he said.

In his address, Sinha appreciated the Trust’s efforts to promote Sanskrit and India’s learning traditions, and extended greetings on its 14th Foundation Day.

The Lieutenant Governor also laid out five resolutions for enlightened citizens, calling for collective action to build a more conscious, harmonious and developed society.

He said the first resolution is to guide society toward a balanced future by integrating material progress with spiritual development, discipline and simplicity. The second calls for fostering social harmony and building a generation rooted in peace, respect and compassion, free from discrimination.

The third resolution focuses on transforming the education system to develop personalities who embody both scientific inquiry and spiritual depth. The fourth urges the present generation to create a sustainable future by living in harmony with nature. The fifth resolution calls for uniting as a society to counter forces attempting to create divisions, with enlightened citizens leading this effort.

The event was organised by the Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust and attended by Anant Shri Vibhushit Shrimad Jagadguru Ramanujacharya Swami Shri Vasudevacharya Maharaj. The Lieutenant Governor conferred the Shri Kailakh Sanskrit Ratna Award on Prof Shrinivasa Varakhedi, Vice Chancellor of the Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi, for his exemplary contributions.

Sinha said every Indian must feel proud to inherit a rich and glorious civilization and contribute to nation building. “While building a united and developed India, we must ensure that our country stands firmly on the strong pillars of ideals, moral values and character,” he added.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board’s contributions to Sanskrit promotion, spiritual education, infrastructure development and community welfare.

The ceremony was attended by Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of the Trust, University of Jammu Vice Chancellor Prof Umesh Rai, spiritual leaders, religious heads, public representatives including MLAs Sham Lal Sharma,

Surinder Kumar, Devyani Rana and Dr Sunil Bhardwaj, and senior civil and police officials.

Light Snow Likely

December 22 to 25, the weather is expected to stay partly cloudy.

The Met also issued an advisory stating that shallow to moderate fog will likely continue in many areas of Kashmir and at isolated spots in Jammu, which may affect visibility and travel conditions.

Meanwhile, minimum temperatures recorded across the Union Territory on Thursday indicate sub-zero readings in several Kashmir Valley locations.

Srinagar recorded -2.9°C, Pahalgam -4.6°C, Kupwara -4.2°C, Pulwama -5.2°C, and Shopian -5.2°C. Zojila Pass remained the coldest at -18.0°C.

In Jammu, the mercury stayed above freezing, with Jammu at 8.6°C, Katra at 9.5°C, Banihal at 2.4°C, and Bhaderwah 1.4°C.

Ladakh continued to experience severe cold, with Leh recording -7.0°C, Kargil -6.5°C, Drass -9.9°C, and Nyoma -12.8°C.

Officials advised residents, particularly in high-altitude and fog-affected areas, to take necessary precautions against the cold and reduced visibility.

The department said it will continue monitoring the weather closely and provide timely updates to help authorities and residents prepare for changing conditions.

The advisory stressed the need for preparedness as winter progresses, particularly in snow-prone and high-altitude areas, where sudden weather changes could disrupt daily life and transportation.

Rain Deficit: Springs

period from October 1 to December 10, 2025, Kashmir Division received an average of 64.5 mm of rainfall against a normal of 77.5 mm. Srinagar, Pulwama, Shopian, Badgam, Bandipore and Baramulla have all recorded deficit rainfall, defined as 20 to 59 percent below normal.

Srinagar received 38.6 mm of rainfall against a normal of 73.1 mm, while Pulwama recorded 29.4 mm against 52.5 mm. Shopian registered a sharp deficit with only 16.5 mm against a normal of 74.5 mm. Badgam received 23.1 mm, Bandipore 27.5 mm and Baramulla 28.3 mm, all well below expected levels.

In contrast, several districts in Jammu division recorded large excess rainfall during the same period. Jammu, Kathua, Reasi, Doda and Samba all reported precipitation far above normal ranges.

The dry conditions have begun affecting natural water sources across the Valley, with multiple springs either shrinking or drying up. Residents from parts of north and south Kashmir reported that springs supplying drinking water to hundreds of households have been facing severe stress for several weeks.

The Jhelum River has also seen a notable decline. At the Sangam gauge, the water level dropped to 0.65 metres on December 10, the lowest recorded this season.

Officials, however, said the overall drinking water supply situation remains under control but urged residents to adopt water conservation practices. The Standardised Precipitation Index (SPI), a key indicator used to monitor drought conditions, shows negative values across several Kashmir districts, reflecting the persistence of dry conditions.

Authorities have advised monitoring of minor streams and springs, particularly in south Kashmir where the rainfall deficit is most pronounced. The Meteorological Department said it continues to closely track evolving weather patterns and will issue timely updates as winter progresses. (KNO)

J&K Bank Unveils

“timely, essential and useful feathers in the bank’s digital cap.”

Highlighting key products, Chatterjee noted that the J&K Bank Voice Pod App could become a “game-changer” by offering voice-activated UPI payment notifications without requiring a

physical sound box—working entirely through a mobile phone to enhance convenience.

He also praised the new RuPay Platinum Credit Card, which supports QR-based, tap-and-pay and app-enabled payments across major UPI applications such as BHIM, Google Pay and Paytm.

Urging operational heads to amplify staff engagement for product promotion, he stressed the need to educate customers about offerings like Re-KYC through mPay Delight+ and Automated Digital Fraud Management. “The success of these initiatives depends on how quickly and effectively people adopt them,” he said.

Executive Director Sudhir Gupta congratulated the teams involved and said the new digital ecosystem aligns with global banking standards. “Amid the fast-changing technology landscape, the Bank is building a long-term digital transformation framework that adapts to evolving customer expectations and increasing regulatory requirements,” he noted.

General Manager (Strategy & IT) Mohammad Muzaffar Wani elaborated on the product features, stating that embedding advanced technology into banking workflows will create a superior, secure and customer-focused digital experience.

Earlier, a detailed presentation showcased the new offerings, which include the RuPay Platinum Credit Card, Automated Digital Fraud Management, Re-KYC via mPay Delight+, Personalised Cheque Book Issuance via mPay Delight+, the J&K Bank Voice Pod App and IMPS Simplified.

The bank recently unveiled its RuPay Platinum Credit Card at the NPCI Pavilion during the Global Fintech Fest 2025 in Mumbai.

IndiGo Offers

“We will offer travel vouchers worth Rs 10,000 to such severely impacted customers. These travel vouchers can be used for any future IndiGo journey for the next 12 months,” it said.

The country’s largest airline is also facing regulatory heat, and authorities have directed it to reduce winter schedule flights by 10 per cent to stabilise its operations. The carrier was operating around 2,300 flights a day till the disruptions began on December 2.

“This compensation is in addition to the commitment under the existing government guidelines, as per which IndiGo will provide compensation of Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000 depending on the block time of the flight, to those customers whose flights were cancelled within 24 hours of departure time,” the statement said.

J&K Sees 15.44

15,44,120 in 2024.

Despite the higher enforcement, unpaid fines have grown significantly. Outstanding amounts stood at Rs 15.08 crore in 2022, rising to Rs 52.41 crore in 2023, and further to Rs 93.03 crore in 2024.

In contrast, Ladakh continues to show minimal enforcement activity. The UT registered only 12 e-challans in 2022 and 92 in 2023, with fine recoveries of Rs 2,900 in 2022 and Rs 37,200 in 2023. The ministry said no major unpaid challan amounts have been reported from Ladakh.

The figures were placed before the House by the ministry in response to a query on traffic enforcement trends across Union Territories.

J&K Orders

colleges, hospitals, stadiums, bus stands, ISBTs and railway stations. ULBs have also been asked to classify high risk areas, particularly those frequented by children.

“All urban local bodies, in coordination with the district magistrates concerned, shall, within a period of two weeks from the issuance of this circular, complete the identification of all government and private institutions falling within their territorial limits,” the circular stated.

The department further directed ULBs to assist administrative heads of all identified institutions in taking immediate structural and

administrative steps to secure their premises. This includes erecting or repairing boundary walls, installing gates and adopting any additional measures necessary to prevent the ingress of stray dogs. Departments must submit budget estimates by December 15, while district magistrates will monitor progress every fortnight.

Municipal authorities have been told to conduct mandatory inspections every three months to ensure no stray dog habitats exist near institutional areas. The circular specifies that all removal processes must adhere strictly to ABC Rules and animal welfare laws. “The use of cruel methods, indiscriminate poisoning or any form of inhumane treatment is strictly prohibited and will attract severe disciplinary action,” it warned.

ULBs have also been instructed to digitally record the details of every dog picked up and released.

Commissioners of the Jammu and Srinagar municipal corporations, along with directors of ULBs in the Kashmir and Jammu regions, have been asked to submit a full compliance report within 30 days. The department cautioned that any delay or non compliance will invite disciplinary action.

HC Slams Govt’s

observed. It noted that since 2012, expert committee reports, feasibility assessments, and official communications consistently supported the establishment of the College at Aishmuqam.

Despite this, the Government abruptly issued Order No. 300-HE of 2018, sanctioning the College at Siligam, without presenting any cogent reasons, rationale, or contemporaneous record justifying the departure from its earlier position. “No material has been placed before this Court explaining what prompted this abrupt change,” the Bench noted.

The Court said it was this sudden and unexplained shift that compelled the people of Aishmuqam and adjoining areas to approach the judiciary. “Had the Government acted consistently and followed its earlier decision, there would have been no need for this litigation. The Government is therefore responsible for creating a situation that caused unnecessary legal dispute and prolonged uncertainty about the establishment of the College,” the judgment states.

The Court further observed that had the project not been stalled, the College would have been operational by now, providing substantial educational and developmental benefits to the region. Instead, prolonged delays have adversely impacted multiple generations of students.

Underscoring urgency in matters of public welfare, the Court cautioned that administrative and judicial processes must not allow essential projects, especially those related to education, to become infructuous due to the mere passage of time. “Public interest, particularly the educational aspirations of the youth, must remain paramount,” it underscored.

While reiterating that courts do not substitute their views for those of the executive, the Bench clarified that judicial review remains available to ensure decisions are lawful, rational, and based on relevant considerations. The choice of location, though administrative in nature, is subject to scrutiny if found arbitrary, irrational, illegal, or inconsistent with expert recommendations, the court said.

Citing several Supreme Court and High Court precedents, the Bench reaffirmed that policy decisions are open to judicial scrutiny on grounds such as illegality, arbitrariness, irrationality, mala fide exercise of power, or procedural impropriety. A policy may be interfered with if it violates statutory or constitutional provisions or suffers from “manifest unreasonableness,” the court said.

With these observations, the Court directed the Government to proceed without further delay and establish the Degree College at Aishmuqam in accordance with expert recommendations and its own stated policy position.

Smart City Push: 279 Projects Completed Across Srinagar, Jammu

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Government of India (GoI) on Thursday reported substantial progress under the Smart Cities Mission in Jammu and Srinagar, confirming that a total of 279 projects have been completed across the two cities, while nine more projects worth Rs 239 crore remain under execution.

According to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Jammu currently has four projects underway with a cumulative cost of Rs 128 crore, whereas Srinagar is working on five ongoing projects estimated at Rs 111 crore.

In terms of completed works, the Ministry informed that Jammu has so far finished 123 projects valued at Rs 2,841



THE GOVT ATTRIBUTED DELAYS IN THE REMAINING PROJECTS TO MULTIPLE ON-GROUND CHALLENGES, including land acquisition issues, legal impediments, departmental approvals, and construction difficulties in hilly or geologically sensitive terrain, which have slowed down execution timelines."

crore. Srinagar, meanwhile, has completed 156 projects at a total cost of Rs 3,524 crore, marking

significant advancement in urban development, public infrastructure, and service delivery under the flagship mission.

The Government attributed delays in the remaining projects to multiple on-ground challenges, including land acquisition issues, legal impediments, departmental approvals, and construction difficulties in hilly or geologically sensitive terrain, which have slowed down execution timelines.

The Ministry further noted that after the Smart Cities Mission attained financial closure in March 2025, all States and Union Territories were explicitly instructed to ensure that all pending projects—including those in Jammu and Srinagar—must be completed by December 2025 without further delays.

CM Omar Inaugurates 56 New Govt Housing Flats



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday inaugurated residential blocks with 56 flats meant for government employees at two locations here.

He opened the housing blocks by cutting a ceremonial ribbon at Ahata Amar Singh and Sarwal areas of the city.

According to a statement, the chief minister at the site said that last month, he had inspected these colonies and directed officers to ensure optimal use of land, maintain high aesthetic and construction standards, and replace old and unsafe quarters with modern facilities.

Abdullah said he has

instructed the concerned department to explore high-rise residential towers to expand the housing capacity.

The new blocks comprise 56 compact two-room residential flats built as ground-plus-six-floor structures.

Each unit has two bedrooms, a lobby, a living area, a kitchen, two washrooms and a balcony.

During the briefing, Director Estates Ashwani Khajuria informed Abdullah that the project had been executed with a strong emphasis on functional design, structural safety and affordability.

He said the department is working on a plan to modernise old residential colonies.

'A Shameful Directive': Teachers Deployed for Dog Management Draws Outrage



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Educators and academics have sharply criticized recent government directions assigning teachers in government and private schools the responsibility of acting as nodal officers for monitoring stray dogs within educational premises. The reaction came after district-level orders in Poonch and Kupwara directed schools to nominate teachers to report dog sightings, coordinate with municipal bodies and ensure preventive measures inside campuses.

Terming the directive "shameful" and "a fall for society," several senior educationists told KNT that placing such duties on teachers undermines the dignity of one of the most respected professions. They said teachers are nation builders entrusted with shaping young minds, yet the administration has chosen to delegate responsibilities that should fall under municipal, animal welfare, and civic authorities.

Professors at Kashmir University expressed deep disappointment, saying the move reflects "a lack of intellect" at decision-making levels. "We all have been

taught by teachers and we respect them. Instead of deploying staff from relevant departments, teachers are now being asked to manage stray dogs. This is not only irrational but humiliating," said a professor at Kashmir University.

Academics argued that while stray dog management is a genuine public safety concern, directing teachers to handle duties such as reporting sightings, coordinating with municipal bodies, monitoring sanitation gaps and ensuring campus-level dog control sends a disturbing message about societal priorities. They said such orders erode the respect traditionally accorded to the teaching fraternity.

"A society that does not respect its teachers never progresses. Asking educators to oversee stray dog management shows how misplaced our administrative thinking has become," another senior academic remarked.

Many educationists urged authorities to withdraw the directive and assign the responsibility to municipal, animal husbandry, and local body teams trained for such tasks, while allowing teachers to focus on academic and institutional development.

Kashmir Tourism Director Vows Aggressive Push to Increase Footfall



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director Tourism Kashmir, Syed Qamar Sajad, on Thursday said the department is fully committed to promoting adventure, winter and sustainable tourism across Jammu and Kashmir. He said the department will "leave no stone unturned" to increase tourist footfall in the Valley during the upcoming winter season.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an

race, a felicitation ceremony and film screenings on mountain preservation and environmental protection.

"The department is formulating strict guidelines for trekkers and adventure groups to ensure mountain trails remain clean. We will make it binding on trekkers not to litter or dump waste in mountain zones. Plantation and conservation measures will also be taken because our tourism thrives on a healthy environment," he said.

Sajad further added that glacier depletion is a global issue. He called for awareness and regulation to preserve Kashmir's mountain ecosystem.

The Director Tourism Kashmir further announced that the department is set to launch a series of winter and adventure activities across major tourist destinations as soon as snowfall begins.

He said the department is committed to expanding its adventure and winter tourism portfolio through coordinated planning. "We will leave no stone unturned to increase tourist footfall from our side," he said.

Special Train Between Katra & New Delhi from Dec 12-14



Observer News Service

JAMMU: To cater to the surge in passenger demand and provide relief to devotees travelling to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, the Jammu Division of Northern Railway has announced the operation of a special train service between New Delhi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra for three days, from December 12 to 14.

The special service, Train No. 04081/04082, is aimed at easing travel during the winter rush and improving the availability of confirmed tickets, officials said.

Special Train Details are as follows: Special Train No. 04081 New Delhi to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, 12 December 2025 to 13 December 2025 (Two trips)

This special train will depart from New Delhi at 11:45 PM on 12 December and arrive at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra at 12:00 PM the next day. En route, the train will stop at Panipat, Kurukshetra, Ambala Cantt, Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt, Pathankot Cantt, Jammu, and Shaheed Captain Tushar Mahajan (Udhampur) railway stations. Special Train No. 04082

'J&K Created Over 78, 000 Jobs Under PMEGP'

Jammu and Kashmir remained a top Union Territory in generating employment under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) in 2024-25, with 9,863 micro enterprises assisted and an estimated 78,904 jobs created, the Union Ministry informed Lok Sabha on Thursday.

The ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises further informed the house that an estimated data was recorded till December-9-2025.

According to KNO official data reveal that J&K has recorded consistently high numbers under PMEGP over the last four years by assisting 21,648 units in 2021-22, 12,023 in 2022-23, 15,065 in 2023-24 and 9,863 units in the ongoing financial year.

The estimated employment generated during these years stands at 1.73 lakh, 96,184, 1.20 lakh, and 78,904 respectively.

The UT of Ladakh also continues to receive support through the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY).

Under PMMY, J&K has recorded 23.79 lakh loan accounts, with a disbursement of Rs 51,245.86 crore since the scheme's inception. Ladakh has registered 69,791 loan accounts, with a total disbursement of Rs 2,090.56 crore—reflecting steady credit access for small and micro entrepreneurs. (Observer News Service)

J&K Records 831 Road Accident Deaths in 2024: MoRTH

Jammu and Kashmir reported 831 road accident fatalities in 2024, according to data tabled by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) in the Lok Sabha. The Union Territory of Ladakh recorded 61 such deaths during the same period.

The ministry's figures show that J&K has witnessed fluctuating but persistently high fatality numbers over the past eight years. The UT logged 926 deaths in 2017, 984 in 2018, 996 in 2019, 728 in 2020, 774 in 2021, 805 in 2022, and 893 in 2023, before dropping to 131 this year.

Ladakh, meanwhile, registered 56 fatalities in 2021, 62 in 2022, 59 in 2023, and 61 in 2024.

MoRTH noted that major causes of road accidents across the country include over-speeding, mobile phone use while driving, drunken driving, wrong-lane movement, lane indiscipline, and non-use of helmets or seat belts. Additional factors such as vehicle condition, adverse weather, and road infrastructure deficiencies also contribute significantly to accidents.

To support victims and their families, the government is implementing the Compensation to Victims of Hit and Run Motor Accidents Scheme, 2022, which provides Rs 2 lakh compensation in case of death and Rs 50,000 for grievous injuries.

Under the newly launched Cashless Treatment for Road Accident Victims Scheme, 2025, accident victims are eligible for cashless treatment up to Rs 1.5 lakh for seven days from the date of the incident. (Observer News Service)

J&K Reports 5,808 Road Accidents in 2024: Centre

Jammu and Kashmir recorded 5,808 road accidents in 2024, Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) informed Lok Sabha on Thursday.

The ministry further informed that Ladakh registered 264 accidents.

The figures reveal that the road accidents in J&K have fluctuated over the last five years.

J&K reported 4,860 accidents in 2020, 5,452 in 2021, 6,092 in 2022, 6,298 in 2023, and 5,808 in 2024.

The Ministry also said it has adopted a multi-pronged strategy focused on Education, Engineering, Enforcement and Emergency Care to reduce accidents nationwide.

Measures include stricter penalties under the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, mandatory road safety audits, rectification of black spots, vehicle safety upgrades, and a push for electronic enforcement on high-risk corridors.

To encourage public assistance during emergencies, the Centre has strengthened legal protection for Good Samaritans, now termed "Rah-Veer," offering Rs 25,000 reward per incident and shielding helpers from harassment or legal complications. (Observer News Service)

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FACULTY LIST 2025-2026

S.no	Name	Qualification	Subject
1.	Mohammad Hussain Shah	Ph.D Physics	Physics
2	Zahid Manzoor	M.sc Physics + B.ed	Physics
3	Owais Ahmad	B.Tech	Physics
4	Mohammad Shukiel	M.Tech	Physics
5	Junaid Ul Shabber Khan	M.sc Mathematics	Mathematics
6	Tufail Ahmad Shah	M.sc Zoology	Biology
7	Mr Aabid Ahmad	M.sc Mathematics	Mathematics
8	Mr Mudasir Ahmad	M.sc Chemistry	Chemistry
9	Mr Aijaz Yaseen	M.sc Chemistry	Chemistry
10	Mr Umar Manzoor	M.sc Chemistry	Chemistry
11	Mr Shabir Ahmad	M.sc Botany	Biology
12	Mr Zuhair Manzoor	M.sc Botany	Biology
13	Mr Bilal Ahmad	M.A (Political Science + M.phil)	Social Science
14	Mr Rayees Azam	M.A Urdu	Urdu
15	Mr Ishtiyag	B.sc	Mathematics
16	Tauseef Ahmad Shah	MA English	English
17	Mr Zubair Ahmad	M.sc E & C	Science
18	Mr Ishtiyag Ahmad	Molvi Fazili from Nadwa	Moral Education

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Director**
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Fee structure for Session 2025-2026

S.no	Class	Stream	Total Course Fee
1	8 th	All Compulsory JKBOSE Subjects	Rupees 21000 Including Course Material and Printing charges
2	9 th	All Compulsory JKBOSE Subjects	Rupees 25000 Including Course Material and Printing charges
3	10 th	All Compulsory JKBOSE Subjects	Rupees 25000 Including Course Material and Printing charges
4	11 th	Medical/Non-medical	Rupees 41000 for three subjects Physics, Chemistry, Biology Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics Including Course Material and Printing charges
5	12 th	Medical/Non-medical	Rupees 41000 for three subjects Physics, Chemistry, Biology Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics Including Course Material and Printing charges
6	NEET	Medical	Rupees 37000 Including Course Material and Printing charges
7	JEE Mains	Non-Medical	Rupees 37000 Including Course Material and Printing charges

10% of total intake capacity in each class will be given free admission on the recommendation of directorate of school education kashmir for that parents need to contact directorate school education kashmir

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South Africa level series after de Kock special; Gill, SKY misfire again

Press Trust of India

MULLANPUR: The lean run of Shubman Gill and Suryakumar Yadav was extended as Indian batters stumbled on a good batting surface to lose the second T20 against South Africa by 51 runs here on Thursday.

Quinton de Kock made an effortless 90 of 46 balls, pushing South Africa to a challenging 213 for four after India opted to field.

India were expected to chase down the steep target but South Africa removed Indian trio of Abhishek Sharma (17), Gill (0) and Suryakumar Yadav (5) inside the powerplay to put the hosts on the backfoot. India were eventually bowled out for 162 in 19.1 overs with Tilak Varma (62 off 34) playing a lone hand..

The five match series now stands at 1-1 with the third match scheduled in Dharamsala on December 14.



The local crowd was expecting their home heroes, Gill and Abhishek, to fire but it was not to be. Yet to realise his potential in the shortest format, vice-captain Gill, facing his very first ball, got a beauty from Lungi Ngidi that seamed away from length to take a thick outside edge.

Abhishek was caught behind in the following over from

Marco Jansen. Next to depart was skipper Suryakumar who too got a faint edge after Jansen angled it away from the India skipper.

Batting at three, Axar Patel (21 off 21) was pounced at cover with Reeza Hendricks just about managing to have his fingers under the ball.

From thereon, Tilak batted at

a high tempo but lack of partnerships and soaring run rate pushed the game out of India's reach..

Earlier, de Kock entertained the crowd with his remarkable strokeplay.

When in full flow, De Kock is among the most attractive batters in the game and he flaunted his special skills on a true pitch. He was mainly dealing in sixes in the middle and majority of his seven maximums came in the deep square leg region.

De Kock, who recently reversed his ODI retirement and was not sure about his T20 future post the World Cup last year, is back with a renewed purpose and remains on top of his game.

An innings like this just less than a week before the mini auction will also create the buzz among the franchises, who might indulge in a bidding war for the multi-skilled cricketer.

Arshdeep Singh, who had De Kock caught behind in the series opener, was at the receiving end on Thursday. De Kock began the assault with a pick up shot for six off Arshdeep before pulling the left-arm pacer for a maximum over deep mid-wicket.

Jasprit Bumrah too conceded 16 runs in his second over after being disdainfully pulled for six by Reeza Hendricks. The right-hander missed a skidder from Varun Chakravarthy in the following over to give India a welcome breakthrough but De Kock maintained the pressure on the opposition, taking his team to 53-1 in the powerplay.

Brought back into the attack in 11th over, Arshdeep lost his usual calm under pressure after being smashed for a six down the ground by De Kock. The Indian pacer tried to bowl wide yorkers from thereon but failed miserably and ended up bowling as many as seven wides in a 18-run over.

Pakistan Probing Ugly Incident after Football Match

The Pakistan Football Federation and the country's apex Olympic body are probing an ugly incident that took place after a semi-final match between Pakistan Army and the WAPDA team in Karachi, with several players and officials sustaining injuries.

Players from both sides got into a fight, with officials also jumping in as they punched and kicked each other after the National Games football semi-final at the KPT sports complex.

As the match was being shown live, the ugly scenes were captured and later circulated on social media, with many demanding action against the two sides.

The fighting started after some members from Wapda expressed their anger at the Army players' celebration following a narrow victory in front of their dugout.

An official in the PFF said that they had taken note of the incident and the Pakistan Olympic Association would also be probing the matter as the National Games fell under its preview.

"We will carry out our own inquiry and disciplinary action will be taken against players and officials found involved in instigating or starting the fight," he said.

The video showed some Wapda players chasing the match referee into his changing room and he was also reportedly physically abused by them before being rescued by other officials and players.

The Wapda players were unhappy at the referee awarding a penalty kick to their opponents. **(PTI)**

IOC Approves LA28 Olympic Hockey Tournaments Qualification System

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has approved the qualification system for the women's and men's hockey events at the 2028 Los Angeles Games, the sport's governing body FIH announced on Thursday. As has been the case since the 2008 Beijing Olympics, 12 teams per gender will compete at the Games, including host nation USA.

The remaining 11 teams in each category will qualify through the FIH Pro League, the five Continental Championships, and the Olympic Qualification Tournaments. "The highest placed nation in the FIH Hockey Pro League Seasons 2025-26 and 2026-27 will qualify; if the same team that wins the 2025-26 Season also wins the 2026-27 Season, the runner up of the 2026-27 Season will qualify," FIH said.

Additionally, the highest-placed team at each of the five Continental Championships that has not already qualified either as host or through the FIH Pro League will secure a spot.

"Should the nations that qualified through the FIH Hockey Pro League be the highest placed in their continental championships, the next highest placed nation in such continental championship will qualify."

The Olympic Qualification Tournaments, scheduled for early 2028, will provide the final pathway. There will be four tournaments (two per gender), each featuring eight teams. The top two teams from each tournament will qualify, completing the line-up for the 2028 Games. **(PTI)**

Aston Villa Meets Basel in Europa League after Trouncing Arsenal

Agencies

BASEL: Boosted by a victory over the Premier League leader, in form Aston Villa meets Basel in the Europa League on Thursday.

After a slow start to the season, Villa bounced back to be currently on a seven-game winning streak in all competitions, including a 2-1 victory over Arsenal on Saturday.

Beside a top-three place in the English top flight, the Villans are tied with Lyon and Midtjylland atop the standings of the second-tier European competition on 12 points with four wins from five games.

"The most important thing is how we are building the team, how we are achieving in our process during each competition, our stronger mentality in everything," manager Unai Emery said ahead of the match at St. Jakob-Park in

Basel. Emery has won the Europa League trophy four times during stints in charge of Sevilla and Villarreal.

Lyon hosts Dutch newcomer Go Ahead Eagles while Midtjylland faces Genk at home.

The top eight teams after eight games go directly to the round of 16 in March.

At the other end of the 36-team table, struggling Nice will look to earn the first points against Braga.

Teams placed ninth to 24th advance to the knockout playoffs in February.

In other games, Nottingham Forest is away at Utrecht, Celtic and Roma meet in Glasgow and Maccabi Tel Aviv travels to Stuttgart.

In the third-tier Conference League, Crystal Palace plays Shelbourne in Dublin and Fiorentina hosts Dynamo Kyiv. **(AP)**

Pulwama District TT Championship 2025 Concludes

Adil Khan

PULWAMA: The Pulwama District Table Tennis Championship (Men/Women) 2025 concluded on a high note after a series of thrilling matches across various age groups and categories.

Organised by the Pulwama District Table Tennis Association under the aegis of the J&K Table Tennis Association and in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council, the event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 110 players.

The championship featured competitions in the junior, sub-junior, cadet, and senior categories for both men and women.

The event was inaugurated by Dr. Gh Mohiudin Sb (GDC Rajpora) and Dr. Faisal Hayat (Physical Director), who encouraged the players to demonstrate skill and sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

The tournament was played on 9th and 10th December.



KEY RESULTS

- Sub-Junior Boys: Arifeen triumphed over Ehsan.
- Junior Boys: Syed Hannad Ali defeated Haseeb.
- Senior Men's Category: Shahid Shanawz triumphed over Faisal Suleh Hayat.
- Under-11 Girls: Rabiya Fayaz defeated Daifa.
- Sub-Junior Girls: Toiba Jan defeated Rahi Jan.
- Junior Girls: Rutba Gulzar emerged victorious against Aanisa Ahad.
- Senior Women: Hurmat outplayed Rabida.

CLOSING CEREMONY

The valedictory ceremony, held

at the Indoor Stadium Rajpora, was graced by Mr. Mohd Iqbal, Incharge Indoor Stadium Rajpora.

In his address, he highlighted the crucial role of sports in promoting physical and mental well-being and urged students to participate actively in sports for holistic development.

Dr. Faisal Suleh Hayat also commended the efforts of the J&K Table Tennis Association, J&K Sports Council, and the Pulwama District Table Tennis Association for organizing a well-coordinated and vibrant sporting event.

Trophies and medals were distributed to the winners and runners-up by Mr. Iqbal and (Dr.) Faisal Suleh Hayat.

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