



DIPK-8962/25 Dated: 12.12.2025

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WATCH FOR PEDESTRIANS

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Department of Information & Public Relations, J&K
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Sozni, Willow, and Tilla: Kashmir's Skills Find A New Audience

Thirty Master Artisans Came Together This Winter To Showcase Centuries-Old Skills, Inspiring Youth And Communities Across Kashmir.

Rayees Ahmad Kumar

Srinagar: When Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat lifted a length of Pashmina under the winter sun at Sher-e-Kashmir Park in Srinagar, the threads seemed to hum with history.

Bhat has stitched thousands of Sozni patterns in his life. This season, he sat surrounded by students, showing them the

careful movements that have defined his craft for decades.

"This craft can give you a way to earn a living," he said, guiding a young student's hand. "It connects you to our past and shapes your future."

Bhat was one of thirty master artisans invited to the Know Your Artisan festival, a three-day initiative by the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom,



Kashmir: The festival brought artisans from across the valley to demonstrate their skills to students, visitors, and potential buyers.

"The aim is to revive a craft ecosystem that once supported thousands of households," said a senior handicrafts official.

Sozni and Crewel embroidery, Pashmina and Kani weaving, copperware Kandkari, willow work, tweed, and Papier-mâché

were all on display. Each demonstration taught patience, skill, and identity.

Across the park, willow baskets came to life under the hands of Bashir Ahmad Dar. At another stall, Nazir Ahmad Malik embroidered a pheran with Tilla work, metallic threads sparkling as students leaned in to watch.

"This isn't decoration," Dar said, watching a group of

schoolchildren try their first weaving loops. "These are skills that can sustain a life."

The importance of such efforts is hard to miss.

Jammu and Kashmir faces a severe employment crisis. As of late 2025, more than 3.6 lakh educated young people are registered as unemployed. Graduates, postgraduates, engineers, and **| More on P6**

Food Safety Under Spotlight

Eggs Tested, Biscuits Pulled For Safety Breach

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Food safety concerns deepened in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday after authorities banned the sale of a Priyagold Butter Delite biscuit batch found to contain sulphite levels above permissible limits, even as a separate inspection drive was launched to test eggs for banned drug residues.

According to an order issued by the Office of the Assistant Commissioner/DO Food Safety Anantnag, Batch No. E25KPO2FB of Priyagold Butter Delite biscuits failed laboratory analysis at the National Food Laboratory, Ghaziabad. The batch has been declared unsafe and its sale prohibited until further orders.

Officials said the biscuits posed a potential health risk, and all units of the batch have been directed to be withdrawn from the market.

Terming the product "unsafe," the report prompted immediate administrative action. Officials noted that the manufacturing or sale of such unsafe food items amounts to a violation of



Section 3(1)(zz)(xi) of the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), 2006.

Invoking powers under Section 36(3)(b) of the Act, Sheikh Zameer Ahmad, Designated Officer, Food Safety Anantnag, issued an order restricting the sale, storage, and distribution of the implicated batch across the district.

"All wholesalers, retailers, and shopkeepers have been directed to promptly withdraw this batch from their shelves," the order states, adding that strict compliance is mandatory.

The department has also urged consumers **| More on P6**

Disrupt Terror Financing, Counter Radicalisation: LG To Officers

Hands Over Appointment Letters To Families Of Nowgam Blast Martyrs



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday met the families of the Nowgam accidental blast martyrs in Srinagar and handed over appointment letters on compassionate grounds. The move, officials said, is part of the administration's commitment to support the next of kin of

personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

The Lieutenant Governor paid solemn tribute to the martyrs and conveyed his gratitude to their families, assuring them of the government's unwavering support.

"The entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with the families to ensure they live a life of comfort and **| More on P6**

General Zorawar Singh's Vision Inspired Generations: LG

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday paid tributes to General Zorawar Singh, describing him as a brave warrior and one of India's greatest military commanders and strategists, on the occasion of his Martyrdom Day.

Speaking at a commemorative event, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted General Zorawar Singh's monumental campaigns in Ladakh, Baltistan, Gilgit and Skardu, noting his defining role in the

expansion of the Dogra Empire.

Sinha said the nation must draw inspiration from the General's legacy and work collectively to strengthen the country. "We should set a target of making Bharat powerful and fulfil the dreams of General Zorawar Singh," he said.

He urged all sections of society, particularly the youth, to uphold the values the General embodied. "We should work together to ensure that every **| More on P6**

Are Kashmir Homes Prepared For Winter Fire Hazards?

In An Interview, Assistant Director F&ES Outlines Key Winter Fire Hazards And The Precautions Every Household Should Follow.

Sameer Hussain

Srinagar: As winter settles over Kashmir, a gradual uptick in fire emergencies begins to surface as households rely more on heating and electrical appliances. Each year, officials note that small lapses in routine safety practices often contribute to preventable emergencies.

Fire statistics for Srinagar show a marked drop in reported incidents compared to the previous year. Last year saw approximately 720 fire incidents, averaging 60 per month. This year, the number has dropped to about 468 incidents, translating to a



monthly average of 42. Despite the decline, Assistant Director Fire and Emergency Services Aqib Hussain Mir said

winter consistently brings fresh vulnerabilities.

Mir noted that two causes dominate most incidents in Kashmir: electrical faults and LPG related hazards.

Electrical Overload: A Leading Cause

Electrical fires commonly result from short circuits or overheating. Mir explains that winter places additional stress on wiring systems as households run multiple high wattage appliances.

"People overload sockets without realising that the wiring may not handle the extra load," he says. **| More on P6**

RED FORT BLAST

Court Sends 3 Doctors, Preacher To 12 Days Jail

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Friday remanded three doctors and a preacher who were arrested in connection with the November 10 Red Fort blast case to 12 days of judicial custody.

Another accused Dr Bilal Naseer Malla was also produced before Principal and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna to authenticate his voice sample.

The four accused — Dr Muzammil Ganai, Dr Adeel Rather, Dr Shaheena Saeed and Maulvi Irfan Ahmed Wagay — were produced before the expiry of their four-day NIA custody granted on December 8.



Mediapersons were barred from covering the court proceedings, which were held under tight security in and around the Patiala House district court premises.

Till now, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has made eight arrests in the case, which is linked to a 'white collar' terror module busted by the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Dr Bilal Naseer Malla, a resident of Baramulla district in Jammu and Kashmir, is the eighth accused arrested so far. The NIA team arrested the doctor from Delhi on December 9, calling him a key accused in the conspiracy.

"As per **| More on P6**

Ownership Transfer

Police Crack Down On Vehicles Lacking Proper Papers

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday launched a special enforcement drive against vehicles operating without mandatory ownership transfer after sale or purchase, in an effort to prevent misuse of non-transferred and non-local registrations.

The drive was carried out across several districts in the Valley, where police teams were deployed to identify and impound vehicles that have not

been formally transferred to the new owner, along with vehicles bearing outside-state registration numbers being driven without valid documentation.

Police personnel manning checkpoints inspected vehicles for proper ownership papers, registration details and updated records as part of a broader campaign against traffic violations and improper documentation.

Officials said the initiative aims to streamline vehicle ownership records, curb potential misuse of **| More on P6**

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2

NIT Rourkela Develops New Wastewater Tech for Dhobi Ghats

Press Trust Of India

Researchers at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela have designed a nature-based wastewater treatment innovation targeted towards revitalising India's "dhobi ghats" and protecting urban water bodies, according to officials. Dhobi ghats, traditional laundry spaces, still serve as socio-economic support in many Indian cities. Due to acute water shortages, and drying borewells, the availability of open water has become very limited. Simultaneously, untreated laundry wastewater, laden with synthetic detergents, dyes, and microfibres, contaminates rivers, lakes, and wetlands, exacerbating water scarcity and harming aquatic ecosystems. To address this challenge, the innovative setup designed by NIT Rourkela research team has created a low-cost, chemical-free, and energy-independent wastewater treatment solution -- Constructed Wetland-Microbial Fuel Cell (CW-MFC) System -- by merging wetland plants, engineered filtration layers, and electricity producing microorganisms.

"The wastewater treatment system developed by our team employed natural things like gravel, sand, soil, plants, and microbes to purify the wastewater. The system is inspired by nature and engineered for clean water," said Kasturi Dutta, Associate Professor, Department of Biotechnology and Medical Engineering, NIT Rourkela. By leveraging the natural purification processes and generating bioelectricity in the treatment state, the developed system opens a new path for decentralised wastewater management. Its low operational costs and minimal maintenance make it highly adaptable for deployment in urban slums, peri-urban settlements, and rural laundry setup. "Being capable of generating real-time bioelectricity, the system can treat unlimited wastewater. With its treatment capacity increasing as the system size and numbers increases, the developed system is suitable for densely populated dhobi ghats such as Mumbai's Mahalaxmi and Bengaluru's Halasuru facilities. "The innovation holds significant social significance as the treated wastewater can be reused by washermen, thus easing their dependence on freshwater sources and reducing overall environmental damage.



"Additionally, the developed system offers a sustainable pathway of safeguarding local lakes and drainage systems from chemical contamination," Dutta said. As a pilot project, the research team tested the developed system at NIT Rourkela's own Dhobi ghat which produces approximately 1400 litres of detergent-rich wastewater daily. The developed system successfully removed surfactants and chemical oxygen demand (COD) to levels of permissible limits specified by the Bureau of Indian Standards. The system consists of two cylindrical constructed wetland units integrated with a microbial fuel cell. Each unit is filled with layers of differently sized gravel, followed by sand and soil. A layer of graphite chunks is placed at the bottom between the gravel layers to function as the anode, while another layer of graphite chunks at the top serves as the cathode. "The wastewater from Dhobi ghat is collected and pumped to an overhead tank which is connected to the developed systems. The wastewater then gets processed and treated resulting in an odourless and colorless water that can be reused for washing purposes," Dutta explained.

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

Subject: Appointment of Assistant Professor, (BBA) in the Higher Education Department.

Ref'nce: Letter No. PSC/DR-HE/AP-BBA/2023 dated 04-06-2025 (Recommendations) from the Secretary, J&K Public Service Commission.

Government Order No: 473 -JK(HE) of 2025.
Dated: 11 -12-2025

As recommended by the J&K Public Service Commission, sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of **Mr. Bilal Farooq S/o Mohammad Farooq Chachi R/o 28-A Khanpora, Satkohijan Zachaldara**, under ST Category as Assistant Professor, (BBA) on Regular Temporary basis in the Pay Band of Rs. 15600-39100 with AGP of Rs.6000/- (Pre- revised) Academic Level-10 with Pay Structure of Rs.57700/- in the Higher Education Department, with immediate effect.

The above mentioned candidate shall report to the Nodal Principal, Government College of Education, Srinagar within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of this order failing which his appointment shall be deemed to have been cancelled without any notice.

The appointment of candidate shall be subject to the following conditions :-

- The appointee will be on probation for a period of two years from the date of joining.
- The appointment of the candidate shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as per SRO-400 of 2009 dated 24-12-2009.
- The appointee shall, at the time of joining, produce the following testimonials in original which will be verified by the concerned Principal:-
 - Domicile Certificate.
 - Date of Birth Certificate.
 - Qualification and Marks Certificate i.e. NET/SLET/Ph.D. etc and Marks cards/Degrees.
 - Category certificate as may be applicable to the appointee.
 - Health and Medical Certificate.
 - Any other certificate as required under law.

The salary of the appointee shall be drawn and disbursed only after the receipt of the satisfactory report in respect of genuineness of the Qualification/Date of Birth/Relevant Category Certificate and subject to production of an Affidavit as per Annexure-A to this order.

The inter-se-seniority of the candidate shall be determined in terms of the J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1956.

The appointment of the candidate shall remain provisional till such time the certificates are got verified by the concerned Principal and are found to be in order. In case any certificate is found to be fake, inadequate or not consistent with the eligibility requirements, the appointment of the candidate shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio.

The appointment of the candidate shall be subject to outcome of Writ Petition(s), if any, pending before any competent Court of law on the subject.

By order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sd/-
(Shantmanu)IAS
Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary)

No. HED-GAZ/205/2025-04 (7656180) Dated: 11 -12-2025.

Annexure-A to Government Order No: 473 -JK(HE) of 2025.
Dated: 11 -12-2025

AFFIDAVIT

I, _____ S/o, D/o _____ R/o _____ do hereby solemnly declare on oath that:

(a) My name has been recommended by the J&K Public Service Commission for appointment as Assistant Professor _____ in the Higher Education Department.

(b) I understand that the verification report in respect of the Qualification/Date of Birth/Reserved category certificate has not been furnished by the concerned verifying agency in my case.

I, therefore, undertake that in the event of permitting me to join, pending receipt of the verification report in respect of the Qualification/Date of Birth/Reserved category certificate, I shall have no claim for the post in the event of my being adversely reported upon by the verifying agency found not to be genuine.

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

The contents of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed therein.

DIPK-8935/25

dated: 12-12-2025

DEPONENT

DR. SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE SUPERSPECIALITY HOSPITAL
(ESTABLISHED AS A SECTION 8 COMPANY UNDER THE AEGIS OF DR. SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES & RESEARCH FORUM)
Regd. Off. : BALARAMPUR, IIT KHARAGPUR CAMPUS
PASCIM MEDINIPUR, WB - 721301

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Superspeciality Hospital invites **Online Applications** from Indian Nationals for the following 'Full-Time' contractual positions -

Advt. No.	Posts
R/13/2025 dt. 14.11.2025	(i) Consultant / Senior Registrar (ii) Junior Registrar
R/15/2025 dt. 21.11.2025	Medical Superintendent

Last Date of online application: 24-12-2025

For details, visit: <http://www.iitkqp.ac.in/non-teaching-positions>

cbc21255/12/0017/2526 **निदेशक / Director**

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the District Sheep Husbandry Officer Shopian Email: - dshoshopian-shdk.gov.in Technical Section

Subject: Invitation of applications for establishment of sheep units under PM-JUGA scheme for the year 2025-26.

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications on a prescribed format are invited from interested and eligible candidates of District Shopian from villages having a population of 500 or more and with at least 50% Schedule Tribe population for the establishment of sheep units for the below components of the PM-JUGA scheme.

Scheme	Component	Description
PM-JUGA	Establishment of 10 ewes/does + 1 ram/buck unit.	Subsidy from the Central Government will be provided upto 90% of the project with a ceiling of Rs. 1.00 lacs for 10+1 unit and 0.50 lacs for 5+1 unit. The subsidy shall be provided for procurement of animals, construction of night shelter, cost of feed for six months, veterinary care and insurance coverage for one year.
	Establishment of 05 ewes/does + 1 ram/buck unit.	

Eligibility:

- Scheduled Tribe residents of villages from District Shopian having a population of 500 or more and with at least 50% Schedule Tribe population.
- The applicant must have obtained Patta as per Forest Right Act (FRA).
- The applicant should have taken training for goat and sheep rearing.
- The applicant should be able to provide 10% of his or her share towards the project.

IMPORTANT DATES: -

- Date of commencement of the issuance of application forms: 15-12-2025.
- Last date for submission of applications: 30-12-2025.

HOW TO APPLY: -

The application forms can be received and submitted back complete in all respects along with relevant documents on all working days during office hours at the office of the Sheep and Wool Development Officer Shirmal Shopian.

Documents to be submitted: - Prescribed application form along with xerox copies of Domicile Certificate, Patta as per FRA, ST certificate, Aadhar Card & Ration Card.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE SCHEME:

- The age of applicant must be above 18 years and below 55 years as on 01-01-2025.
- Beneficiary family (as per the ration card) that has already availed the benefits of any of the schemes of SHD once shall not be entitled to the benefit again.
- More than one application shall not be entertained from the same household.
- Selection of the beneficiaries shall be carried by the Designated Selection Committee.

No: - DSHOS/Tech/2025-26/2341-80
Dated: - 12-12-2025

DIPK-8931/25
dated: 12-12-2025

(Dr. Tariq Ahmad Malik)
District Sheep Husbandry Officer,
Shopian

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
Public Notice..

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Ifrah Jan D/o Muzafar Ahmad Malik R/o Dowlatpora Kreeri with verified date of birth 04/04/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
Sd
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name & dob of my ward has been wrongly written in her adhaar card as Nazia Akhter D/o Mohammad Yousuf Gauri & DOB : 04-02-2010 instead of her correct name Nazia Yousuf D/o Mohammad Yousuf Gorsi & DOB: 04-2-2014 . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained..

Mohammad Yousuf Gorsi
F/o Nazia Yousuf
R/O borihallan Bala Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Bibi, intend to change my name in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8842 4082 5123 from Beeba Begum (old name) to Bibi (new name).
If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the concerned centre within seven days of issuance of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

jvd

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his/ her adhaar card as Aadina Tareek instead of Malik Aadina Tariq . 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..

Tariq Ahmad Malik
F/o Malik Aadina Tariq
R/o Nerwani Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I sold my i20 Sports car, Regd number JK01AK 8157, on January 16, 2023. The buyer was told to clear the bank loan and transfer the car. He later sold the car to another person. The current user has cleared the loan balance, but the bank had already deducted several installments from my account. He has not repaid these amounts. The car is still in my name and I have not given any power of attorney.

I warn the public not to buy this car until my outstanding amount is cleared. Anyone who purchases it will be responsible for any dispute.
Mohd Akbar Dar S/o Mohd Sultan Dar
Audoora Mawar Kupwara
Phone 9906183786

fko

از نیابت گوئیگام با اجلاس نذیر احمد لون نائب تحصیلدار گوئیگام تحصیل کوارہامہ
اشہار برادر اگاہی ہر خاص و عام نسبت اجرائی ڈیپنڈنٹ سرٹیفکیٹ
معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخواست سائل علی محمد ذار ولد نظام احمد ذار ساکن گوئیگام تحصیل کوارہامہ بارہمولہ
کے طرف سے پیش ہوئی ہے جس میں علی محمد ذار ایک ڈیپنڈنٹ آفس حردہ اوردہ کے اجراء کردہ دستہ
سرٹیفکیٹ کے مطابق علی محمد ذار کو مذکور کا پھر علی محمد ذار موروثہ 05-08-2025 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے متوفی
سرکاری ملازم تھا متوفی کے ہمسرہ گان بڑیل ہے۔

علی محمد ذار	60 سال	والد متوفی	زمینداری
فہمیدہ بیگم	50 سال	والدہ۔۔	آنگن واڈی ورکر
شاہد بیگ	36 سال	بردر	پروانٹ جاب
عائشہ علی	28 سال	۔۔	سے روزگار
طابہ علی	24 سال	۔۔	زیر تعلیم
مسماہ زہرہ دانی	30 سال	زوجہ	سرکاری ملازم
عائشہ بنت عمر	03 سال	دختر	کس

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کہ نہیں ہے مندرجہ بالا افراد کنڈ متوفی پر ہی ڈیپنڈنٹ تھے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء
کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ ہو تو وہ دفتر سدا میں اندر سات پیم پیش کریں بعد معیا نکر کوئی
اعتراض وغیرہ قبول نہ ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار fko



Food Safety Dept Conducts Raids in City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Food Safety Department carried out raids at several locations in Srinagar on Friday following allegations of adulterated eggs being circulated in the markets. Officials said clarity will come only after laboratory results are received, yet the episode has once again revived criticism about the department's inability to detect adulterated food on its own.

The public mood across Valley points to a growing perception that the department remains passive until a complaint, viral video or public outrage forces it to act. Recent cases of rotten meat, suspected adulterated eggs, and poor-quality food items have reinforced the belief that routine surveillance is missing and enforcement mechanisms remain largely reactive.

According to the Food Safety and Standards Act

2006 and the Rules of 2011, the department is required to ensure safe and wholesome food for the public by conducting regular inspections, lifting samples of all categories of food items for analytical examination and initiating legal action against violators. Traders and consumers told KNT that these responsibilities appear to be carried out only in isolated bursts rather than through consistent year round vigilance.

Officials maintained that samples of the suspected eggs have been sent for analysis and further action will depend on the findings. However, people argue that the department must widen its monitoring network and ensure that contaminated or substandard food items are not allowed to enter the market in the first place. Consumers said they expect proactive oversight rather than raids triggered by social media alarms or public complaints.

Dir SEK Reviews Srinagar's Educational Status

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Director School Education Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani on Friday chaired an important review meeting in Srinagar to assess the overall educational status of the district.

The meeting was attended by Personnel Officer Dr. Iqbal Hussain Mir, Joint Director, Muhammad Mushtaq, Chief Education Officer Srinagar, Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Bhat and all Zonal Education Officers of the district.

During the meeting, the CEO presented a detailed briefing on the ongoing activities, administrative functioning and the progress of various educational initiatives across the district.

While addressing the officers, the Director laid special emphasis on strengthening foundational learning of students.

He said that primary education is the backbone of our entire academic system.

"If we build strong foundations in the early grades, the outcomes at higher levels will automatically improve", he remarked.

Wani further urged the officers to thoroughly review all preparations for the upcoming academic session and submit complete details to the Directorate through concerned Chief Education Officers.



A houseboat rests along the exposed, drying stretch of the Jhelum River as the prolonged dry spell continues. KO Photo Sameer Hussain

Prolonged Dry Spell City's Water Supply Holds Steady, JS Dept Flags Potential Shortages

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With a prolonged dry spell tightening its grip over Kashmir, the Jal Shakti Department on Friday said normal water supply is being maintained across Srinagar city through its major treatment plants.

However, officials also warned that if the dry weather continues, it could soon trigger shortages in rural and tail-end areas where natural water sources are already showing signs of decline.

Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Kashmir, Er Rakesh Kumar Gupta, told KNO that the department's Nishat, Rangeel, Sukhnag, and Ganderbal treatment plants are currently operating at a combined capacity of 92 million gallons per day (MGD), ensuring a stable supply across urban zones.

"Due to the dry spell, there has

It is anticipated that there may be a shortage. In the tail-end areas, there may be a problem in water supply,"

may be a shortage. In the tail-end areas, there may be a problem in water supply," he said, adding that water tankers have been arranged to meet demand in affected pockets.

Er Gupta further said the department is taking measures to conserve water at its sources, particularly in districts suffering from "a 40-59% rainfall deficit".

"We are trying to conserve water through earthen bunds and stone pitching to preserve available resources until rainfall occurs and our ground water gets recharged," he said.

Moreover, appealing for public cooperation, the Chief Engineer urged residents to use water judiciously. "We will try our best to provide a normal water supply, but people should not waste water during the dry spell. Use treated water only for drinking and not for other purposes," he said.



The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Impaired Assets Recovery Branch
Corporate Headquarters
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POSSESSION NOTICE

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 03.10.2024 thereby calling upon the Borrower/s namely M/s The Evergreen Traders through its Proprietor 1) Mr.Jehangir Gulzar Bhat (Borrower) S/o Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/o Main Chowk Buchpora, Srinagar Kashmir 2) Ghulam Mohammad Bhat S/o Late Abdul Khaliq Bhat R/o Main Chowk Buchpora Srinagar Kashmir (Mortgagor Cum Guarantor) 3) Mr.Khalid Gulzar Bhat S/o Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/o Main Chowk Buchpora, Srinagar Kashmir (Guarantor) 4) Mr.Tariq Ahmad Bhat S/o Late Abdul Khaliq Bhat R/o Main Chowk Buchpora Srinagar Kashmir (Guarantor) to repay an amount of Rs.3,55,71,433.14 (Rupees Three Crore Fifty Five Lakhs Seventy One Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Three And Paisa Fourteen only)being the balance outstanding as on 30.09.2024in the loan accounts of the Borrowers, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken Physical Possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on, this the 11th day of December 2025

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs.4,24,18,550.45 (Rupees Four Crore Twenty Four Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred Fifty and Paisa Forty Five only)togetherwith future interest thereon from 01.12.2025and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The Borrower's/Guarantor's/Mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY

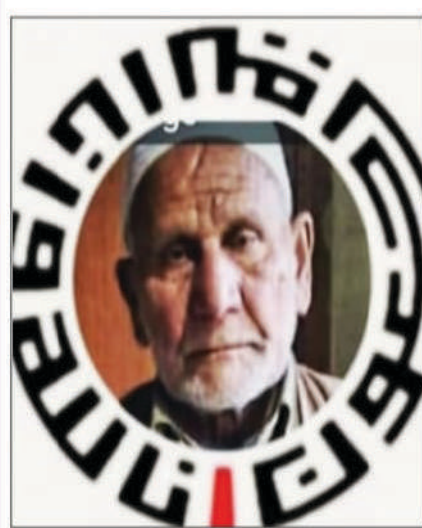
Land measuring 04 Kanals along with factory shed/building falling under Khasra No 24 min.khata No 72,Khwat No 30 in Mouza Devipora Zakura Tehsil Eidgha District Srinagar in the name of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat S/o Late Abdul Khaliq Bhat R/o Main Buchpora Srinagar.

Place:- Srinagar

Dated:- 11.12.2025

Authorised Officer

ذاکر اہلیت، خادم دین مبین، مرحوم اسد اللہ صوفی ساکنہ صوفی پورہ ماگام کے انتقال پر
ادارہ اوقاف کمیٹی وادی محلہ ہارون سرینگر کی جانب سے اظہار تعزیت و تسلیت



ادارہ اوقاف کمیٹی وادی محلہ ہارون سرینگر کی جانب سے
وادی کشمیر کے معروف ذاکر اہلیت، خادم دین مبین
مرحوم اسد اللہ صوفی ساکنہ صوفی پورہ ماگام کشمیر کے انتقال
پر دلی تعزیت و افسوس کا اظہار کیا جاتا ہے۔ مرحوم قوم کا
قیقی سرمایہ تھے، جنہوں نے پوری زندگی ذکر و تحسین، ترویج
دین اور محبت اہلیت میں وقت کی۔ مرحوم نے 20 سال
سے زیادہ ہارون علاقے میں بطور ذاکر اہلیت خدمت
کی اور مرحوم کی خدمت کو ہمیشہ ہارون علاقے کے لوگ
یاد رکھیں گے۔ ادارہ اوقاف کمیٹی وادی محلہ ہارون سرینگر

اس سانحہ کو قوم و ملت کا بڑا نقصان سمجھتی ہے۔ مرحوم کے فرزند ان، پسماندگان، خانوادہ صوفی، اہل صوفی پورہ ماگام
کشمیر کی خدمت میں دلی تعزیت و تسلیت پیش کرتے ہیں۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کے درجات بلند فرمائے۔ آمین جوار
محمد و آل محمد میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا کرے اور لواحقین کو صبر جمیل و اجر عظیم سے نوازے۔

شریک غم ادارہ اوقاف کمیٹی وادی محلہ ہارون سرینگر

کاوپورہ کے منظور احمد ڈار کا انتقال



یہ خبر انتہائی افسوس اور دکھ ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ منظور احمد ڈار، ولد
غلام رسول ڈار کا واپورہ سرائے ڈانگر پورہ 11 دسمبر 2025 شپ
جمعہ مختصر غلات کے بعد اس دار فانی سے کوچ کر گئے۔ مرحوم پاور
ڈیولپمنٹ ڈیپارٹمنٹ میں کئی برسوں سے اپنے فرائض انجام دے
رہے تھے۔ مرحوم کا رستم چہارم 15 دسمبر 2025 بروز سوموار
کا واپورہ سرائے ڈانگر پورہ میں انجام دیا جائے گا۔

بذریعہ: سرفراز حسین ملہ (شادی پورہ)

سگوگواران: فرہاد منظور

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



AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
21 Jumada al-Sani
1447

PRAYERS

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

This Day In History

- 1266- Rebels holed up inside Kenilworth Castle surrender after 172 days to Henry III, ending one of the longest sieges in medieval English history
- 1294 - Saint Celestine V abdicates the papacy after only five months; Celestine hoped to return to his previous life as an ascetic hermit.
- 1545 - Council of Trent (19th ecumenical council) opened by Pope Paul III
- 1570 - Sweden and Denmark signs Peace of Stettin
- 1572 - Spanish army beats Geuzen fleet (confederacy of Calvinist Dutch nobles) under admiral Lumey
- 1577 - Sir Francis Drake sets sail from England on a circumnavigation of the world
- 1643 - English Civil War: The Battle of Alton takes place in Hampshire.
- 1668 - Jean Racine's "Britannicus" premieres in Paris.
- 1734 - Britain & Russia sign trade agreement
- 1861 - Battle of Alleghany Summit, WV
- 1862 - Battle of Fredericksburg, VA (Marye's Heights)
- 1864 - Battle of Ft McAllister, GA
- 1916 - Avalanche kills 10,000 Austrian & Italian troops in 24 hrs in Tyrol.
- 1918 - US army of occupation crosses Rhine, enters Germany.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my driving licence bearing DL no : JK01 19860039608 GH MOHI UD DIN HAJJAM. S/o GH QADIR HAJJAM. My correct name as per aadhaar card is GHULAM MOHI UD DIN HAJJAM S/o GHULAM QADIR HAJJAM. 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 office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

GHULAM MOHI UD DIN HAJJAM
S/o GHULAM QADIR HAJJAM
R/o Soiteng Lasjan Srinagar.

iko

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class-10th) under Roll No.: 127075005 Session: Annual Regular Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/Board/parent against my Mother's name as Poshha Begum instead of Gulshana Begum

Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Aabid Shafi
S/o Mohammad Shafi Magray
Mother's Name: Gulshana Begum
R/o Maidan Chogal

ir

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ



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

مرحوم نہایت نیکسیرت، خوش اخلاق، منسلک اور پابندِ وصالت تھے۔ انہوں نے پوری زندگی سادگی، تقویٰ اور خلوص کی ساتھ بسر کی۔ اللہ عزوجل مرحوم کی کامل مغفرت فرمائے، انہیں اپنے جوار رحمت میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا کرے اور وگواران کو صبر جمیل و اجر عظیم سے نوازے۔ آمین بار بالعالَمین۔

اطلاع برائے فاتحہ خوانی

مرحوم کی فاتحہ خوانی بروز سوموار 15 دسمبر 2025ء صبح 8 بجے مرحوم کی آبائی مقبرہ چمکھدرہ، حضرت بل سرینگر میں ادا کی جائے گی۔ بعد ازاں مرحوم کے گھر پر پورے دن قرآن خوانی، دعا و مجالس ایصالِ ثواب جاری رہیں گی۔ تمام عزیز و اقارب احباب اور اہل محلہ سے مؤبانہ گزارش ہے کہ مرحوم کے لیے دعاے 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 و پیراد محمد افضل آخون

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KO VIEW

Old Sound Returns

The rabab is finding its way back into Kashmiri life, thanks to young people who never saw it play a central role while growing up.

Its return began in small, everyday moments: someone strumming it by the river after class, a few friends listening in a café, a student bringing it to a college event and catching everyone off guard.

These scenes seem light and fleeting, though they mark a clear shift in how Kashmir relates to its own cultural past.

The music instrument once shaped weddings, winter evenings and neighbourhood gatherings in Kashmir. It filled homes with warmth and carried stories passed down for generations.

With time, modern sound systems took over public life. Craftsmen who built and repaired rababs struggled for work, and the instrument ended up stored away, wrapped in cloth and slowly forgotten.

The revival started when a small group of young Kashmiris decided to learn the instrument. They looked for teachers and often found only a few still playing with confidence.

Students were encouraged to listen to their surroundings because an instrument grows stronger when it pays attention to the world around it.

Phones helped push this revival into public view. Short videos of someone practising during snowfall or playing in a dim hostel corridor travelled quickly. These clips paused the endless scroll and held attention for a few seconds that felt grounding.

The response encouraged more players to experiment and share. Traditional tunes blended naturally with modern sounds, creating music that reached listeners who had never heard the rabab before.

This shift reveals something about Kashmir's cultural mood. The rabab is returning through personal longing rather than organised preservation.

Many young players use it to slow down in a life of highs and lows. The rabab anchors them to memory and steadiness.

The rabab brings patience to a time shaped by speed. Its return shows a desire to hold on to what still carries meaning. Kashmir seems ready to hear that sound again.

What “Pagal” Does to Us

A doctor's view from inside Kashmir's strained mental-health system, and why one word stands in the way of healing.

Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili

Language in Kashmir carries everything we've lived through: loss, laughter, love, fear, and endurance.

But hidden in our everyday speech is one word we toss around without thinking, even though it can wound deeply.

That word is “pagal.”

It echoes in markets when a shopkeeper scolds an apprentice. It appears in classrooms when children repeat what they hear at home. It surfaces at kitchen tables when a parent talks about a child who has become withdrawn.

Every time it is used, it turns someone's struggle into an insult.

“Pagal” does not describe an illness. It judges. It reaches a man carrying years of trauma, and a student struggling under pressure.

The word flattens every form of emotional pain into one dismissive category. It tells a person their struggle is unreal, unimportant, and undeserving of care.

Modern medicine gives names to these conditions, and each, including depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and PTSD, has clear symptoms and treatments. The brain reacts to stress and imbalance the way any organ does.

So, when someone fighting depression cannot get out of bed, families often label them “pagal.”

This difference in understanding reveals how deeply stigma has settled into our social life.

Kashmir has lived through experiences that would shake anyone. Families have carried loss, uncertainty, unemployment, fear and loneliness for years.

Many try to survive by staying composed. Men hear they must stay strong. Women are told they must stay patient. Children grow up thinking they must hide their feelings.

These habits turn vulnerability into something shameful.

In many homes, mental illness is explained through faith or personal weakness. Depression is called weak faith. Panic attacks are called exaggeration. Schizophrenia is confused with possession. And trauma is dismissed as unnecessary thinking.

These explanations spread because people rarely speak about the brain,



Kashmir has carried enough suffering. “Pagal” adds more damage than many realise. It pushes people away from treatment and away from each other. Changing one word may not solve everything, but it can change how someone feels about themselves. It can make them feel human again.

trauma responses or chemical imbalance. For many families, using the word “pagal” feels easier than facing confusion or fear.

This stigma forces people into silence. The fear of that word alone keeps many from going to a doctor even when life feels unbearable. Some avoid sharing anything with their parents or siblings because they worry about gossip or how it might affect marriage prospects. Others start believing they are indeed broken or worthless.

I have met patients who suffered for years before walking into a clinic. They were not afraid of illness. They were afraid of judgment.

Mental health services in Kashmir work under heavy demand. Professionals try their best, but myths about medicines remain.

Many believe tablets will make them dull or dependent. Families hope symptoms will fade on their own. Early signs like sleeplessness, withdrawal, panic or sudden behaviour changes often pass without attention.

People try to carry on because ac-

knowledging distress feels risky.

Studies over the years have shown high levels of anxiety, depression and trauma in the valley. Long-term stress and limited opportunities add to the load. People carry these burdens while running households, raising children, or trying to earn a living.

A society with so much pain should naturally understand mental health. Instead, the fear of labels keeps support out of reach. The language we use keeps stigma alive.

When we remove “pagal” from our conversations, we make room for compassion.

A person who says they feel lost or overwhelmed needs comfort rather than humiliation. Words can open a path toward help or shut it down completely.

When a friend says they are struggling, kindness becomes medicine. When a child withdraws, attention can guide them back. And when a neighbour behaves strangely, empathy can prevent a crisis.

Homes, schools and workplaces can all make a difference. A family that listens becomes a safe space. A classroom where students learn about emotions builds resilience. A workplace that encourages counselling makes healing possible.

Hospitals can expand services, but progress depends on how people treat one another outside those walls.

Kashmir has carried enough suffering. “Pagal” adds more damage than many realise. It pushes people away from treatment and away from each other.

Changing one word may not solve everything, but it can change how someone feels about themselves. It can make them feel human again.

Simple sentences can change a life: “You matter.” “You’re going through something hard.” “I’m here for you.”

These are small acts of care, but they can hold someone steady during a difficult moment.

The valley is full of stories shaped by struggle and hope. Let the next chapter be shaped by compassion.

Retiring “pagal” is a step toward a Kashmir where every person feels safe to ask for help and safe to be understood.

The author is a medical doctor, counsellor and columnist. He can be reached at drfiazfazili@gmail.com.

Kashmir's old traders liked to say that a good business begins long before the first sale.

It begins with patience, with a certain way of seeing the world, with the type of confidence that grows when families work with their hands and build something that lasts.

In the old quarters of Srinagar, that belief shaped entire neighbourhoods. Merchants studied wool at dawn, ran karkhanas through the day and checked accounts by night.

Artisans leaned over looms for hours, gently pressing colour into threads that would travel far beyond the valley.

A visitor could walk from Zaina Kadal to Khanyar and feel that the place breathed through its workshops.

Elders who grew up in that landscape describe a simple truth: Kashmir once thought like a business powerhouse.

Families who dealt in Pashmina, carpets, walnut woodwork and papier-mâché operated with the assurance of seasoned traders. They built export houses that survived on discipline rather than luck.

Anyone who has listened to their stories hears a pride that carries the weight of experience.

These families were early globalisers long before the word existed.

Many compare this drive to the Marwari business tradition of Rajasthan. Their story began in a desert where the land offered very little, pushing entire communities toward enterprise.

Generations learned to trust numbers, save carefully and take calculated risks. Children observed adults negotiate with the clarity of people who had no other safety net.

The world opened for them because they moved toward it, whether through railway towns a century ago or digital markets today.

Old Kashmir matched that ambition in its own way.

Exporters understood their craft down to the last thread and knot. They followed changing tastes in Paris, Dubai and London, and packed their shipments with the confidence of people who knew the world expected something special from them. They placed value on trust, sometimes above profit. A promise made in a karkhana carried the weight of a formal contract. Buyers returned because they never wondered whether a shipment would arrive.

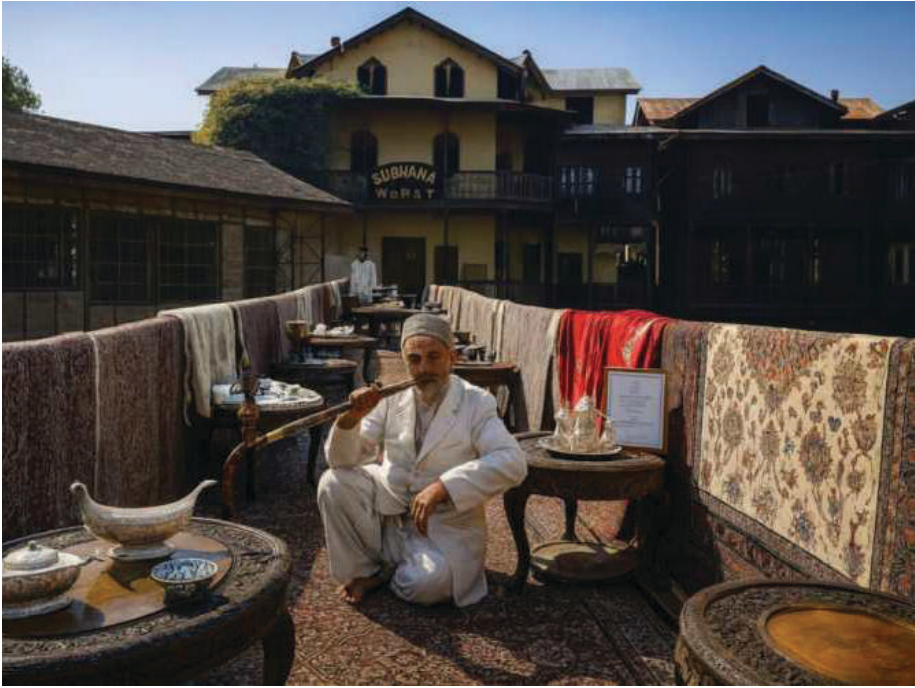
The scale was immense for a small valley. Thousands of looms hummed in homes and workshops. Tens of thousands of families depended on these networks.

The memory of that world survives in stories

Ancestors Who Made Markets

Kashmir's business traditions once matched some of India's strongest families. Young entrepreneurs can revive that legacy with discipline and belief.

Irshad Mushtaq



told over evening tea: an uncle who travelled with samples to Delhi, a cousin who spoke with foreign buyers on crackling phone lines, a grandfather who saved every extra rupee to buy more wool and build a larger unit for the next season.

Time, however, has its own plans.

Political disruption, curfews and long closures made trade unpredictable. Transport stalled, taxes rose, and margins squeezed. Machine-made copies flooded markets abroad, reducing the worth of genuine handicrafts.

Researchers tracking the sector have noted falling export numbers, shrinking wages and a steep drop in young artisans entering the field.

Many grew up watching their fathers work long, exhausting hours without the stability needed to raise a family. Some decided the struggle was too heavy to inherit.

Families that once reinvested in karkhanas shifted toward safer, shorter routes: shop-to-shop trading, small commissions, land purchases that protect wealth but do not create

new ventures.

Confidence suffered, ambition softened, and the result is visible in shuttered workshops, unsold inventory and skilled hands drifting toward other work.

During this period, Marwari business groups moved in a different direction. Their strength lay in steady adaptation.

When grain lost its charm, they entered textiles. When textiles struggled, they built factories for steel, cement and chemicals. Later, they

Kashmir's business spirit is not gone. It waits for a generation willing to build patiently, stay honest, use technology wisely, and reinvest with care. Our ancestors proved that real prosperity grows when skill, effort, and values move together.

opened offices for finance, retail and tech.

The movement was constant. Every generation trained the next by bringing children early into shops and offices, letting them learn through practice long before they studied in business schools.

Their courage came from a belief that distance does not weaken roots. They were willing to build wherever opportunity opened.

There is a lesson here for Kashmiri youth who often hear that business is risky or that the valley offers no space for big dreams.

History shows the opposite. The tools are different today, but the ground is not empty. A craft seller can show work on Instagram instead of waiting for a trade fair. A tour operator can build trust through honest reviews. A woodworker can upload catalogues, take digital payments and ship through reliable logistics networks.

The old barriers that once trapped people inside the valley have thinned.

But success still rests on the old values: skill that earns respect, honesty that keeps customers, clear accounts that prevent chaos, children learning from real work, and treating business as a craft instead of gamble.

Conversations with today's young traders show a hunger for direction. Many want to build, but worry about instability. Some wish to sell globally, but feel unsure where to begin.

Their questions echo those of earlier generations, although the terrain is more open now.

Technology opens the market, but it can't build the foundation. Trust, quality, and discipline still hold the weight.

A valley that once powered global trade can find that energy again. Evidence of this revival appears in small pockets: a young designer who collaborates with weavers, a tech graduate who markets local art abroad, a family that revives a dormant karkhana using modern systems.

These are early signs, small sparks waiting for larger winds.

Kashmir's business spirit is not gone. It waits for a generation willing to build patiently, stay honest, use technology wisely, and reinvest with care.

Our ancestors proved that real prosperity grows when skill, effort, and values move together.

A small valley once sent its craft and courage to the world. It can do so again. The question is whether today's generation will rise to that challenge.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

From Sweden with Love for Kashmir

A Kashmiri mother in Stockholm documents daily life, inspiring reflection on culture, heritage, and social responsibility.

Peerzada Mohsin Shafi

In her kitchen in Stockholm, Nehabiho watches her children scramble to finish breakfast. Their laughter bounces off the walls, filling the sunlit room.

She calls out to them in Kashmiri: “Naeer gass khudayas Hawaal.”

The words, ordinary in their daily life, carry the spirit of a homeland thousands of miles away.

These simple phrases have become rare in a valley where English and Urdu dominate.

But here, in her Swedish home, Kashmiri lives in full voice.

Nehabiho, the woman behind the Instagram handle @nehabiho, has built a space that is both intimate and expansive.

Born in Kashmir, she now lives with her husband and two children in Sweden. Her content is neither flashy nor trend-driven. Instead, it thrives on authenticity, simplicity, and a deep connection to her roots.

Every post is an invitation: to pause, reflect, and consider how life in Kashmir and Sweden intersect, contrast, and inform one another.

Her videos capture small, ordinary moments that feel extraordinary because of the thought she invests in them.

Children's laughter, family rituals, and walks through Swedish parks carry larger meaning.

Kashmir lives in her voice, in the traditions she maintains, and in the language she speaks at home.

Unlike many Kashmiris who hesitate or avoid speaking their mother tongue, Nehabiho's choice to speak Kashmiri is an act of defiance.

It is a form of preservation, storytelling, and cultural assertion. She shows that language is not only a way to communicate but a vessel for identity, memory, and pride.

Education forms a recurring theme in her reflections.

Swedish schools, she observes, focus on child-centric learning, fos-



NEHABIHO'S REFLECTIONS EXTEND TO PUBLIC SPACES AND TOURISM. She films well-maintained Swedish parks and villages, pointing out how planning and care elevate even simple spaces. She contrasts this with Kashmir's untapped tourism potential, where natural beauty remains underdeveloped and infrastructure is sparse.

tering creativity, exploration, and emotional growth. Homework exists, but it is balanced with play and curiosity.

Kashmir's system, by contrast, often emphasizes rote memorization, heavy workloads, and peer pressure.

Through her videos, Nehabiho prompts parents and educators to reconsider the emotional well-being of children and the long-term impact of the ways they are taught.

Beyond schools, Nehabiho notices the subtler aspects of daily life.

She highlights the orderliness of Swedish public spaces, the care people take in maintaining cleanli-

ness, and the sense of responsibility toward the environment.

In one video about garbage disposal, she draws a clear contrast with the state of streets and public areas in parts of Kashmir.

Her point is not to scold but to inspire reflection, showing how small habits can contribute to a more harmonious and organized community.

Healthcare receives similar attention. In a video about child vaccinations, she shows Swedish nurses kneeling to comfort children, offering reassurance before administering shots.

The scene emphasizes compassion as part of care, something that often feels absent in the hurried, impersonal clinics she remembers in Kashmir.

Through these observations, Nehabiho suggests that empathy and kindness are as essential to medical care as the clinical process itself.

Her commitment to Kashmiri traditions is present in every aspect of her life. The morning farewell to her children, expressed in a traditional phrase, is a small ritual that keeps her culture alive.

These moments are active preservation. They remind viewers, especially in Kashmir, that heritage is sustained through practice.

Nehabiho's reflections extend to public spaces and tourism. She films well-maintained Swedish parks and villages, pointing out how planning and care elevate even simple spaces.

She contrasts this with Kashmir's untapped tourism potential, where natural beauty remains underdeveloped and infrastructure is sparse.

Her observations encourage a collective effort to improve cleanliness, infrastructure, and sustainability.

These small steps could transform the valley's economy and global image.



NEHABIHO SHOWS THAT SMALL ACTS LIKE PRESERVING CULTURE, CARING FOR OTHERS, AND SPEAKING KASHMIRI CAN CREATE A LASTING IMPACT. Her life and videos connect Sweden and Kashmir, reminding us that identity travels with us. In these everyday choices, she keeps the spirit of Kashmir alive, even across oceans.

Nehabiho shows that small acts like preserving culture, caring for others, and speaking Kashmiri can create a lasting impact.

Her life and videos connect Sweden and Kashmir, reminding us that identity travels with us.

In these everyday choices, she keeps the spirit of Kashmir alive, even across oceans.

— The author is an infrastructure columnist and researcher from Anantnag who writes about social issues, culture, and community life in Kashmir.

An Evening with Javed Akhtar

At a global arts festival in Dubai, a chance invitation transforms an ordinary night into a memory carved in sweetness and cinema.

Seema Sangra

On a crisp winter evening in Dubai, the Tahibib Festival at the India Club brought the city alive with poetry, art, and a global celebration of creativity.

Day two of the festival brought together filmmakers, writers, scholars, psychologists, sportspeople, musicians, painters, and performers from around the world.

But for most of us, the main attraction was Javed Akhtar's appearance at the mushaira.

As a devoted admirer, missing it was simply not an option.

The event began with performances by local singers, followed by a special set from Audis Band, a group of visually and physically challenged musicians from Mumbai.

The soulful qawwali by the Sabir Brothers further set the mood, leading up to the grand finale of the day, the mushaira.

The audience buzzed with anticipation, all eyes waiting for Mr. Akhtar to take the stage.

When the anchor finally announced his name and he walked onto the stage, the moment felt electric.

He recited exquisite, carefully chosen poems and shared intimate, captivating stories.

For the South Asian audience, it was pure enchantment, a collective spell woven by his words.

By the time the event ended and I stepped out of the venue, it was already quite late. I was tired, hungry, and ready to head straight home when my phone buzzed.

It was a message from a friend who was part of the festival's core organising team.

The text was simple, almost casual: “Would you like to join us for dinner with Javed Sahib?”

The urge to go home vanished in an instant, replaced by something far more thrilling.

I followed the location pin to Nassimi Café, a charming place with warm, understated elegance that makes you feel both at ease and a little privileged.

Eight or nine people were already seated. The air was thick with anticipation. We waited in that particular kind of silence that arrives just before something meaningful begins.

Finally, he walked in. Mr. Akhtar,



DO YOU KNOW THAT ZOYA'S FILMS DON'T HAVE VILLAINS?" HE SAID. “Take Kamal Mehra, played by Anil Kapoor. Even he isn't an antagonist. He is like many of us, arrogant and flawed, but not someone trying to hurt anyone. That's unusual in cinema, where we're conditioned to expect clear villains.” I paused, letting that sink in. He was right. The more I thought about it, the more obvious it seemed. All I could do was nod in full agreement.

with that signature contemplative expression. Greetings were exchanged, an immediate warmth filling the space.

Soon the table was laden with classic Arabic starters, a lavish spread of warm pita bread, bowls of creamy

hummus, and the smoky depth of Baba Ghanoush.

And just like that, the conversation drifted to food.

He began with a simple question: “Do you like sweets?” Before any of us could answer, he added, “Remember,

a person who loves sweets is a good person. If you see someone enjoying rasgullas or gulab jamun, it means they still carry the innocence of childhood.”

I must have shown a hint of skepticism, because he immediately offered

a small test. “If you offer a child a salty snack or a piece of candy, what will they choose?”

“Candy,” we replied in unison.

The topic of food lasted for a while, but sitting with Javed Akhtar and not drifting toward cinema felt impossible.

I confessed my admiration for his daughter Zoya Akhtar's films, admitting, somewhat sheepishly, how many times I had watched Dil Dhadakne Do.

He smiled, accepting the compliment with ease, and then offered an insight that felt both simple and profound.

“Do you know that Zoya's films don't have villains?” he said. “Take Kamal Mehra, played by Anil Kapoor. Even he isn't an antagonist. He is like many of us, arrogant and flawed, but not someone trying to hurt anyone. That's unusual in cinema, where we're conditioned to expect clear villains.”

I paused, letting that sink in. He was right. The more I thought about it, the more obvious it seemed. All I could do was nod in full agreement.

The café lights softened as the conversation flowed past midnight, transforming us into a silent, mesmerised audience.

We talked less, listened more.

Here was a maestro of words, generous with his stories, wisdom, and perspective on cinema, food, and life itself.

We all looked visibly tired, shadows under our eyes, shoulders beginning to slump. But he remained animated, full of energy and insight.

At his age, such enthusiasm is remarkable, but perhaps that's what happens when you've lived a life of conviction, maintained simplicity, and never lost that spark of childlike wonder.

“Can I have another rabri?” he asked, eyes twinkling as if he already knew the answer.

And just like that, our evening ended on a sweet note. Quite literally.

— Seema Sangra is a native of Jammu & Kashmir and currently serves as the Program Leader for Media Studies at Amity University, Dubai. She also works as the Media Advisor for the Kashmir World Film Festival (KWFF), a role that reflects her deep commitment to media, culture, and storytelling.

Cabinet Nod For Census 2027; Rs 11,718 Cr Sanctioned

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Friday approved Rs 11,718 crore for conducting the Census of India, 2027, which would include the caste enumeration for the first time.

Addressing a briefing, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the proposal to conduct the Census which will be the first digital exercise.

Around 30 lakh enumerators would be involved in the entire exercise.

The 16th edition of the Census since Independence will also provide an option of self enumeration to the citizens.

The decadal exercise which was scheduled to take place in 2021 got postponed due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic across the country.

The minister said the Census will be conducted in two phases -- house-listing and housing census from April to September, 2026; and population enumeration (PE) in February 2027.

For Ladakh and snow-bound non-synchronous areas of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the PE exercise shall be conducted in September, 2026, the minister said.

"This will become the first-ever digital census," Vaishnaw told reporters.

Around 30 lakh enumerators will visit each and every household and canvass a separate questionnaire for houselisting and housing census and population enumeration. It will generate 1.02 crore human days of employment, the minister said.

Vaishnaw said the entire digital census system has been created as a very robust system and all personal data protection laws will be applicable. The census will collect the micro-level data of every individual and household and present a macro-level data, he added.



"Data of the micro-level will be collected from each household and a macro picture will be present. Individual data will be kept confidential while the macro-level data of the Census will be published," the minister said.

"All the Census functionaries will be paid a suitable honorarium for the work of the Census as they will be doing this work in addition to their regular duties," a government statement said.

The Census 2027 will also capture caste data electronically in the PE phase, Vaishnaw said.

In the first-ever digital Census, data will be collected using mobile applications that will be available for both Android and iOS versions.

Use of a mobile app for data collection and the central portal for monitoring purposes will ensure better quality data, Vaishnaw said.

Data dissemination will be much better and in a user-friendly way so that all queries on required parameters for policy-making will be available with a click of a button, he said.

"A dedicated portal, namely Census Management & Monitoring System (CMMS), has been developed for managing and monitoring the entire Census process on a real-time basis," a government statement said.

Census-as-a-Service (CaaS) will deliver data to ministries in a clean, machine-readable and actionable format, he said.

The largest administrative and statistical exercise in the world will be done using a mobile app for data collection and the central portal for monitoring purposes will ensure better quality data.

"The current endeavour would be to make available the coming Census data at the shortest possible time across the country. Efforts will also be made to disseminate Census results with more customised visualisation tools. Data sharing to all, up to the lowest administrative unit i.e. village/ ward level," the statement said.

Houselisting block (HLB) creator web map application will be another innovation for

Census 2027 which will be used by the charge officers.

The statement said around 18,600 technical manpower will be engaged for about 550 days at the local levels which would imply that around 1.02 crore man-days employment would be generated.

"Further, the provision of technical manpower at the charge/ district/ state-level will also result in capacity-building as the nature of the job will be related to digital data handling, monitoring and coordination. This will also help in the future employment prospects of these persons," it said.

The provision of technical manpower at various levels will also result in capacity-building as the nature of the job will be related to digital data handling, monitoring and coordination.

"This will also help in the future employment prospects of these persons," the statement said.

The mammoth exercise is the biggest source of primary data at the village, town and ward-level providing micro-level data on various parameters including

housing condition, amenities and assets, demography, religion, SC and ST, language, literacy and education, economic activity, migration and fertility.

The last comprehensive caste-based count was done by the Britishers between 1881 and 1931. Caste was excluded from all Census operations conducted since Independence.

The decision to include caste enumeration in the upcoming Census was taken by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 30.

In 2010, then prime minister Manmohan Singh had assured the Lok Sabha that the matter of caste census would be considered in the cabinet.

However, the previous Congress-led government opted for a survey instead of a caste census, known as the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC).

The population of the country according to the Census 2011 was 1,210.19 million of which 623.72 million (51.54 per cent) were males and 586.46 million (48.46 per cent) were females.

Posing As J&K Police Scammers Extort Rs 30 Lakh from Woman

They Claimed Her Name Had Surfaced in a Terror Probe and Put Her Under Digital Arrest

Observer News Service

Indore:Police on Friday said unidentified fraudsters posing as Jammu and Kashmir Police officials extorted Rs 30 lakh from a 67 year old woman by linking her to a fake terror case and placing her under what is known as a digital arrest.

Digital arrest is a cyber fraud method in which scammers impersonate law enforcement officials through audio or video calls and intimidate victims into transferring money to so-called government accounts.

According to Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Rajesh Dandotiya, the woman received a call on November 23 from a man who introduced himself as a Superintendent of Police posted in Jammu and Kashmir. The caller claimed that a mobile phone recovered from a

terrorist had revealed clues to a Rs 2,300 crore money laundering racket and that the woman's bank account had been used in the operation. He further alleged that she had received Rs 1.50 crore as commission.

The fraudster warned her that unless she transferred the money from her account to government designated accounts for verification, she would be arrested. Terrified, the woman followed his instructions between November 23 and December 3, sending a total of Rs 30 lakh from her savings.

Police said the woman lives alone, with her two sons abroad, and did not confide in anyone due to fear. She later informed her daughter and son in law, who encouraged her to approach the police.

The case has been registered and investigation is underway, officials said. (inputs from PTI)

Should We Relocate Everyone To Moon? SC Dismisses Plea On Quakes

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: "So we should relocate everyone to the moon or where?" the Supreme Court asked on Friday while dismissing a petition which said 75 per cent of India's population is in a high seismic zone and sought directions to the authorities to minimise damage from earthquakes.

The petitioner, who was appearing in person, told a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta that earlier it was considered that only Delhi was in the high seismic zone, but recently it was concluded that 75 per cent of the Indian population falls under it.

"So we should relocate everyone to the moon or where?" the bench asked.

The petitioner said recently, there was a big earthquake

in Japan.

"First we have to bring volcanoes into this country then we can compare it with Japan," the bench said.

The petitioner said the authorities should make arrangements to minimise damage in case an earthquake strikes.

"That is for the government to take care (of); this court cannot do it. Dismissed," the bench said.

At the outset, the petitioner said recently, there was a lot of information which was relevant to his petition.

The bench said these are all policy matters for the government to take care (of).

When the petitioner referred to some media reports, the bench observed, "These are newspaper reports. We are not bothered about them."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Sozni, Willow, and Tilla

researchers often take informal jobs just to survive.

"Crafts offer a different path, combining tradition, storytelling, and earning potential," said the official.

Government data shows Kashmir's handicraft and handloom exports reached an estimated 2,567 crore over the past two financial years and three quarters of the current fiscal.

Pashmina shawls alone accounted for over 1,100 crore, and hand-knotted carpets contributed 728 crore.

That economic promise was visible at the festival.

Students from Government Boys High School Anderwan in Ganderbal watched master artisans demonstrate Sozni, Willow Work, and Tilla embroidery. Officials explained government schemes that support artisans with tools, training, and access to markets.

Students asked questions about careers, earnings, and opportunities abroad.

"I never thought I could make art and earn from it," said one student, her voice carrying excitement through the crisp winter air.

Experts say Know Your Artisan is part of a larger revival movement. Dr. Parvez Ahmad, a heritage scholar, said these skills once formed the backbone of Kashmir's culture and economy.

"Crafts are not museum pieces," he said. "They are living threads of community survival and identity. When artisans connect with buyers and young learners, they see futures they might otherwise miss."

Kashmir's craft tradition stretches back centuries. Sufi saint Mir Syed Ali Hamadani brought 700 disciples to the valley long ago. Alongside spiritual teachings, they introduced local communities to arts and crafts from their homelands, creating a culture of skill and resilience that still runs through everyday life.

At Know Your Artisan, that legacy was visible everywhere.

Students tried their first Sozni and Crewel stitches. They laughed over willow work, asked questions about copperware Kandkari, and marveled at Papier-mâché.

Artisans say these interactions change how people see craft.

Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat, who used to travel far for exhibitions in big cities, saw children realize they could learn and earn in their own valley. Dar spoke of how willow work meets modern eco-friendly demand. Malik highlighted the opportunities Tilla embroidery offers young women.

"The government is backing these efforts with training, support, and market linkages," Malik said. "Handicraft exports have surged in recent years and are expected to rise further by the end of this year."

As the festival closed, artisans packed their

tools, but their stories stayed. Aarif Mir, a shy student, walked home with a notebook full of sketches.

"I came here without a clue," he said. "Now I see a way to use my hands and my mind."

J&K Begins SEC

to the LG for the appointment of the State Election Commissioner.

"The selection committee meeting will be convened soon," sources said.

The State Election Commissioner is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor on the recommendation of the CM-led selection panel.

The J&K Assembly had earlier passed a bill to enhance the maximum age limit for holding the office of the State Election Commissioner from 65 years to 70. The bill has received assent from Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

It is worth mentioning that Jammu & Kashmir is currently without elected Panchayats and municipalities. While the term of urban local bodies ended in November 2023, the elected Panchayats ceased to exist on January 9, 2024. (KNO)

Disrupt Terror Financing

dignity," he said.

Sinha also praised the Jammu and Kashmir Police for their recent achievements in counter-terror operations. Referring to last month's breakthrough in which a major terror network was unearthed and dismantled, the Lieutenant Governor said, "The whole country is proud of J&K Police for stopping terror in its tracks." He commended the force for what he described as meticulous investigation and a multi-faceted effort to detect, disrupt and prevent terrorist acts.

The Lieutenant Governor directed senior officers to intensify action against terror financing and to counter radicalisation attempts effectively. He stressed the importance of dismantling support structures that aid extremist activities. "It is essential to break the terror financing pipeline and neutralise radicalisation efforts of certain separatist elements," he told the officers.

Senior officials from the police and civil administration were present at the event, including Special DG Coordination PHQ S.J.M. Gillani, Principal Secretary Home Chandraker Bharti, ADGP CID Nitish Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, IGP Kashmir VK Birdi, DIG CKR Rajiv Pandey, SSP Srinagar Dr GV Sundee Chakravarthy and Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo.

General Zorawar

individual receives equal opportunities to advance," he said, calling Zorawar Singh a symbol of courage, conviction and national pride.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed that the

General's message remains relevant today. "His vision inspired generations by igniting passion, guiding people toward a shared vision, courage, purpose and commitment to bigger ideals," he said. He added that moral clarity and unwavering conviction were essential for shaping a better future and empowering the marginalised.

Sinha also called upon people to dedicate themselves to social service and youth upliftment. "Let us dedicate ourselves to changing lives, guiding and supporting youth, and building a more just and peaceful society," he said. Reiterating the Centre's commitment to honouring General Zorawar Singh, the Lieutenant Governor said the Government of India has named an advanced indigenous light tank after him. A General Zorawar Singh Chair has also been established at the University of Jammu to encourage deeper study of his military campaigns and vision for social organisation.

The event witnessed the presence of MLA Bahu Vikram Randhawa; Devinder Singh Kaluria, Chairman of the General Zorawar Singh Memorial Education and Charitable Trust, along with trustees Riya Kaluria and Diksha Kaluria; Lt Gen RK Sharma (Retd.), President J&K Ex-Services League; Principal Secretary Culture Brij Mohan Sharma; and several prominent citizens.

Major General Goverdhan Singh Jamwal (Retd.); Padma Dr SP Varma, President of Gandhi Global Family, J&K; Col. Karan Singh (Retd.), President Dogra Sadar Sabha; ex-servicemen and senior officials from the Army, Civil and Police administration also attended the ceremony.

Eggs Tested,

to refrain from purchasing or consuming biscuits from the specific batch until further notice.

The sample belonged to products manufactured by M/S Surya Food & Agro Ltd. (Unit II) at Greater Noida and marketed by the same company from its Noida headquarters.

The development came as Food Safety teams across the Valley began collecting egg samples following public concern over suspected contamination with nitrofurans and nitroimidazole residues—substances banned in food-producing animals due to their carcinogenic nature.

The alarm was raised by MLA Zaidal, Tanvir Sadiq, who urged authorities to act swiftly.

"This is a direct public health risk. There can be no compromise," he said, calling for immediate residue testing and strict action against violators.

Inspection teams fanned out across supermarkets and mandi markets on Friday, collecting samples for laboratory analysis.

"No physical inspection can confirm contamination. Only lab results will clarify the situation. Consumers are urged not to panic," said Yameen ul Nabi, Assistant Commissioner

of Food Safety, Srinagar.

He said sampling will continue in accordance with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and that any suspicious product will be immediately tested.

Egg traders at Srinagar Mandi expressed support for the drive. "We want full transparency. Results should be made public. Our own families consume these products," said Tariq Ahmad, representing a group of traders.

Authorities said enhanced monitoring will remain in place and stressed that consumer safety is the foremost priority as both the biscuit and egg samples undergo evaluation.

Police Crack Down

untransferred or non-local registrations and improve overall road safety across the region.

Multiple vehicles were intercepted and verified during the checking drive, and those lacking mandatory transfer documents or valid papers were seized on the spot.

The police have urged vehicle owners to complete all ownership-transfer formalities immediately after purchasing a vehicle and to keep valid documents readily available while driving.

Are Kashmir Homes

He advises residents to conduct electrical audits and ensure protective devices such as MCBs, AFCI and RCCB are installed. "Older wiring should be checked before the winter season begins."

Unsafe LPG Storage and Heating Practices
LPG related hazards continue to be a major concern. LPG, composed of Propane and Butane, can cause severe explosions if leaked gas accumulates indoors.

Mir stresses that cylinders must be stored outside the home.

"Keeping LPG cylinders inside is risky. A small spark is enough if the gas has built up in a closed space," he told Kashmir Observer.

He also warns that LPG Bukharis must not be used while sleeping and should always be placed in well ventilated rooms because combustion reduces oxygen levels.

Prevention Begins With Basic Checks

Mir urged residents to rely only on ISI certified heating and cooking appliances. "Gadgets that have been unused for a year or more should be inspected by experts before operation," he said.

Additional advisory points include:
• Avoid overloading sockets
• Store combustible materials like dry grass and firewood away from living areas

• Turn off all electric and LPG devices before sleeping or leaving the house

"These small steps make a big difference. Preventive care is often what stops an incident from happening," Mir said.

"Every device comes with a proper manual of Dos and Don'ts. When people follow these,

the fire risk reduces significantly," he added.

The Golden Hour: Why Early Action Matters
Mir emphasises the critical role of the first few minutes after a fire breaks out, a period referred to as the Golden Hour.

"If we do firefighting during the Golden Hour through any medium, we can prevent large losses of life and property," he explains.

He recommends that every household keep a standard ABC type dry chemical powder extinguisher weighing five to six kilograms. These extinguishers, costing between 3000 and 10,000, act as first aid until fire services arrive. Local stations provide training for operating extinguishers safely.

'Public Cooperation Is Key'

Fire and Emergency Services personnel exit stations within one minute of call transfer, Mir said. However, delays often occur due to factors beyond the department's control.

"Traffic congestion, wrong parking, and public interference slow us down," he said. "If people give timely passage to fire tenders, we reach the spot faster."

Residents should call 1001 immediately in case of fire. Mir also warned against interfering in firefighting efforts, such as grabbing hoses, as trained professionals are equipped to handle operations safely.

A Reminder for Winter

With the Valley entering peak winter, Mir urged households to adopt preventive practices consistently.

"A house contains a person's lifetime earnings. A small extinguisher and basic precautions can save life and property," he said.

Officials hope that consistent safety awareness will help reduce winter fire incidents and minimise losses across Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir.

Court Sends 3

NIA investigations, Bilal had knowingly harboured the dead accused Umar Un Nabi by providing him logistical support. He is also accused of destruction of evidence related to the terrorist attack," the agency stated earlier on December 9.

"The agency continues to pursue various leads in connection with the suicide bombing, and has been conducting searches across states in coordination with the respective police forces to identify and track the others involved in the gruesome attack," the agency said in a statement earlier.

Dr Umar Un Nabi was driving the explosive-laden i20 car that detonated outside the Red Fort on November 10, killing 15 people and injuring several others.

PTI had earlier reported that the sophisticated terror module spearheaded by a group of doctors had been actively scouting for a suicide bomber since last year, with Umar being the alleged key planner.

Tribal Affairs Dept to Oversee Forest Rights Act

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has designated the Tribal Affairs Department as the nodal agency for implementing the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, replacing the Forest Department.

Office of the Chief Minister, J&K, stated this in a post on X. "Addressing a long-pending demand of the tribal population of J&K, the Government has designated the Tribal Affairs Department as the Nodal Department for implementing the Scheduled Tribes & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act,

2006, replacing the Forest Department," it said.

"This step will ensure more effective implementation of the Act while safeguarding the rights of our tribal communities," the CM office added.

Notably, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, or Forest Rights Act (FRA), aims to address concerns raised by forest-dwelling communities from time to time.

It recognises individual and community rights over forest land and resources for Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers. The law became applicable to J&K only after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

Qul Fruits, J&K Bank Hold Awareness Drive On High-Density Plantation



Observer News Service

PULWAMA: In an important step toward accelerating Kashmir's horticultural modernization, Qul, in partnership with Jammu & Kashmir Bank, organised an extensive awareness programme at Eid Gah Drabgam, Pulwama, to educate farmers about the High-Density Plantation (HDP) Scheme and the financial support available for adopting modern orchard systems.

The programme was designed to help growers clearly understand the provisions of the High-Density Apple Development Programme (HADP) and the wider High-Density Plantation Scheme. Farmers received a detailed walkthrough of the scheme benefits, eligibility requirements, documentation process, and the long-term economic advantages of transitioning from traditional orchards to high-density models.

Qul's Managing Director, Khuram Mir, attended the event and engaged directly with farmers. Participants raised concerns related to varietal choices, gaps from previous plantation years, and guidance on future-proof apple varieties. The MD responded to each query, explaining the scientific and commercial suitability of different cultivars and

the need for structured orchard planning.

Officials from J&K Bank elaborated on the farmer-friendly provisions of the HDP Scheme. They highlighted that the programme offers both technical and financial assistance to growers ready to shift to high-density systems. They reiterated that, depending on the project, up to 75% of financing is available, with collateral-free loans up to ₹5 lakh for small and marginal farmers. The financing also includes a repayment period of up to eight years, with no installments for the first three years. Bank officials further clarified that the scheme covers a broad range of high-value crops—apple, pear, cherry, citrus fruits, kiwi, guava, mango, walnut, almond, olive, and dragon fruit.

Speaking at the event, Qul's Managing Director, Khuram Mir, said: "Qul is not merely a supplier—we are partners in a farmer's entire journey. From soil profiling and orchard architecture to canopy management and disease diagnostics, our intervention is continuous and science-driven. Collaborations like today's programme with J&K Bank strengthen the horticulture ecosystem we are building for sustainable, high-density farming across Kashmir."

CS Directs to Strengthen Citizen Responsiveness



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Friday chaired a detailed review meeting of the JK Samadhan public grievance redressal system, taking an extensive assessment of grievance disposal performance across departments, districts, and their allied offices.

The review meeting attended by all the Administrative heads along with Secretary Grievances, Nijar Kumar and other concerned officers was based on the latest data updated till 11 December 2025.

The Chief Secretary took this occasion to note that JK Samadhan has emerged as the central platform for transparent citizen-services monitoring and emphasized the need to further streamline responsiveness, improve appeal mechanisms, and enhance integration with CPGRAMS

for seamless grievance handling.

During the review, the Department of Public Grievances (DoPG) informed that the platform has received 1,02,110 grievances to date, of which 88,091 have been redressed, reflecting an overall disposal rate of 86.27. The redressal patterns were also analysed separately for Samadhan-origin grievances (87.59% disposal) and CPGRAMS-linked grievances (76.35% disposal).

The Chief Secretary appreciated the progress in district-level citizen registration under JK Samadhan, noting that several districts have achieved exemplary household coverage with Ganderbal leading with 115%, Shopian (105%), and Kishtwar (101%) leading the list. The overall registration coverage across the UT stands at 69% of target households, the Secretary apprised the meeting.

Kashmir's Farmland Loss Intensifies Worry Over Food Security, Rice Dependence

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The rapid and continuous conversion of agricultural land into residential colonies, commercial structures, orchards and other non-farm uses has sharply impacted Kashmir's food security, pushing the region into growing dependence on rice and other food grains sourced from outside Jammu & Kashmir.

Official figures, accessed by KNO reveal that the Valley has lost nearly 34,000 hectares of cultivable farmland between 1996 and 2023, a trend experts say is alarming and unsustainable. The shrinking land bank has drastically reduced local food production at a time when population growth and consumption demands are steadily rising.

As a result, Kashmir now faces an overall food grain deficit of around 0.89 million tonnes, forcing reliance on supplies from Punjab, Haryana, and other states.

The region produces only 0.45 million tonnes of food grains against a need of 1.34 million tonnes, leaving a deficit of 0.89 million tonnes. Official estimates warn the shortfall could hit 36 per cent by next year and cross 50 per cent by 2030.

Farmers across the Val-



ley say they have watched their fertile paddy fields vanish year after year.

"We used to harvest enough rice for the whole family and even store some for the next season," said Abdul Rashid, a farmer from Pulwama. "Now half the land around our village has turned into housing colonies, orchards and other purposes. Young people prefer selling land rather than cultivating it."

Several growers believe that unregulated conversion of agricultural tracts, coupled with inadequate incentives for farming, has discouraged many from continuing traditional agriculture.

Agriculture experts argue that the decline in farmland will have serious long-term consequences if the trend continues unchecked.

"Food self-sufficiency is slipping away from Kashmir at a worrying pace," said an agricultural

conomist who has served at a senior level in the Agriculture department. "If 34,000 hectares vanish in less than three decades, imagine what the situation will look like in the next 20 years. The region's dependence on outside markets will only deepen."

Experts called for a strict implementation of land-use laws, promotion of high-yielding rice varieties, and increasing farmer incentives to protect what remains of the Valley's fertile land.

Officials in the Agriculture Department acknowledge that rapid urbanisation has contributed significantly to the decline of farmland. An official said that although laws exist to prevent the conversion of cultivable land, violations continue due to population pressure and lax enforcement.

"We are focusing on modern farming techniques, land conserva-

tion, and awareness programmes," the official added. "But the challenge is huge and requires stronger coordination among all departments."

It is pertinent to mention here that in 2022, new government rules allowed landowners to convert farmland for commercial or industrial use with fewer restrictions. The 400 square metre cap on converting farmland for commercial or industrial use was lifted.

A district-level committee, led by the District Collector, reviews applications and must decide within 30 days. The owner pays 5 percent of the land's market value as a fee. If the land isn't used as approved within two years, the permission is cancelled.

With local production unable to meet the region's needs, Kashmir imports massive quantities of rice every year. Residents say that while market shelves are full, the dependence on external supplies makes the Valley vulnerable to price fluctuations and transport disruptions.

"Every household depends on rations from outside states," said a resident from Pulwama. "If road connectivity is affected even for a few days, prices shoot up instantly. This shows how fragile our food system has become."

SKUAST-K Scientist Receives Farmer of the Year Award



Dr Sajjad U. Akbar Wani has been conferred the Farmer of the Year Award 2025 for 'significant contributions to modern agriculture and technological advancement in farming'. The MFol (Millionaire Farmer of India) Awards were organised by Krishi Jagran and presented at the three-day event, held from December 7 to 9 at ICAR-IARI, Pusa, New Delhi.

Dr Wani, an agricultural scientist and environmental researcher from Kashmir, is known for his work in promoting sustainable and eco-friendly farming practices in the region. A gold medalist and recipient of a UNO award, he has been associated with Bundelkhand University Jhansi, Vikram University, Vinayaka Mission University Salem, MAANU Hyderabad, and the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), where he has served as a research scholar and agripreneur incubator.

His efforts focus on organic farming, water conservation, and sustainable land-use strategies adapted to Kashmir's ecological conditions. Dr Wani has also contributed to environmental research, including documenting breeding records of migratory species in the region's wetlands, and has represented India at international forums such as the CMS COP13 conference on migratory species conservation. (Muhammad Mudassir)

Centre Says Four Trauma Care Centres Sanctioned for J&K

Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Friday informed Lok Sabha that Jammu and Kashmir has a total of four Trauma Care Facilities (TCFs) sanctioned under the National Programme for Prevention & Management of Trauma and Burn Injuries (NPPMT&BI).

According to KNO, the ministry has stated that the sanctioned trauma care centres in J&K include MMAM District Hospital, Anantnag (Level III), Trauma Hospital, Ramban (Doda) (Level III), Government District Hospital Udhampur (Level II) and District Hospital Kupwara (Level III).

It also said that 196 trauma care facilities were sanctioned across the country during the 11th and 12th Five-Year Plans, including the four centres in J&K.

KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED (KPDCL) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION BUDGAM

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited, e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from registered A class Contractors for Works, as details below; -

NIT NO: EDB_92 of 2025-26 Dated: 10-12-2025	Name of work(s)	Restoration of HT line of feeder PMA05 Tengan in view of flood damage submerged HT XLPE Cable at Railway Track Shalina.
	Adv. Cost	25.6 INR Lacs
	Validity of Contract	Financial year 2025-26
NIT No. EDB 93 of 2025-26 Dated:10-12-2025	Name of work(s)	Restoration of HT/LT network damaged at various spots in Sub Division Beerwah.
	Adv. Cost	5.80 INR Lacs
	Validity of Contract	Financial year 2025-26

The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 10-12-2025; 6:00 PM
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	10-12-2025; 6:00 PM
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	19-12-2025; 6:00 PM
D	Clarification start date	10-12-2025; 6:00 PM
E	Clarification End date	11-12-2025; 6:00 PM
F	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	12-12-2025; 10:00 AM
G	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	19-12-2025; 6:00 PM
H	Hard Copy of e-tender fee and EMD Instrument& Affidavit that the Firm/Contractor is not Black listed by any of the Govt. Offices.	Up-to 19-12-2025; 4:00 PM in office of the Executive Engineer ED- Budgam
I	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	20-12-2025; 04:00 PM
J	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
K	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	office of the Executive Engineer ED- Budgam

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

No: EDB/8913
Dated: 11-12-2025.

DIPK-NB-2745-25
DT: 12/12/2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Electric Division Budgam.



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1.	Junior Software Developer	IT-ites	3	Minimum: 12th pass with good aptitude Maximum: Graduation	450
2.	CCTV Technician	Electronics	4	Minimum: ITI Maximum: Diploma	600
3.	Surveyor	Construction	5.5	UG in relevant field (Completed 3rd year of 3-year / 4-year UG in Civil Engineering) OR Completed 2nd year diploma after 12th (in Civil Engineering) with 1 Year of experience in relevant industry OR Completed 2nd year of UG (UG Diploma) (in Civil Engineering) with 1 Year of experience in relevant industry OR Completed 3 year diploma after 10th (in Civil Engineering) with 2 Years of experience in relevant industry OR 12th grade Pass with 3 Years of experience in relevant industry	300

- Admission will be provided on first cum first serve basis.
- The courses are free of cost for all candidates. No fee shall be charged.
- The candidates will be provided stipend of Rs. 2500/- on successful completion/assessment of the course.
- All courses are aligned with National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) and duly accredited by National Skill Development Cooperation (NSDC) and respective Sector Skill Councils.
- The courses are open to general public, alumni, students of other colleges and as well.

For enquires call/whatsapp

7006509382

DIPK-8956-25
DT: 12/12/2025

For Registration scan the code:



Asia Cup: Vaibhav Stars as India Thrash UAE by 234 Runs

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Vaibhav Suryavanshi was at his imperious best while smashing a 171 off 95 balls, powering India to a mammoth 234-run win over hosts UAE in the inaugural match of the U19 Asia Cup here on Friday.

The 14-year-old from Samastipur, Bihar, unleashed a stunning display of batting, hitting 14 sixes -- the most by any batter in a single innings in the U19 level -- en-route to his breath-taking innings.

Half-centuries from Vihaan Malhotra (69) and Aaron George (69) further bolstered India's charge as they piled up 433 for 6 in 50 overs. The 400-plus total is India's highest-ever in U19 ODIs and is the highest in the U-19 Asia Cup's history.



In reply, UAE were never in the contest despite fighting fifties from Prithvi Madhu (50) and Uddish Suri (78 not out), as they could only manage 199/7 in their allotted 50 overs.

Suryavanshi's blistering knock, studded with nine

boundaries, is now the second-highest score by an Indian in youth ODIs, behind Ambati Rayudu's unbeaten 177 against England in 2002 and the ninth-highest score by a batter in a men's U19 ODI.

Sent into bat, the young opener looked a class apart as he pummelled the UAE bowlers into submission, racing to his fifty off just 30 balls and bringing up his hundred in only 56 deliveries.

He then shared a 212-run stand with George to completely flatten the hosts' attack. His fiery innings finally came to an end in the 33rd over when he was bowled by spinner Suri.

After his dismissal, the middle-order maintained the tempo, with Vedant Trivedi (38), Abhigyan Kundu (32 not out) and Kanishk Chouhan (28) keeping the runs flowing to take India past the coveted 400-run mark.

Faced with a daunting target, UAE lost two wickets inside the first four overs, before the quick dismissals of Muhammad Rayan, Ayaan Misbah and Ahmed Khudadad in the space of nine balls left them tottering at 48 for 5, effectively ending the chase.

Suri and Madhu added 85 runs to arrest the slide, but the damage had long been done.

Brief Score:

India 433 for 6 in 50 overs (Vaibhav Suryavanshi 171, Vihaan Malhotra 69, Aaron George 69; Yug Sharma 2/75).

UAE 199 for 7 in 50 overs (Uddish Suri 78 not out, Prithvi Madhu 50; Deepesh Devendran 2/21)

World Cup Tickets: FIFA Accused of 'Monumental Betrayal'

Soccer fans have accused FIFA of a "monumental betrayal" after the latest prices for World Cup tickets began to circulate.

The governing body allocates 8% of tickets to national associations for games involving their team to sell to the most loyal fans.

And a list published by the German soccer federation revealed prices ranged from \$180 to \$700 for varying group stage games. The lowest price for the final was \$4,185 and the highest was \$8,680.

Those group-stage prices are very different from FIFA's claims of \$60 tickets being available, while the target from United States soccer officials when bidding for the tournament seven years ago was to offer hundreds of thousands of \$21 seats across the opening phase of games.

Fan organisation Football Supporters Europe (FSE) described the current prices as "extortionate".

"This is a monumental betrayal of the tradition of the World Cup, ignoring the contribution of supporters to the spectacle it is," it said in a statement.

The English Football Association shared pricing information with the England Supporters Travel Club (ESTC) on Thursday evening, which showed that if a fan bought a ticket for every game through to the final, it would cost just over \$7,000.

FIFA said in September that tickets released through its website would initially range from \$60 for group-stage matches to \$6,730 for the final. But those prices are subject to change as it adopts dynamic pricing for the first time at the World Cup.

FIFA tickets are available in four categories, with the best seats in Category 1.

In the price list published by the German federation, there were only three categories.

The lowest-priced ticket was \$180 for Germany's opening group game against Curacao in Houston. The lowest price for the semifinal was \$920, rising to \$1,125.

The FSE called on FIFA to immediately halt ticket sales via national associations "until a solution that respects the tradition, universality, and cultural significance of the World Cup is found."

The Associated Press approached FIFA for comment.

Latest phaseFIFA launched its third phase of widespread ticket sales Thursday, with fans now able to apply for specific matches for the first time through its "Random Selection Draw".

Following last week's draw for the 2026 tournament, which will be co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico, an updated schedule has been published.

That means fans know when and where the likes of Lionel Messi and Argentina will play. Previous ticket ballots were blind as the qualification period had not even been completed and the draw was yet to take place.

Now participating nations have been placed in groups, with their paths through the tournament determined. For instance, Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo could go on to meet in the quarterfinals in Kansas City if both Argentina and Portugal top their respective groups.

Not that fans are guaranteed to get tickets to the games they apply for.

The draw opened Dec. 11 at 11 a.m. ET (1600 GMT) and closes Jan. 13, 2026.

India Slips to 6th in WTC Ranking after Kivi Win Over WI

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India on Friday slipped a rung to sixth position in the World Test Championship standings after New Zealand's comprehensive nine-wicket victory against the West Indies in Wellington propelled them to the third place.

Runners-up in the first two WTC cycles, India were placed fifth after they were blanked 2-0 by South Africa at home last month with New Zealand occupying the sixth position. However, the table saw a major turnaround after the Kiwis' big win in the second Test at Basin Reserve on Friday.

Former champions Australia continue to hold the top position with 100 percentage points (win-loss percentage) with South Africa in second place with 75



percentage points.

Sri Lanka (66.67) and Pakistan (50) occupy the fourth and fifth position respectively. New Zealand have so far accumulated 66.67 percentage points, while India have a win-loss percentage of 48.15.

India can drop further down to seventh if England stage a comeback against Australia in the Ashes. The Aussies lead the series 2-0 with three more matches to play.

India's next assignment is against Sri Lanka in August next year.

With the latest result, New Zealand have also boosted their prospects of a second appearance in the World Test Championship Final.

The Black Caps' bowlers did the damage on the third day at Basin Reserve, with Jacob Duffy's five-wicket haul helping the hosts dismiss the West Indies for just 128 in their second innings.

Messi Visit Brings Dreams Alive for India Tea Stall Owner & Superfan

KOLKATA: For Ichhapur tea seller Shib Shankar Patra, Argentine superstar Lionel Messi's arrival in Kolkata on Saturday will be more than a dream fulfilled. It will be a moment he believes he "survived to see".

Patra, 56, is one of two diehard fans handpicked for a special meet-and-greet with the Argentine superstar, a gesture the organisers planned after his story drew widespread media attention.

Once a club-level footballer, Patra built an entire life around his devotion to Argentina and Messi. Ahead of his visit to Kolkata with the national side to play a FIFA friendly against Venezuela in 2011, Patra painted his three-storey house in Nawabganj blue and white, turned his decades-old tea stall into an "Argentina fan club", and



daughter duo also organise blood donation camps and distribute blankets to the needy.

But behind the celebrations is a difficult year for the Patras.

Patra recently underwent heart surgery, had a pacemaker implanted and suffered multiple falls that badly affected his small business.

Even then, he refused to give up hope of seeing Messi again after first watching him live in 2011 at the Salt Lake Stadium, an experience he says kept him awake "for many days".

The family had initially bought two tickets worth Rs 7,000 each for Saturday's event -- a steep price for them -- before organiser Satadru Dutta personally called to invite them to the exclusive meet-and-greet at Messi's hotel.

installed a life-size statue of Messi at the entrance.

Inside, walls, doors, and even wardrobes are covered in Argentina colours.

Locals drop in for tea and football 'adda', while visiting supporters pose with the giant 120x20 ft flag and posters lining the street.

The fandom runs in the family.

His daughter Neha themed her wedding in 2022 around Argentina colours, and the father-

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