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DIPK-9142/25 Dated: 19-12-2025

Parliament Adjourned Sine Die

Eight Bills Passed In 19-Day Winter Session

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were adjourned sine die on Friday, drawing curtains on the 19-day-long Winter Session of Parliament.

The Lok Sabha ended on an abrupt note amid Opposition protests on the passage of the VB-G Ram G Bill.

Rajya Sabha too was adjourned sine die after papers, statements and reports were laid on the table of the House.

Chairman C P Radhakrishnan read out a synopsis of the legislative and other business transacted during the 15-day sitting.

This was followed by the playing of the National Song, after which the Chair adjourned Rajya Sabha proceedings sine die.

While Rajya Sabha reported a productivity of 121% in the 15 days of winter session, the lower house recorded a productivity of 111%.

Lok Sabha | More on P6

Kashmir Braces For Rain, Snow As Temps Dip

Weather Likely To Change From Today Evening



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Pulwama	: -4.0
Baramulla	: -3.6
Pampore	: -3.5
Shopian	: -3.5
Srinagar	: -2
Kupwara	: -2.8
Pahalgam	: -2.6
Gulmarg	: 1.0
Kokernag	: 0.5
Kulgam	: 0.9

Observer News Service

Srinagar: After a brief respite, cold conditions tightened their grip on Kashmir as night temperatures dropped and settled below the freezing point at most places in the Valley, officials said on Friday.

Pulwama town in south Kashmir emerged as the coldest recorded place, registering

a minimum temperature of minus 4 degrees Celsius on Thursday night.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 2.1 degrees Celsius, nearly two degrees lower than the previous night's 0.2 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

A thick layer of fog engulfed Srinagar and several other parts of the Valley during the early | More on P6

Dense Fog Disrupts Air Traffic

Air traffic at Srinagar International Airport was disrupted on Friday as dense fog and poor visibility led to the cancellation of seven scheduled flights, officials said. The cancellations affected both full-service and low-cost carriers, leaving several passengers stranded at the airport. Authorities advised travellers to reconfirm flight schedules before heading to the airport | More on P6



3 Doppler Weather Radars Operational In J&K

The weather monitoring in Jammu and Kashmir has been equipped with advanced monitoring and forecasting systems, with three Doppler Weather Radars (DWRs) currently operational across the Union Territory, the Government of India said on Friday. According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Doppler Weather Radars are functioning | More on P6

J&K Steps Up Cyber Security Measures

CS Reviews UT-Wide Action Plan

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has intensified efforts to strengthen its cyber security framework, with Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo chairing a high-level review meeting to assess the implementation of the Cyber Security Action Plan across the Union Territory.

During the review, the Chief Secretary assessed initiatives aimed at strengthening the cyber security architecture of the UT, including the decommissioning of redundant government websites, security audits of departmental portals, and installation of Endpoint Detection and Response and Unified Endpoint Management solutions in the offices of Heads of Departments.

He also reviewed key projects such as augmentation of the State Data Centre, operationalisation of a Mini Security Operations | More on P6

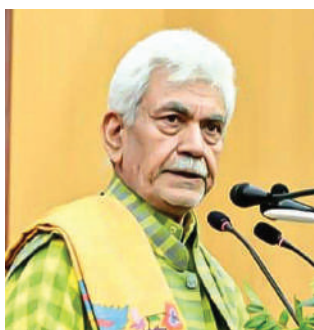
Young Generation Must Inculcate Ancient Values: LG

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that the young generation must inculcate ancient values in present-day life to build a harmonious and resilient society.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at Lok Bhawan after releasing the fourth edition of Kartavya Marg, the annual in-house magazine published by Kailash Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust.

Congratulating the editor and all those associated with the publication, Manoj Sinha lauded the Trust for its sustained efforts to promote India's ancient knowledge traditions, folk culture, astrology, and Vedic sciences, while fostering moral awareness and



cultural pride in society.

He said that the complete knowledge system rooted in the Vedas presents a holistic worldview that can offer solutions to several modern challenges.

"Our ancient texts like the Vedas and Upanishads are a treasure of knowledge in mathematics, medicine, physics, botany, | More on P6

MHA Clears Promotion Of J&K IPS Officers Across Ranks

3 Promoted To IGP Rank; 8 To DIG; 9 To Selection Grade

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Ministry of Home Affairs has approved the promotion of several IPS officers belonging to the Jammu and Kashmir segment of the AGMUT cadre, officials said.

According to an official order, three IPS officers have been promoted to the rank of Inspector General of Police (IGP). Tejinder Singh has been

elevated to the IGP rank with effect from January 1, 2026.

Two other officers, Abdul Jabbar and Udaybhaskar Billa, who are presently on central deputation, have been granted proforma promotion to the IGP grade, the order said.

The MHA has also approved the promotion of eight IPS officers to the rank of Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) with effect from

January 1, 2026. Those promoted include Sargun Shukla, Sandeep Wazir, Anita Sharma, Jatinder Singh Johar, Swarn Singh Kotwal, Zahid Naseem Manhas, and Dr Koushal Kumar Sharma.

Sandeep Choudhary, who is currently on deputation with the National Investigation Agency (NIA), has been granted proforma promotion to the DIGP grade. | More on P6

7 IAS Officers Promoted To Super Time Scale

The Ministry of Home Affairs has approved promotion of seven IAS officers of AGMUT cadre, posted in J&K segment, to the

Super Time Scale. According to an order, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary has been promoted to Super Time Scale | More on P6

Red Fort Blast Court Extends NIA Custody Of Accused By 7 Days

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: A Delhi court on Friday extended by seven days the National Investigation Agency (NIA) custody of Dr Bilal Naseer Malla, an accused in the Red Fort blast case.

The court also remanded Soyab, a Faridabad resident accused of harbouring Red Fort bomber Umar-un-Nabi, to judicial custody for five days.

The NIA produced both the accused before the Patiala House Court under tight security after the expiry of their earlier four-day NIA custody granted on December 15.

Media persons were barred from covering the proceedings.

The accused were produced before Principal and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna, who allowed the probe agency to continue custodial interrogation of Dr Malla for seven more days. Soyab was sent to judicial custody till December 24.

Earlier, an NIA spokesperson said Soyab, a resident of Dhauj in Haryana's Faridabad district, was arrested for allegedly providing logistical support to Umar-un-Nabi ahead of the terror bomb blast in Delhi.

Dr Bilal Naseer Malla was arrested in Delhi | More on P6

'Red Gold' At Risk As Porcupines Destroy Saffron Corms

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Already battered by the effects of climate change, saffron growers in Pampore and adjoining areas of south Kashmir's Pulwama district are facing a fresh crisis as porcupines destroy saffron corms on a large scale, raising serious concerns over further decline in production of Kashmir's prized crop.

Farmers warned that unless urgent preventive measures are put in place, saffron cultivation, which has steadily shrunk over



the years, could suffer irreversible losses.

Growers from Pampore, Konibal, Dusoo, Lethpora and

surrounding villages told the news agency Kashmir News Observer that porcupines have been digging out saffron corms

almost every night, leaving fields damaged and future yields uncertain. The problem has intensified at a time when the availability of quality corms is already limited.

"Climate change has already disrupted our crop cycle. Irregular rainfall, warmer winters and prolonged dry spells have badly affected saffron," said Abdul Rashid Shah, a grower from Konibal. "Now porcupines are destroying whatever is left. Once a corm is damaged, there is no flowering. That means zero | More on P6

Fake Railway Recruitment Scam

Complainant, 2 Others Booked By Crime Branch

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Economic Offences Wing of the Crime Branch Kashmir has filed a chargesheet in an alleged fake Railway recruitment scam, booking three accused, including the complainant, officials said on Friday.

The chargesheet was presented before the court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Beerwah, Budgam, against the

accused for allegedly duping job seekers by issuing forged appointment letters purportedly issued by the Railway Recruitment Board, New Delhi.

The accused have been identified as Abdul Hamid Sheikh of Chewdara, Budgam; Adil Shah of Sonwarhere, presently residing in Zewan, Srinagar; and Mufti Ghulam Hassan Kumar of Sopore, currently living in Beerwah, Budgam. Officials said | More on P6

NITISH KUMAR'S VEIL ROWN

Outrage In Kashmir, Leaders Seek Action

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The recent incident involving Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar pulling the veil off a woman doctor's face has triggered widespread outrage in Kashmir, with political and religious leaders condemning the act as a serious violation of personal dignity and demanding accountability. | More on P6

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2

'Normalising Blood Glucose In Prediabetes May Cut Cardiovascular Risk By Half'

Press Trust Of India

Bringing blood glucose to normal range through lifestyle changes could halve the risk of heart attack, heart failure and premature death among prediabetics, according to a study.

Findings published in 'The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology' journal show that remission of prediabetes -- achieving normal blood glucose levels -- may establish a new, measurable target for clinical guidelines, according to researchers.

A fasting blood glucose value of under 97 milligrams per decilitre proved to be a simple marker for a persistently lower risk of heart disease, regardless of age, weight, or ethnic background, the researchers said.

This threshold could be applied in primary care practices worldwide, making prevention more tangible, they added.

"Our results suggest that remission of prediabetes not only delays or prevents the onset of type 2 diabetes, as already known, but also protects people from serious cardiovascular diseases in the long term, over the span of decades," author Dr Andreas Birkenfeld, a board member of the German Center for Diabetes Research and medical director of the department of medicine at University Hospital Tübingen, said.

The team, including researchers from the US and China, analysed long-term data from more than 2,400 people with prediabetes. The participants' risk of cardiovascular death reduced by roughly 50 per cent, with a significant lowering of overall mortality.

The US study followed its participants for 20 years, while the China



Reaching prediabetes remission is linked to a decades-long benefit, halving the risk of cardiovascular death or hospitalisation for heart failure in diverse populations. Targeting remission might represent a new approach to cardiovascular prevention

one tracked participants for 30. Cardiovascular prevention has so far rested on three pillars -- blood pressure control, lowering LDL cholesterol, and smoking cessation. With the new findings, a fourth pillar could be added -- a sustained normalisation of blood glucose in prediabetes, the team said.

"Reaching prediabetes remission is linked to a decades-long benefit, halving the risk of cardiovascular death or hospitalisation for heart failure in diverse populations. Targeting remission might represent a new approach to cardiovascular prevention," the authors wrote. Birkenfeld said, "We see a clear therapeutic window: If glucose levels are normalised already at the prediabetes stage, the long-term risk of heart attack, heart failure and premature death can be markedly reduced." "Our data support explicitly anchoring remission as a primary treatment goal in guidelines for the prevention of diabetes and cardiovascular disease," the author said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my name /Parantage / Redence and DOB in my Aadher Card has been wrongly mentioned as Parvaiz Ahmad Lone S/O. Gh Qadir Lone R/O. Wadipora .Date of Birth (DOB). 01.04.1974 instead of Parvaze Ahmad Lone S/O. Haji Qadir Lone R/O Udipora .DOB. 30. 11. 1974. Now I am applying for its Correction as per Domicile Certificate and School Certificate Record . if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.



Parvaze Ahmad Lone S/O. Haji Qadir Lone R/O :- Udipora .Tehsil :- Langate Distt : Kupwar. Pin Code:- fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Rehti want to change my name in my adhaar card bearing no 7824 9585 2884 from Rahti (old name) to Rehti (new name) . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned centre within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

fko

jvd

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Mohammad Amin Khan want to change my Son's name in his Aadhar card bearing no 8926 7303 1438 from Ahil khan (old name) to Shahbaz khan (new name). If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned centre within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

jvd

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ajaz Ahmad Sheikh s/o Nazir Ahmad Sheikh, a resident of Gundi Pora Badgam, lost a High Security Registration Plate (HSRP) bearing number JK09B8631 of my vehicle while travelling from Budgam to Magam. Now I am applying for a new HSRP and if anyone has any objection in this regard, s/he can contact a concerned authorities within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

x

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have an insurance policy with PNB MetLife Insurance Ltd. bearing Policy No. 24526438, issued in the name of Mehrajuddin Parrey S/o Sonaulla Parrey.I hereby declare that my correct name, as per Aadhaar Card and PAN Card, is Mehraj Ahmad Parray S/o Sonaullah Parray. Both names refer to one and the same person.If any person has any objection to this declaration, the same may be reported to the PNB MetLife Office, Anantnag, within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the said period, no objection shall be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my driving licence bearing DL No: JK05 20100006014 as Gh Mohd Sheikh S/o Abdul Gani Sheikh while my correct name as per adhaar card is Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh S/o Abdul Gani Sheikh . 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.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Shakeel Ahmad wani while my correct name is Shekil Ahmad wani . 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..

Shekil Ahmad Wani S/o Gh Mustafa Wani aiko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the electricity connection bearing Consumer ID No. 0204040013931 and Installation No. 6011/2301, presently registered in the name of Hakeem Abdul Hameed, is proposed to be transferred in favour of Hakim Arif Hamid, S/o Hakim Abdul Hamid, R/o Vicharnag, Nowshehra, Srinagar. If anyone has any objection in this regard, the same may be submitted to the concerned authorities within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.

Hakim Arif Hamid, S/o Hakim Abdul Hamid, R/o Vicharnag, Nowshehra, Srinagar.

mjca

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed the name of my son from (old name) Hadi Bin Shakeel to (new name) Mohammad Hadi 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..

Shakeel Ahmad Mugloo F/o MOHAMMAD Hadi R/o Batmaran Wanpora Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my son has been wrongly written in his DOB certificate issued by Municipal Committee Kunzer as Amaan Shahid while his correct name is Mohammad Sufyan ganaie . 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 office of the Municipal Committee Kunzer within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shahid Ahmad Ganaie S/o Abdul Rehman Ganaie R/o Mehmoodpora Tehsil Kunzer fko

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
FRESH NIT No. 48-P of 12/2025 Dated:- 18-12-2025 Call-2nd

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

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Incl: GST & Carriage) (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money @ 2% of Adv. Cost (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1.	Upgradation of electric network by way of Main Power Control Panel Board / MCCB / Cable and allied Accessories at Bungalows (M-1 to M-6) at Tulsi Bagh Srinagar	7.80	300/-	15600/-	30 Days	Registered Approved Electric Contractors	Capex
2.	Upgradation of electric network by way of Main Power Control Panel Board / MCCB / Cable and all allied Accessories in Various Building Blocks at Budshah Srinagar.	9.10	600/-	18200/-	35 Days		
3.	Electrification including all allied accessories for Newly / Renovated Flats at Budshah Srinagar	11.49	600/-	22980/-	40 Days		

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

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

Sl	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18.12.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	18.12.2025 From 2.30 PM
3	Bid submission Start Date	18.12.2025 From 2.30 PM
4	Bid Submission End Date	24.12.2025 up to 2:00 PM
5	Date and Time of Opening of Bids (Online)	24.12.2025 up to 2:30 PM in the office of the Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Projects Division-III, Polo View, Srinagar.

2. DOCUMENTS COMPRISING THE BID: -
Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)
Bill of Quantities (BOQ)
3. INTEGRITY OF THE BID PROCESS: -
Information leading to clarification, examination, evaluation, Comparison of bids and recommendations for award of contract extra during the bid process is confidential.

All bidders are advised not to make any attempt to influence any officer or official of the department or any person related to them, and any such attempt made will result in disqualification of the bidder at any stage of the bid process including appropriate action under existing provision of law.
Misconduct / Misbehavior observed during the tender opening process with any officer/official shall be dealt under rules and in terms of the enlistment of registration of contractor in the Department and shall be subject to cancellation of registration card issued by this department or any other department.
4. BID WITHDRAWAL/SUBSTITUTION/MODIFICATION/VALIDITY: -
The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after the due date and time as per server time.
Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids.
For this, the bidder need not make any additional payment towards the cost of the tender document.
For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier.
The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid.
For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted.
In the online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential- submission of bids is allowed any number of times.
The bidders may withdraw their bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, re-submission of the bid is not allowed.
No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of the Executive Engineer, PW(R&B) Projects Division III Polo View Srinagar.
The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

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

DIPK-9130/25
dated: 19-12-2025

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

Tender Notice
eNIT No STD-II / 57 of 2025-26 Dated 16-12-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, e-Tender (In Two Cover System) is hereby invited from A-class electrical contractors/registered firms enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency for "Construction of 33KV Line from 150MVA GIS Grid Station Tengpora, Srinagar to Rajbagh Receiving Station."

SNO	Description of Work	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)	Last date of submission of e-bid
01	Construction of 33KV Line from 150MVA GIS Grid Station Tengpora, Srinagar to Rajbagh Receiving Station.	198720.00	Rs 99.36 Lacs	08-01-2026; 4:30pm

1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.

2. 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 on line 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 overhttp://jktenders.gov.in from 18-12-2025; 4:30pm
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	18-12-2025; 4:30pm
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	08-01-2026; 4:30pm
D	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	18-12-2025; 4:30pm
E	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	08-01-2026; 4:30pm
F	Online financial e-bid opening date and time	09-01-2026; 2:30pm
G	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	The office of Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar
I	Cost of e-bid document	Rs 2000.00(Rupees Two Thousand Only)
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 198720.00 (Rupees One Lac Ninety-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Only)

3. The bidders need to submit the proof/Cost of e-Bid document as stated above through e-Challan/Treasury Receipt pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-II,Rajbagh, Srinagar to be credited to M.H-0801-Power payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the e-Challan/Treasury Receipt must be enclosed along with the e-Bids. No demand Draft shall be accepted.

4. All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR / FDR only, pledged to the Executive Engineer, STD-II,Rajbagh, Srinagar. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.

a. Hard Copy of e-bid (complete) shall have to be submitted to the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar only from the bidder who is declared LI after opening of financial bids.

b. The date and time of opening of financial bids shall be notified on web site http://jktenders.gov.in. This is conveyed to the qualified bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The financial bids shall be opened accordingly online at the same web site at the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II,Rajbagh, Srinagar.

5. The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder representative will be required to be produced.

6. The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.

7. In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being a holiday/closed day for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the same time and place.

8. All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be up loaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.

9. To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' class III (b) As per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.

10. Hard Copy of requisite documents shall be required to be submitted only by the Lowest Tenderer along with original CDR and e-Challan/Treasury Receipt instantly after opening of e-NIT pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

11. The Name of the Work/Job along with e-NIT reference should be superscripted in bold letters on the envelope and the Name/Firm should be clearly written on the cover.

The name of the bidder and e-NIT no. shall be clearly written on the cover. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. Any other information regarding e-tendering process can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

No: STD-II/9479-81/TS

DIPK-NB-2785/25

Dated: 19-12-2025

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



Minister Sharma Meets Deputations in City

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma on Friday met several deputations at Srinagar and had extensive interaction with them to take stock of their concerns, demands and developmental aspirations.

The deputations highlighted a range of issues related to public service delivery, availability of essential commodities, strengthening of transport infrastructure, improvement in IT-enabled services, promotion of sports activities and welfare measures for youth. Besides, matters concerning

local infrastructure, employment opportunities, consumer welfare and effective implementation of government schemes were also raised.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to each deputation and assured them that all their genuine issues would be examined and addressed in a time-bound manner. He emphasized that regular public outreach and direct engagement with the citizens form the cornerstone of effective governance.

Reiterating the government's firm resolve towards people-centric and transparent governance, Satish Sharma said that the present administration is committed to ensure that the policies and programmes are aligned with the real needs of the people.

DC Sgr Reviews Bank Performance Under Govt Schemes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A meeting of District Level Review Committee/District Consultative Committee (DLRC/DCC) was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here to review the performance of the Banks and sponsoring Departments under various Government initiatives and flagship schemes for financial year 2025-26.

Besides, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad

Dar; General Manager DIC, Hamida Akhtar; Lead District Manager(Banks), Nelofer Jan; LDO, RBI, DDM NABARD, Purnima Kakroo; Director RSETI, Bashir Ahmad; all District Officers, Cluster Heads of J&K Bank, representatives of Banks and financial institutions operating in Srinagar attended the meeting.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner, who is also Chairman of DLRC/DCC conducted a detailed sector-wise review of the performance of banks in the implementation of various Government schemes.



A man walks his bicycle across a narrow wooden bridge on a cold, wintry morning in the interiors of Dal Lake. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Winter Preparedness Control Room Established in Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar district administration has activated a dedicated Winter Preparedness Control Room for 2025-26. This initiative aims to ensure a coordinated and prompt response to weather-related emergencies across the district.

According to an order issued by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, the control room will function with immediate effect to coordinate with district authorities, police, disaster management teams and other agencies for quick response during snow and weather-related emergencies.

It says, the control room will be manned round-the-clock by seven

“The control room will function with immediate effect to coordinate with district authorities, police, disaster management teams and other agencies for quick response during snow and weather-related exigency,”

officers from the Srinagar District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), including Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat, Adnan Rashid Bhat, Adil Mushtaq Dar, Momin Farooq, Riyaz

Ahmad Dar, Mohd Ashraf Dar and Parvez Ahmad Sheikh.

For overall coordination, Additional Deputy Commissioner Aadil Fareed and Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar have been designated as nodal officers.

The DC's order also said the control room will monitor weather forecasts, snowfall, road conditions and coordinate emergency responses. It will also maintain situation reports, advisories, and daily updates on winter conditions.

The public can reach the control room through landline numbers 0194-2483651, 0194-2457543 and 0194-2457552, or the officials' mobile numbers listed in the order.

Div Com Reviews Republic Day Arrangements

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In view of the upcoming Republic Day celebrations, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Friday convened a comprehensive meeting of divisional-level officers to finalize a detailed plan ensuring a smooth, peaceful, and vibrant observance of the national festival.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Commissioner SMC, DIG Central Kashmir, and senior officers from various departments including Information, Education, Health, JalShakti, R&B, MED, PDD, Youth Services & Sports, Tourism, Hospitality & Protocol, Floriculture, Colleges, Culture, Traffic Police, and other security agencies.

Chairing the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Joint Director, Information Kashmir to ensure timely playing of Shehnai Vadan, nomination of a commentator, installation of a public addressing system, and organization of quiz and essay writing competitions as part of Republic Day activities.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

DEN-I/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date: **12.01.2026** up to **15:00 Hrs**. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. In place of Earnest money deposit, "Bid Security Declaration" is to be submitted or prescribed format as available in document section on the portal.

Tender Type		Tendering Section		Packet System	
Open		Work		Single Packet System	
Date of Uploading Tenders		Bid Starting Date		Bid Closing Date/Time	
18.12.2025		29.12.2025		12.01.2026 / 15:00 Hrs.	

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender			
1.	207-2025-26-ADEN-LDH	Repair and maintenance of level crossings in the section of ADEN/LDH under Sr. DEN-I/FZR.			
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of offer	Period of Completion	
	49,97,868.22/-	1,00,000.00/-	60 Days	08 Months	
	Special Technical Criteria: "NIL"				

Note : 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. **Tender No: 207-2025-26-ADEN-LDH** **Date: 18.12.2025**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

3920/25

NORTHERN RAILWAY					
E-TENDER NOTICE					
Tender No: 204-2025-26-ADEN-II-ASR Sr.DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-12.01.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information login to www.ireps.gov.in				Date: 18.12.2025	
Tender Type		Tendering Section		Bidding System	
Open		Works		Single Packet System	
Date of Uploading Tenders		Bid Starting Date		Bid Closing Date/Time	
18.12.2025		29.12.2025		12.01.2026/15:00 Hrs	
SN	Tender Number	Details of Tender			
1	204-2025-26-ADEN-II-ASR	Repair to damaged wing/return wall and guide bunds, strengthening of formation of Major Bridge approaches, stone pitching to prevent erosion and providing ballast retainers at various bridges under ADEN-II/ASR.			
Advertised Value (Rs.)		Earnest Money		Validity of Offer	
84,99,508.68/-		1,70,000.00/-		60 Days	
Similar nature of work:-		"Construction/rehabilitation of Railway bridges/ROB/LHS/RUB."			
Period of Completion		06 Months			
Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.					
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE					
3928/25					

NORTHERN RAILWAY					
E-Tender Notice					
Sr.DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 08.01.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs . Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information login to www.ireps.gov.in					
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
Open	Works	Single Packet System	17.12.2025	25.12.2025	08.01.2026/15:00 Hrs.
S.N.	Tender No.	Details of Tender			
1	203-2025-26-ADEN-II-ASR	Repair and maintenance of Level Crossing in the section of SSE/W/BEAS and SSE/W/ML/ASR in the jurisdiction of ADEN-I & II/ASR.			
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest money (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		74,99,998.35/-	1,50,000.00/-	60 Days	08 Months
Similar nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work".					
Note1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.					
Tender Notice No:- 203-2025-26-ADEN-II-ASR Date: 18.12.2025					
Serving Customers With A Smile 3927/2025					

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
E-TENDER NOTICE			
Tender Notice No:- 770-W/01WA/JAT/2025 66-2025-26-DRM-JAT & 67-2025-26-DRM-JAT 68-2025-26-DRM-JAT & 69-2025-26-DRM-JAT (to be opened on 12.01.2026) acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 12.01.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to the closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through payment modes available on the IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card, etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheques, Deposit receipts, FDR, etc. are not allowed.			
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	
Open	Works	Single Packet System	
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time	
19.12.2025	29.12.2025	12.01.2026	
S.No.:	Tender No. 66-2025-26-DRM-JAT		
Details of Tender : Complete Job of in-situ reconditioning of CMS crossing using Technology of electrodes approved by RDSO IRS-H3-C class as per standards prescribed by RDSO as a complete job in transmittal Robotic welding and Reconditioning of Worn out 52 kg and 60 kg switch rail using identified yards over Jammu Division.			
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
7761101.47	60 Days	12 Months	
S.No.:	Tender No. 67-2025-26-DRM-JAT		
Details of Tender : Repair to Height Gauges at Bridge No.173, 188A, 197A, 242 and 247 in the section of SSE/W/JAT under ADEN-JAT			
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
3798408.95	60 Days	06 Months	
S.No.:	Tender No. 68-2025-26-DRM-JAT		
Details of Tender : Repair and Maintenance of Water supply of staff quarters, service Buildings, duty Huts, and Gate Lodge etc. in the section of SSE/W/NGRT			
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
3999714.95	60 Days	12 Months	
S.No.:	Tender No. 69-2025-26-DRM-JAT		
Details of Tender : Repair of Road surface and CC paver of Level Crossing C-23, C-18, C30, C-45, C-44, C-45 and C-46 in the section of SSE/W/KTHU under ADEN/JAT			
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
3499751.65	60 Days	06 Months	
NOTE: Contractors are advised to check the IREPS website for any corrigendum issued against this tender before submitting the bids. 3926/2025			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			

Size : 8x12

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SHEEP HUSBANDRY OFFICER KUPWARA-193222

Email: doshdkupwara@gmail.comTelefax: +911955252220

SUBJECT: E-Auction Notice for Sale of Scrap/Unserviceable items.

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-auction through District Sheep Husbandry Officer Kupwara, J&K, Kashmir are invited from the interested parties for sale of Scrap/Unserviceable items, which is available in the Stores of District Sheep Husbandry Officer Kupwara as per the details available in document uploaded on GeM.

1. The auction documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), EMD,set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the GeM forward auction portal.

2. Instructions for bidders regarding bidding process.

i. To participate in bidding process bidders are required to register themselves with the web portal <https://forwardauction.gem.gov.in/> and obtain user ID and password, free of cost, well in advance, which is mandatory for e-Auction bidding from GeM portal.

ii. The bidder has to submit their bids online in electronic format in the GeM forward auction portal. No bidding will be accepted in physical form.

iii. Bids will be opened online.

iv. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid . The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.

(Note: Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with Black and White option.)

Sd/= District Sheep husbandry Officer Kupwara

No.: DSHOK//ST/AUCT/25-26/250-52

DIPK-9164/25 dated:19-12-2025

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
28 Jumada al-Sani
1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	6: 02
ZUHR	12:28
ASR	3: 48
Magrib	5:29
ISHA	6: 55

This Day In History

- 69 - General Vespasian's troops occupy Rome after 1448 - Pope Nicholas V appoints Rudolf of Diepholt, Bishop of Utrecht, as cardinal.
- 1522 - Suleiman the Magnificent accepts surrender of the surviving Knights of Rhodes, who are allowed to evacuate. Eventually settle in Malta, become known as the Knights of Malta.
- 1585 - English fleet & Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, reach Vlissingen.
- 1626 - Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II and Prince of Transylvania Gabor Bethlen sign Peace of Pressburg (Bratislava).
- 1661 - Corporation Act enforced in England.
- 1669 - 1st jury trial in Delaware; Marcus Jacobson condemned for insurrection & sentenced to flogging, branding & slavery.
- 1688 - Prince William of Orange's troops arrive in London.
- 1694 -Frederik van Brandenburg flees Schweiblen
- 1699 - Russian Tsar Peter the Great ordered Russian New Year changed from Sept 1 to Jan 1.
- 1780 - Britain declares war on Holland.
- 1790 - 1st successful US cotton mill to spin yarn (Pawtucket, RI).
- 1830 - Great Britain, France, Prussia, Austria and Russia recognize Belgium.
- 1860 - South Carolina secedes from the Union (US Civil War).
- 1879 - Tom Edison privately demonstrated incandescent light at Menlo Park.
- 1880 - Battle at Bronker'sSpruit, Transvaal: Farmers beat Britten.
- 1892 - Pneumatic automobile tire patented, Syracuse, NY.
- 1900 -Giacobini discovers a comet (will be 1st comet visited by spacecraft).
- 1915 - Russian troops overrun Qom, Persia
- 1917 -Cheka formed - Soviet state security force and forerunner to the KGB, under Felix Dzerzhinsky after decree by Lenin.
- 1922 - 14 republics form Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).
- 1924 - Adolf Hitler freed from jail early.
- 1933 - Bolivia & Paraguay sign cease fire
- 1938 - Vladimir K Zworykin (Penn) receives patent on Iconoscope TV system.

From KO Archives

Qaum Ka Gam Khateyhain, Dinner Key Saath

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Iftar parties being hosted by every Tom, Dick and Harry in this capital city these days have become a source of avoidable inconvenience to the general public. Amazingly the 'worthy'hosts are least bothered by what their lavish feasting by debit to the empty state exchequer meant to the city dwellers at a time when they hurry back to their homes after a day's work.

Residents of various downtown localities here had a taste of their rulers' indifference on Saturday when they found the -busy Maulana Azad Road blocked to vehicular traffic for most of its stretch. Lo and behold, it was the peak hour for all the commuters to rush back home to join their waiting, generally anxious, families over Iftar.

Location of what is known as the Banquet Hall in the premises of the erstwhile chief minister's official residence on the main Civil Lines artery was the reason why vehicular traffic was di-verted towards Regal Chowk for onward journey through the equally crowded SP higher secondary school. Traffic police authorities may know better why its own 'one way' restriction was eased to choke the awfully narrow roads. Obviously, caught in a nasty traffic jam, hundreds of people on fast found them-selves helpless at the Iftar time. Mercifully, some citizens came out to serve some eatables to the stranded hundreds on the road.

"The ministers and bureaucrats hosting the Iftar parties at state expense should hang their heads in shame for subjecting innocent people to inconvenience during the holy month", an agitated downtown resident was heard saying.

(Kashmir Observer, 20 December, 2000)

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✂ KO VIEW

Winter Without Work

Winter has always been part of life in Kashmir. People expected it. They planned for it. Families saved money in summer, stored firewood, and slowed their work. Winter was tough, but it was familiar. It had a rhythm. That rhythm is breaking. Today, winter lasts longer, costs more, and leaves fewer ways to earn. For many families, the cold months are no longer just uncomfortable. They are risky. They push households closer to debt and distress. From November to March, work fades. Construction slows, tourism thins, and street vendors disappear from the roads. Daily-wage workers sit at home, waiting for a phone call. Many earn nothing for weeks. Some earn nothing at all through the winter. Heating is one of the biggest worries. Firewood is expensive and harder to find. Coal costs more than it once did. Electric heaters are common, but electricity bills are heavy. Power cuts last for hours, often at night, when the cold feels sharpest. Families gather in one room to stay warm. Children do homework under blankets. Elders cough through long, cold nights. Money runs out fast. A houseboat worker may earn well in summer but has no income in winter. A mason or carpenter cannot work when the ground is frozen. Shopkeepers open late and close early because customers are few. Debts grow silently. People borrow from relatives, shopkeepers, or local lenders, hoping summer will make things better. But even summer feels uncertain now. Snowfall is unpredictable. Sometimes it comes late. Sometimes it barely comes at all. This affects farming, water supply, and tourism. A weak winter no longer promises a good year ahead. The old rhythm of seasons no longer holds. There are government schemes, subsidies, and promises. But help often arrives late, or not at all. Winter planning remains short-term. Each year, the cold returns, and each year, families struggle in the same ways. This problem cannot be solved with sympathy alone. It needs planning. Kashmir needs reliable electricity in winter. It needs affordable ways to heat homes. It needs winter jobs, especially for daily-wage workers. It needs better systems to store fuel, food, and basic supplies before the cold sets in. Winter affects health, education, and peace of mind. When families spend months worrying about warmth and money, life grows smaller. Kashmiris know how to endure winter. But endurance should not be confused with strength without support. Winter will always be cold. It does not have to be this costly.

Anxiety in Every Rupee

A look inside how the lack of basic money education shapes everyday anxiety and small awakenings in Kashmir.

Irshad Mushtaq

Aijaz Mir pushes his shikara into Dal Lake before the sun rises over the hills. On good days, tourists fill his boat and the tips are generous. On slow days, he counts every note twice. By evening, his thoughts turn to school fees, groceries and the long winter ahead. He knows how to work hard. What he never learned is how to plan his money beyond the next few weeks. When visitors ask about life on the lake, Aijaz talks about the water and the view. He does not talk about the stress of uncertain income or the fear of an emergency wiping out whatever little he has saved. No one ever taught him how savings could grow or how planning could bring some peace. In another part of Srinagar, Sana Aziz sits in her rented room after work, scrolling through her phone. She has a good degree and a steady job. Every month, her salary arrives on time and disappears just as quickly. Rent, transport, family needs and medical expenses take their share. She tells herself she will start saving next month. That month keeps moving forward. Aijaz and Sana live different lives, but they share the same problem. They were taught how to study, earn and adjust. But they were never taught how money works. This story is quite common in Kashmir. People work long hours and make careful choices, but many live with constant money worries. Schools focus on marks and degrees. Homes focus on getting through the month. Conversations about budgeting, saving or investing rarely happen. Money remains something to manage by instinct. Financial literacy sounds like a big term, but it is simple at heart. It means knowing where your money goes, how to save some of it, and plan for the future. It means understanding debt before it grows heavy. It also means learning how time can help money grow, even in small amounts. The lack of this knowledge shows up in everyday pain. A sudden illness pushes families into loans they spend years repaying. Young people earn decent salaries and still live one emergency away from trouble. Older adults worry about how they will cope once work is no longer possible. One evening, a small hall in Srinagar fills with young men and women attending a free workshop on money. The first exercise sounds harmless. Write down what you spend

Financial literacy offers clarity. It helps people feel less anxious and more in control. It turns money from a constant worry into something that can be planned, even if resources are limited.

in a month. Pens hover. A few people smile awkwardly. Many realize they have never really counted it all before. As the session continues, the room changes. People lean forward. Hands go up. Questions come quickly. Simple ideas begin to settle in. Save before you spend. Start early, even if the amount feels small. Allow time to carry some of the weight. What once felt overwhelming starts to feel manageable. The idea of compounding catches many by surprise. Small, steady savings over years can become real support later in life. Waiting too long makes everything harder. In a place where jobs can pause without notice and incomes can disappear overnight, this lesson carries real weight. Families also shape how people deal with money. In many homes, adults hide financial stress from children. The intention is protection. The result is silence. When families talk openly about income, expenses and priorities, children grow up better prepared for real life. Some teachers have started filling this gap on their own. They explain bank accounts, insurance and basic budgeting in simple ways. These are small steps, but they leave lasting impressions. Financial literacy offers clarity. It helps people feel less anxious and more in control. It turns money from a constant worry into something that can be planned, even if resources are limited. Aijaz recently opened a small savings account. The amount is modest, but it feels like a beginning. Sana has started tracking her spending and setting aside money the day her salary arrives. For the first time, she feels she is moving forward, not standing still. Learning how to manage money helps people turn hard work into security and hope into a plan.

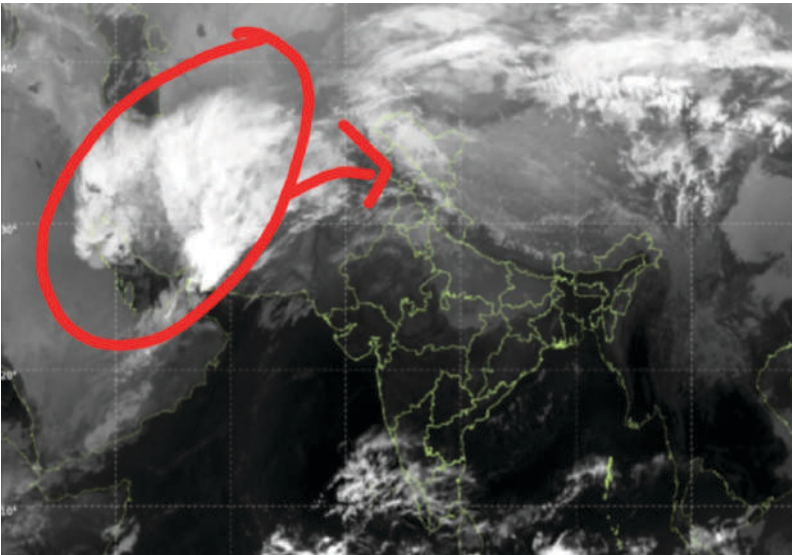
The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

The West Wind Comes

A mother’s weather wisdom and the science behind the storms that shape winter life in Kashmir.

Mohammad Amin Mir

On winter afternoons in our home in south Kashmir, my mother would pause at the doorway and look up. She did not need a phone alert or a forecast on television. She watched the poplars bend, felt the air turn colder on her face, and said the same line she had said for years: when the wind comes from the west, rain or snow will follow. Soon enough, clouds would thicken over the mountains, and by evening the first drops or flakes would arrive. I carried that sentence with me for decades as I walked this land, watched rivers swell and thin, and saw fields change colour with the seasons. Only much later did I learn the scientific name for what my mother described so plainly. Meteorologists call them Western Disturbances, traveling storms born far away that decide how our winters unfold. The science added detail and distance, but it never replaced the truth of her words. It gave them another layer. Western Disturbances begin over the Mediterranean and nearby seas, thousands of kilometers from Kashmir. They form as low-pressure systems and are carried east by high-altitude winds known as the westerly jet stream. Along the way, they gather moisture, sometimes pulling more from the Arabian Sea. When these systems meet the Himalayas, the air rises, cools, and releases rain in the valleys and snow on the high slopes. This process explains why Srinagar may see cold rain while Gulmarg turns white under the same sky. Elevation decides the outcome, and gravity does the rest. For Jammu and Kashmir, these storms matter more than most people outside the region realize. From October to March, when the summer monsoon is absent, Western Disturbances provide much of the rain and snow that sustain life here. Snow settles on the mountains like a savings account, released slowly as meltwater in spring. Rivers such as the Jhelum depend on this cycle, feeding farms, homes, and power stations. A weak winter leaves streams low and fields anxious. A generous one brings relief that lasts months. Long before satellites traced these



“
When the west wind rises now, I still hear my mother’s voice. I also think of the long journey that air has taken, crossing seas and deserts before meeting these mountains. The snow that falls on a distant ridge, the rain that darkens a lane in the valley, and the rivers that swell weeks later are part of the same story. It is a story of movement and memory, of science and observation, written across the sky above Jammu and Kashmir.

paths across continents, people here learned to read smaller signs. Farmers noticed the smell of damp soil before a snowfall. Shepherds felt the wind shift against their backs while grazing animals high above the valley. Planting and harvesting followed these cues. My mother’s weather lessons came from standing in courtyards, listening to elders, and watching what happened year after year. This was knowledge shaped by attention rather than instruments. Modern science does not cancel this understanding. It sharpens it. Researchers like Sonam Lotus and Mukhtar Ahmad have mapped the routes of Western Disturbances and measured their strength with data drawn from decades of observation. Their work explains why these storms sometimes arrive earlier or later, and why one winter buries mountain roads under snow while another passes with little trace. It also shows how warming seas and changing wind patterns are altering these systems. Winters now bring greater uncertainty, with spells of heavy snow followed by dry stretches, or rain falling at times once reserved for frost. These changes carry real consequences. Agriculture across the region depends on steady winter moisture for crops like wheat and mustard. Tourism relies on predictable snowfall in places such as Gulmarg and Sonamarg, where winter visitors support thousands of

families. Transport routes, including the Jammu-Srinagar highway, close more often during intense storms, cutting off supplies and travel. Heavy snow raises the risk of avalanches in high terrain, while rain on unstable slopes leads to landslides that damage homes and roads. The same system that sustains life can also disrupt it. Climate change adds pressure to this balance. Studies show Western Disturbances growing more variable in timing and intensity as global temperatures rise. Warmer air holds more moisture, increasing the chance of sudden downpours or heavy snowfall in short periods. These shifts deepen existing vulnerabilities in the valley. They also make the old signs harder to read. The wind still comes from the west, but its message has become less predictable. Even so, the connection between lived experience and science remains strong. My mother never spoke of jet streams or atmospheric pressure, but her observation captured the essence of a system that spans continents. Science explains the mechanics, memory explains the meaning. One tells us how storms travel. The other reminds us what they do to people waiting beneath the clouds. Kashmir has always lived close to weather. Homes, crops, and daily routines bend around it. Listening carefully has been a form of survival. Today, that listening must widen. Satellite images and climate models belong alongside the knowledge carried in kitchens and fields. Together they offer a fuller picture of what lies ahead. When the west wind rises now, I still hear my mother’s voice. I also think of the long journey that air has taken, crossing seas and deserts before meeting these mountains. The snow that falls on a distant ridge, the rain that darkens a lane in the valley, and the rivers that swell weeks later are part of the same story. It is a story of movement and memory, of science and observation, written across the sky above Jammu and Kashmir.

The author can be reached at miramin354@gmail.com

Kashmir’s Problem With Math

A ground-level look at how weak foundations, staffing gaps and exam pressure are reshaping students’ relationship with numbers.

Rayees Yaseen

On a winter morning in south Kashmir, a Class 7 classroom fills with the sound of chalk scraping against a blackboard. The teacher writes a long division problem, turns around and asks the students to copy it down. A boy in the second row raises his hand and asks why the numbers are arranged that way. The teacher pauses, then says, “This is how it comes in the exam.” The lesson moves on. After class, the boy tells me he likes science and wants to be an engineer. Mathematics, he says, makes him nervous. He studies it every day and still feels lost. His parents tell him to focus on passing marks and not worry too much. “Maths is not for everyone,” they say. Scenes like this play out across Kashmir, in government schools and private ones alike. They offer a window into a deeper problem that has been building for years: mathematics is steadily losing ground here. In many government primary schools, mathematics is taught by teachers who did not study the subject themselves. Some are trained in language or social science and are asked to handle math simply because no one else is available. At first glance, this may seem manageable. Young children are learning basic numbers and operations. Over time, the gaps begin to show. Mathematics is not a subject that can be carried forward by habit alone. Each idea rests on the one before it. When teachers lack confidence in the material, lessons turn mechanical. Students learn steps without meaning. Questions that fall outside the textbook are avoided. Curiosity is treated as a distraction. Private schools often promise better outcomes, but the picture there is mixed. Many hire teachers without professional training, including those without a B.Ed., especially for math-

ematics. The pressure is on results. Parents ask about board scores, rather than understanding. Coaching notes replace classroom discussion. Students memorize formulas without knowing where they come from. Fear enters early and stays. The syllabus set by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education does not clearly spell out how skills should build over time. Basic operations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and order of operations are meant to be mastered through practice and application. In reality, they are rushed. Activity-based learning is rare. Mathematics is taught as a hurdle to clear, rather than a tool to use. Classes 6 to 8 mark a turning point. This is where arithmetic gives way to algebra, geometry and abstraction. It is also where many students fall behind for good. These grades demand teachers who understand how concepts connect and how to explain them in more than one way. In many schools, the same non-specialist teachers continue. Mistakes harden into habits. Confusion becomes permanent. By Classes 9 and 10, the consequences are clear. Large numbers of students develop a deep dislike for mathematics. Even at this stage, many schools do not have specialized math teachers. Experience stands in for expertise. Students prepare for exams through shortcuts and guesswork. When they fail, they blame themselves. Teachers’ attitudes matter as much as their training. Students often describe math teachers as impatient or dismissive. Some are, but many are simply overwhelmed. When the classroom becomes a place of embarrassment instead of inquiry, students shut down. The focus on exams reinforces this. Marks matter more than meaning. Families play a role too. Many par-

ents urge their children to choose science streams while treating mathematics as an obstacle to be endured until Class 10. “Just pass,” they say, believing the subject has little use later. As a result, very few students in Kashmir opt for mathematics at the higher secondary level. Colleges struggle to fill math programs. The pipeline thins. Recent policy decisions risk deepening the problem. The introduction of two levels of mathematics at the secondary stage was meant to reduce stress. In practice, it sends a different message: that the subject can be diluted rather than taught better. Lowering expectations does not build confidence. It narrows horizons. There are ways forward. Kashmir needs specialized mathematics teachers at every level, starting from the middle grades. Targeted schemes to recruit and train them would make a measurable difference. Teacher training must focus on content mastery and classroom practice, rather than paperwork. The curriculum needs revision to emphasize understanding, logical thinking and real-life application. Public attitudes must change as well. Mathematics is not just another subject. It underpins science, economics, technology and everyday decision-making. Students who gain confidence in math often find other subjects easier. They learn how to think, test ideas and solve problems. Back in that Class 7 classroom, the boy who asked “why” still sits near the front. He works hard. What he needs is not reassurance that math is optional, but a teacher who can meet his question with an answer, or at least guide him toward one. When that happens, fear gives way to interest.

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Reading in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Reading in the AI age reminds us that some skills only books can truly teach.

Jan Mohammad Mala

A few days ago, I walked into a library reading hall. The room was calm and most chairs were full. Students were there, but almost all of them stared at their phones, switching from one screen to another without stopping.

Only one student held a book and read.

He stayed with it, focused, while the rest of the world rushed past.

That moment stayed with me. It made me think about how much reading has changed in our lives.

Artificial intelligence makes information easier to get than ever before. We ask a question and get an answer in seconds. We read summaries instead of full books. We rely on ready-made explanations instead of thinking through ideas ourselves.

This is useful, but it also takes something away.

Reading has always been a slow, personal activity. It teaches patience, reflection, and focus.

A machine can give us facts, but it cannot give us the experience of thinking with a book. Only the reader can do that work.

Today, many people read just enough to understand the surface. They jump from one idea to another without taking time to think deeply. This limits understanding.

Reading deeply lets the mind con-



nect ideas and see the bigger picture. Skipping that process makes it harder to follow complex thoughts and form our own opinions.

Artificial intelligence can guide us, but it cannot replace thinking.

The decline in reading is easy to see. Many people struggle to focus on long texts. They scroll through posts without really paying attention.

Screens train us to look for fast results, while books ask us to slow down.

This makes reading feel hard for many young people.

Even libraries show this change. More people come for internet access than for books. Shelves are full, but pages remain unread.

Reading is losing its place, and the silence of the library feels dif-

ferent because of it.

Reading shapes how we understand the world. It sharpens judgment, teaches us to question, and helps us express ideas clearly. It improves memory and understanding.

Artificial intelligence can help with learning, but it cannot replace the mental growth that reading builds. Only reading can do that.

Reading also helps people connect. It gives us a shared sense of knowledge.

When reading declines, conversations become shallow. People rely on headlines or short messages, which leads to confusion and misunderstanding.

Families and schools can help bring reading back. Children who see books at home become curious. Parents who read show by example.

Teachers who give time for reading help students explore ideas beyond textbooks.

Libraries can host reading circles and discussions. Making reading part of daily life strengthens a community's mind and spirit.

Artificial intelligence will keep growing and making life faster and easier. But it cannot replace deep thinking.

Reading gives the mind time to pause and ideas time to settle. It slows us down in a world that rushes forward. It gives clarity and calm.

When I think of the student with a book in the library, I see hope. Even surrounded by screens, some people still choose books. That choice matters.

Reading is not lost. Even a few pages a day improve focus and

IN AN AGE SHAPED BY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, reading remains one of the most human things we can do. It strengthens thinking, feeds imagination, and keeps us connected to meaning.

bring peace. Reading does not ask for perfection. It only asks for attention.

In an age shaped by artificial intelligence, reading remains one of the most human things we can do. It strengthens thinking, feeds imagination, and keeps us connected to meaning.

Learning is slow and personal. Reading may seem simple, but it has a deep impact.

It keeps the mind alive when everything else tries to pull it away.

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WHEN I THINK OF THE STUDENT WITH A BOOK IN THE LIBRARY, I SEE HOPE. Even surrounded by screens, some people still choose books. That choice matters. Reading is not lost. Even a few pages a day improve focus and bring peace. Reading does not ask for perfection. It only asks for attention.

The Limits of “Thinking Rich”

Books on success motivate, but they often overlook historical, economic, and political barriers to prosperity.

Faizan Ashraf

During the two-day book fair held at Maulana Azad Library on December 15 and 16, I came across Wallace D. Wattles' well-known work, *The Science of Getting Rich*.

Written more than a century ago, the book continues to attract new readers by offering a promise of prosperity through disciplined thinking and purposeful action.

A careful reading of the text, however, invites not only motivation but also deep sociological reflection.

At the core of Wattles' argument is a straightforward and compelling idea: wealth isn't just the result of labour or opportunity but of thinking in a certain way.

According to him, mental clarity, faith, and focused action are sufficient to attract material success.

For students, job seekers, and others facing professional uncertainty, such ideas naturally resonate.

The book provides hope, a sense of control, and psychological comfort in an otherwise unpredictable social and economic environment.

It is exactly here, however, that sociology encourages us to pause and reflect.

The difficulty begins with the book's depiction of wealth as an almost universal opportunity, available to anyone willing to correct their mindset. This assumption ignores a basic social truth: societies are not level playing fields.

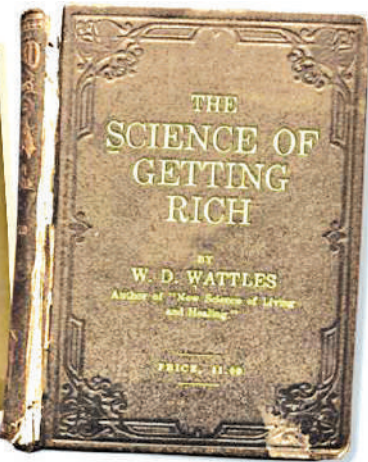
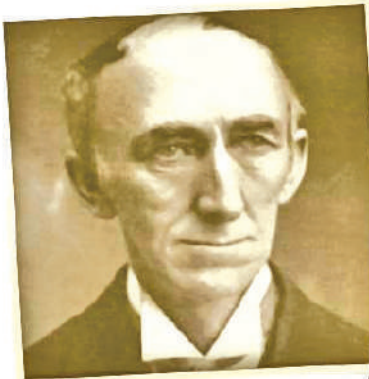
Access to quality education, stable employment, economic resources, social networks, and respect is unevenly distributed across class, caste, gender, region, and generations.

Suggesting that prosperity mainly comes from correct thinking risks ignoring deep-rooted structural inequalities and makes them seem like individual faults.

From a sociological perspective, this gap is not just intellectual. It is political.

The focus on individual responsibility for success and failure closely aligns with neoliberal ideas, where risks are increasingly shifted from institutions to individuals.

In this view, unemployment is seen as a lack of effort, poverty as a failure of imagination rather than the product of historical and institutional barriers, and inequality as a natural



BOOKS DO NOT MERELY MOTIVATE INDIVIDUALS. They also shape how society explains success and failure. When these explanations go unexamined, they can make inequality seem like destiny or personal failure.

result rather than a social issue.

As C. Wright Mills warned, this creates a dangerous confusion between personal troubles and public issues.

Pierre Bourdieu's concept of symbolic violence helps us understand this dynamic more clearly.

When individuals internalise the belief that their economic position reflects their mental discipline rather than their social location, inequality becomes normalised. Structural disadvantage is turned into self-blame, and critique gives way to acceptance. People are encouraged to change their thoughts instead of questioning the systems that limit their opportunities.

This does not mean the book has no value. Positive thinking can definitely boost confidence, discipline, and resilience. Mental clarity is essential, especially in competitive and stressful settings. However, psychological motivation cannot replace sociological explanations. Belief alone does not fix unequal schooling systems, create secure jobs, or eliminate inherited disadvantages.

In the Indian context, particularly in regions such as Jammu and Kashmir, where historical, political, and economic forces significantly shape life chances, such books must be read with caution. Inspiration without structural awareness can unintentionally silence questions about justice, redistribution, and collective responsibility.

Reading *The Science of Getting Rich* at Maulana Azad Library, a place that symbolises access to knowledge, debate, and intellectual diversity, served as a reminder of why critical reading is essential.

Books do not merely motivate individuals. They also shape how society explains success and failure.

When these explanations go unexamined, they can make inequality seem like destiny or personal failure.

Wealth, ultimately, is not simply “attracted”. It is produced, distributed, and legitimised through social institutions and power relations.

Recognising this does not deny individual effort, rather it situates it honestly within the context of society.

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Fatherhood Shaped by Judgment

A father's story shows the heavy cost of society's demands on dignity and survival.

Dr. Towseef Bhat

We are born into society long before we understand ourselves.

From the moment we learn to speak, we also learn to notice opinions, expectations, judgments, and comparisons.

Our identity grows in interaction. Society acts as a mirror, showing us who we are.

Up to a point, this shaping is necessary. Society gives us language, discipline, values, and a sense of belonging. It teaches us modesty, responsibility, and how to live with others.

When social influence guides us and supports our growth and happiness, following it feels natural and comforting.

The danger begins as society stops guiding and starts commanding. Approval takes priority over being true to ourselves. Fear replaces choice. People stop asking what is right for them and focus only on what will shield them from judgment.

This burden is heaviest on the poor. Poverty is more than a lack of money. In a society where worth is measured by lifestyle, it becomes public exposure.

Decision feels like a performance, while failure becomes a story for others to tell.

A poor father watches others cautiously, worried that his children will seem less, that modesty will be mistaken for failure, or that honesty will invite punishment.

Society has made dignity expensive, and he tries to keep up for survival.

I remember a father who came to me for help. He spoke hesitantly. His words were heavy with years of restraint. His younger daughter was in the 11th grade and needed a tablet to continue her education online. He had already taken a loan for the marriage of his elder daughter. The money had gone into rituals, expectations, jewelry, and feasts. We call those things honour.

But what remained was debt and a life narrowed by worry.

He said, almost apologetically, “My daughter got married, but I could not spend more. If I had not, people would have made me the talk of the town.”

In that sentence lived the cruelty of society.

He sacrificed peace, security, and his future, because society does not forgive simplicity. Poverty is accepted only when hidden behind borrowed



A HEALTHY SOCIETY LETS FATHERS CARE FOR THEIR CHILDREN WITHOUT GOING INTO DEBT AND TEACHES children to measure worth by character than comparison. It values humanity over display, contentment over competition, and truth over approval.

grandeur.

He spoke of his younger daughter. Her friends had phones, tablets, and access to online resources. She asked only for what was needed for school. Even education had become entangled with comparison. Even learning had a price tag shaped by what others owned.

“The burden of being a father of four daughters is very heavy,” he said. “Especially when you have to keep up with others.”

This was not a complaint, but a confession.

Society had turned fatherhood into debt and daughters into liabilities, by mindset. And then he said something

that stayed with me: “I will sell my kidneys and pay you back.” He said it lightly, but it carried unbearable weight.

When a father speaks of selling his body to protect his children's dignity, the problem lies with society.

No social norm, tradition, or expectation is worth such destruction. This is where society stops shaping and starts crushing. Interaction becomes suffocation.

The tragedy does not end with the father. Children grow up watching these sacrifices. They learn that their needs are burdens, that love is measured in suffering, and that worth is proven by comparison.

They may follow paths out of guilt. Society celebrates progress, technology, and education, but rarely asks who is paying the hidden price. It praises appearances and ignores the broken backs that hold them up.

It demands equality while ignoring unequal beginnings.

Following society is not wrong when it nurtures wellness and happiness. But when it demands imitation at the cost of survival, it becomes silently violent.

Interaction shapes us, but it should not erase us. We must ask ourselves: Is this shaping helping us grow, or is it diminishing who we are?

A healthy society lets fathers care for their children without going into debt and teaches children to measure worth by character than comparison. It values humanity over display, contentment over competition, and truth over approval.

Until then, many will continue to smile while carrying invisible burdens.

— The author can be reached at essarhat22@gmail.com

US Lifts Syria Sanctions, Paving Way for Normalisation

Agencies

Damascus: Syria's government and its allies on Friday welcomed the final lifting of the most draconian sanctions imposed on the country in recent decades.

The US Congress imposed the so-called Caesar Act sanctions in 2019, targeting Syria's government and financial system to punish President Bashar al-Assad's administration as it fought to end a nearly 14-year civil war that began in 2011 with Western backing for opposition forces.

During the conflict, Damascus relied heavily on its ally Iran, which for decades had worked to build an "axis of resistance" to shore up its regional defences. The axis was central to Tehran's strategy to deter Israel and the United States and relied on Syria as a crucial land corridor linking

Iran to the Levant.

That corridor connected Tehran to the powerful Lebanese ally Hezbollah, an integral part of the axis, providing what analysts described as its logistical backbone.

Underscoring Syria's importance, Iran spent billions of dollars to retain hold on Damascus. Tehran intervened militarily in Syria's civil war in 2013, deploying hundreds of Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) officers to recruit and train tens of thousands of local and foreign fighters, playing a decisive role in shoring up the Syrian army.

However, the fall of Assad's government in a lightning rebel offensive in December 2024 dealt irreparable damage to the axis of resistance, analysts say, paving the way for Israel to confront Iran more directly, including during the July war this year.



After the fall of Damascus, advocates—including some who had previously lobbied for the sanctions—began pushing for their removal, arguing that the penalties were preventing international investors from launching reconstruction projects and blocking Syria's ability to rebuild its devastated economy and infrastructure.

US President Donald Trump, who had earlier lifted the sanctions temporarily by executive order, signed off on their final repeal late Thursday after Congress passed the measure as part of the annual defence spending bill.

Some lawmakers had sought to make the repeal conditional on steps by Syria's new Sunni Islamist-dominated government to protect religious minorities

and meet other benchmarks. Ultimately, the sanctions were repealed without conditions, though the legislation requires periodic reports to Congress on Syria's progress on issues including minority rights and counterterrorism.

Syria's foreign ministry thanked Washington for the move, saying it would "contribute to alleviating the burdens on the Syrian people and open the way for a new phase of recovery and stability."

The ministry called on Syrian businesspeople and foreign investors to "explore investment opportunities and participate in reconstruction", the cost of which the World Bank has estimated at \$216 billion.

Central Bank Governor Abdulkader Husrieh said the repeal of the Caesar Act would facilitate Syria's reintegration into the international financial

system by allowing the country to seek a sovereign credit rating.

"Syria will likely start with a low rating, which is normal for countries emerging from conflict," he said. "The real value lies in the benchmark set by the rating and the road map it provides for improvement."

Regional allies of the new Syrian government, led by interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa, also welcomed the decision. Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar all issued statements supporting the move.

"We hope that this step will contribute to strengthening stability, security and prosperity in Syria by further promoting international cooperation towards the country's reconstruction and development," Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Oncu Keceli said.

Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry praised "the significant and positive role played by US President

Donald Trump" in lifting the sanctions. Trump has previously said he moved to remove the penalties at the urging of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Also on Friday, the United Kingdom—which had earlier removed its own broad sanctions on Syria's government and financial institutions—imposed new targeted sanctions on organisations and individuals it said were "involved in violence against civilians" in Syria.

Those measures include four individuals affiliated with the former government in military or financial roles, as well as two individuals and three armed groups linked to the new Syrian government's military, accused of involvement in attacks on civilians during sectarian violence on Syria's coast earlier this year. (Trans Asia News)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Kashmir Braces

morning hours, particularly near water bodies, affecting visibility.

Pampore and Shopian both recorded minimum temperatures of minus 3.5 degrees Celsius, while Baramulla dipped to minus 3.6 degrees Celsius. Kupwara recorded minus 2.8 degrees Celsius, down from minus 1.0 degrees Celsius a day earlier.

Gulmarg recorded a minimum of 1.0 degree Celsius, slightly lower than the previous day, while Pahalgam settled at minus 2.6 degrees Celsius. Kokernag and Kulgam recorded 0.5 degrees Celsius and 0.9 degrees Celsius respectively.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature of 9.9 degrees Celsius, while Jammu airport registered 11.1 degrees Celsius. Banihal recorded 3.5 degrees Celsius and Bhaderwah 2.3 degrees Celsius.

In Ladakh, Leh recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.6 degrees Celsius, compared to minus 3.4 degrees Celsius a day earlier.

The Kashmir Valley is bracing for the onset of Chillai-Kalan, the harshest 40-day winter period, beginning on December 21 and ending on January 30. The period is traditionally associated with the coldest temperatures and the highest chances of snowfall.

So far, the Valley has not witnessed any major wet spell this winter, officials said.

The prolonged dry weather has led to a rise in seasonal ailments such as cough and common cold.

Meteorological officials said the next 24 hours are likely to remain largely dry, with only isolated chances of precipitation at a few places. However, from Saturday evening, cloudy weather is expected to set in across the region, followed by rain in the plains and snowfall over higher reaches.

According to the MeT, fairly widespread rainfall in the plains and snowfall in higher reaches is likely on Sunday, particularly in north Kashmir. Upper reaches of north Kashmir are expected to receive snowfall, while plains of Kupwara may receive 2 to 3 inches of snow. Srinagar is likely to receive 1 to 2 inches of snowfall during the period.

Parts of central Kashmir may also witness similar conditions, with snowfall in isolated areas. Another weak western disturbance is likely to affect the region around December 22.

Weather conditions are expected to remain mostly dry but cloudy from December 22 to December 24, after which dry weather is likely to prevail till December 28, officials said.

People, especially those travelling to higher reaches, have been advised to remain cautious during the period of expected snowfall.

Dense Fog

as visibility remained below operational limits for much of the day.

Airport officials said multiple morning and afternoon flights could not operate due to persistent fog over the runway. Airlines including Air India, IndiGo, and SpiceJet cancelled their inbound and outbound services as visibility dropped sharply.

Among the affected flights were Air India's services AI-3423 and AI-1799 to Delhi. IndiGo cancelled flights 6E-6164 on the Amritsar sector and 6E-2044 bound for Delhi. SpiceJet's flights SG-661 and SG-180 to Delhi, along with IndiGo flight 6E-6961 to Kolkata, were also cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

Airport authorities said passenger safety remains the top priority and flight operations will resume once weather conditions improve.

Several passengers reported long queues at airline counters as they sought rebooking and clarification regarding their travel plans.

Officials have advised travellers to remain in contact with their respective airlines for updated information, warning that further delays or cancellations cannot be ruled out if fog persists through the evening.

3 Doppler Weather

at Banihal Top, Jammu and Srinagar, which significantly amplify the real-time weather surveillance and early warning capabilities across Jammu as well as the Kashmir valley.

Under Mission Mausam, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) is using next-generation forecasting models such as the Bharat Forecast System (BharatFS), which operates at a high spatial resolution of six kilometres and provides short to medium range rainfall forecasts up to ten days, informed the Ministry.

These forecasts are now generated at the panchayat and cluster-of-panchayat levels, proving beneficial to weather-sensitive regions

like Jammu and Kashmir.

The government has also introduced a new system known as the Mithuna Forecast System-- a new generation global coupled model integrating atmosphere, land, ocean and sea-ice components. This is being used to improve district-level forecasts for extreme weather events, including heavy rainfall, snowfall, heatwaves and fog-- a phenomenon frequently occurring in J&K.

The Ministry further stated that artificial intelligence and machine learning-based tools are now being integrated into the forecasting chain to enhance nowcasting and impact-based warnings. These systems help generate more reliable alerts for disasters such as flash floods, cloudbursts and avalanches, which are common in hilly and mountainous areas like Jammu and Kashmir.

To issue timely weather advisories, satellite-based monitoring, through INSAT platforms and real-time data from radar networks, is being used. These are then disseminated through IMD websites, mobile applications such as Meghdoot, Mausam and Damini, and other digital platforms.

The Government said that the expansion of weather forecasting infrastructure will continue to happen under Mission Mausam. It includes setting up additional radars to address the coverage gaps and further strengthen disaster preparedness and climate resilience in vulnerable regions, including Jammu and Kashmir.(KNO)

J&K Steps Up

Centre, adoption of official government e mail IDs by employees, expansion of Government Drive usage, and capacity building measures to promote cyber hygiene across departments.

Emphasising the need for robust protection of IT assets, the Chief Secretary directed all Drawing and Disbursing Officers to complete inventory of IT assets on the eSAM portal within one month. He further instructed the NIC to prepare a comprehensive action plan within a month for strengthening the capacity of the State Data Centre and implementing additional cyber security measures across J&K.

Earlier, IGP Crime Sujit Singh briefed the meeting on an in depth assessment of cyber forensic capabilities at the Cyber Investigation and Cyber Examination unit. He said a structured three phase approach is being followed to strengthen cyber forensic infrastructure in the UT, with focus on emerging threats such as deep fakes, encrypted communications and data breaches.

Secretary Information Technology Department Dr Piyush Singla informed that security audits of departmental websites have been completed and 35 redundant websites decommissioned after consultation with the concerned departments. He said EDR and UEM solutions have been deployed across the Civil Secretariat complexes in Jammu and Srinagar, covering nearly 5,100 devices, while another 15,000 devices in HoD offices are scheduled to be secured by January 2026.

The meeting was informed that 28 departments have initiated census of IT assets, while 14 departments have been asked to expedite the process. The adoption of official government e mail IDs has reached 1.81 lakh users, with 35,000 users added since May 2025.

Other initiatives discussed included deployment of 19 honey pots, training support from CERT In, limited white listing of USB devices, and increased use of Government Drive across departments.

CEO JaKeGA Mahima Madan informed that select applications have been migrated to the MeghRaj Cloud, the Mini SOC at Jammu has been operationalised and will be upgraded into a full fledged SOC, and government websites are being migrated from IPv4 to IPv6 by the end of the year.

The Chief Secretary underscored that strong cyber security mechanisms are essential for efficiency, transparency and reliability in governance and directed departments to coordinate closely with the IT Department and complete all pending tasks within stipulated timelines.

Court Extends NIA

on December 9 and has been described by the agency as a key accused in the conspiracy. According to the NIA, he had knowingly harboured Umar-un-Nabi by providing logistical assistance and is also accused of destroying evidence linked to the terrorist attack.

So far, the NIA has arrested nine accused in the case. Those held include doctors Dr Muzammil Ganaie, Dr Adeel Rather, and Dr

Shaheen Sayeed, along with religious preacher Maulvi Irfan. Amir Rashid Ali and Jasir Bilal Wani, alias Danish, have also been arrested.

On December 18, the agency arrested the ninth accused, Yasir Ahmad Dar, a resident of Jammu and Kashmir and allegedly a close associate of Umar-un-Nabi. The NIA has claimed that Dar was an active participant in the conspiracy and had taken an oath to carry out self-sacrificial operations.

Umar-un-Nabi was driving an explosive-laden i20 car that detonated outside the Red Fort on November 10.

Parliament Adjourned

saw the passage of crucial bills, including one to repeal the 20-year-old MNREGA and another on opening up the civil nuclear sector for private participation.

The total sitting hours during the Winter Session was 92 hours and 25 minutes.

When speaker Om Birla was reading out his valedictory statement, some members were heard raising "Mahatma Gandhi ki jai" slogans. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was present when the proceedings were adjourned.

During the 15 sittings of the Winter Session, the House took up two politically-charged debates -- one on the 150 years of Vande Matram and the other on election reforms.

The prime minister had initiated a discussion to commemorate the completion of 150 years of the national song. The House discussed the subject for 11 hours and 32 minutes, during which 65 members participated.

A debate on air pollution, which was to be initiated by Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi, could not take place.

The opposition had been insisting on a debate on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list in 12 states and Union Territories, but the government made it clear that the poll panel and its functioning cannot be discussed in the House, and agreed to hold a debate on election reforms instead.

The issue was discussed for approximately 13 hours, with the participation of 63 MPs. The opposition, however, focused its attack against the government on SIR, the new law on the appointment of the chief election commissioner and election commissioners, and the "vote chori" issue.

Eight bills were passed during the session. The Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) or VB-G RAM G Bill, assuring 125 days of guaranteed jobs for rural India, was passed amid opposition protests on Thursday, including tearing of papers.

The Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, which seeks to open the tightly-controlled civil nuclear sector for private participation, was also passed during the session.

The Lok Sabha also passed a bill to raise foreign direct investment (FDI) in the insurance sector to 100 per cent from the current 74 per cent. It is expected to increase insurance penetration, lower premiums, and boost job creation.

The Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill, 2025, was cleared by the Rajya Sabha with a voice vote, a day after it was passed by the Lok Sabha. The Lower House also passed a Bill to repeal 65 amendment Acts and six principal laws, which had lost relevance.

The Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025; the Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and the Health Security se National Security Cess Bill, 2025 were also among the bills passed in the Lok Sabha during the session. The House also passed the Supplementary Demands for Grants - First Batch, 2025-26.

A bill to set up a higher education regulator -- the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025 -- was referred to a joint committee of the two Houses.

It seeks to establish an overarching higher education commission along with three councils for regulation, accreditation and ensuring academic standards for universities and higher education institutions in India.

Another bill on the market securities code was introduced and referred to a department-related standing committee for further examination.

During the session, 300 starred questions were admitted, and 72 were answered orally. A total of 3,449 unstarred questions were admitted during the Session.

In total, 408 matters of urgent public importance were raised by the members during the Zero Hour, and 372 matters were taken up

under Rule 377. On December 11, as many as 150 members raised their matters during Zero Hour in the House.

PRS Legislative, a think tank, said the Lok Sabha functioned for 103 per cent of its scheduled time and the Rajya Sabha for 104 per cent. Each House spent over 40 per cent of its time on debates.

It also noted that seven out of the nine Bills introduced in the Winter session were passed within a week. The think tank pointed out that private members' bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha for the first time since August 2024.

MHA Clears

In addition, the ministry approved the promotion of ten IPS officers of the J&K segment to the Selection Grade (Level-13 of the Pay Matrix) with effect from January 1, 2026. The officers promoted include Ashish Kumar Mishra, Nagpure Amad Ashok, Gurinder Pal Singh, Altaf Ahmed Shah, Bakar Hussain Samoon, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Ranjit Singh Samyal, and Mohammad Yaseen Kichloo.

Chandan Kohli, who is presently on central deputation, has been granted proforma promotion to the Selection Grade.

Besides, six IPS officers have been promoted to the Junior Administrative Grade (JAG, Level-12). The officers promoted to JAG include Bisma Qazi, Tanushree, Sahil Sarangal, Anayat Ali Choudhary, Nikhil Borkar, and Mohita Sharma, the order said.

7 IAS Officers

notionally w.e.f.01.01.2025 and actual from the date of assumption of charge.

As per the order, Prasanna Ramaswamy, Ram Niwas Sharma, Talat Parvez Rohella, Rukshana Gani, Rehana Batul and Mir Tariq Ali have been promoted to Super Time Scale w.e.f. 01.01. 2026 or the date of assumption of charge, whichever is later.

The MHA has also ordered promotion of 13 IAS officers of J&K segment of AGMUT cadre to Selection Grade.

According to the order, Avny Lavasa, Anshul Garg, Vikas Kundal, Nidhi Malik, Nazim Khan, Shakeel-ul Rehman Rather, Pradeep Kumar, Rahul Sharma, Narinder Bali, Aijaz Ahmad Bhat and Majid Khalil Ahmad Drabu have been promoted to Selection Grade w.e.f. 01.01. 2026.

Dr Shah Faesal and Sheikh Arshad Ayub- who are currently on central deputation- have also been granted promotion to Selection Grade on proforma basis.

Three IAS officers posted in Jammu and Kashmir have also been promoted to the Junior Administrative Grade.

The officers include Ayushi Sudan (Deputy Commissioner Samba), Bilal Mohiuddin (Deputy Commissioner Budgam and Minga Sherpa (Deputy Commissioner Baramulla)

Young Generation

chemistry, arts and humanities," the Lieutenant Governor said, adding that various philosophical schools, along with India's art and architectural traditions, remain profoundly relevant in contemporary times.

Emphasising the importance of cultural continuity, he said initiatives like Kartavya Marg play a vital role in connecting the younger generation with their traditions and heritage.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that Indian culture, ethics, and values help society navigate complex challenges while cultivating harmony and a sense of oneness.

"Our ancient knowledge system offers a blueprint for a successful modern world while ensuring the well-being of all. It also provides a roadmap for sustainable development and innovation, and a holistic framework to deal with issues such as climate change," he said.

Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust, said the annual publication is brought out in Hindi, Sanskrit, English, and Dogri to ensure that its message of knowledge, culture, and values reaches a wide and diverse readership.

Several members of the Trust, including scholars, academics, and social workers, were present on the occasion.

Outrage In

Peoples Democratic Party leader Iltija Mufti on Friday lodged a police complaint seeking registration of an FIR against the Bihar chief minister. In her complaint to the Kothibagh police, Mufti termed the act a brutal assault on the dignity, autonomy, and identity of a Muslim woman and alleged that it has emboldened miscreants to target veiled women elsewhere.

Mufti said the incident was particularly disturbing as it occurred in full public view at a

government function and alleged that those present failed to intervene. She urged the police to apply the law uniformly, asserting that holding high office does not place anyone above accountability.

Addressing the Friday congregation at the Jamia Masjid here, leaders described the incident as a grave violation of personal dignity and moral boundaries, saying no authority or position grants the right to interfere with a woman's faith, identity, or personal choice. They criticised attempts to justify the act as women's empowerment, calling such arguments misleading and insensitive.

The incident, which occurred earlier this week at the Bihar chief minister's secretariat in Patna during an appointment ceremony, has sparked a nationwide political row, with opposition parties demanding an apology and action.

Complainant, 2 Others

the case originated from a written complaint filed by Kumar, who initially alleged that Sheikh and Shah had issued him a fake appointment letter in the name of the Railway Recruitment Board.

The forged appointment letter carried fabricated seals and a fake signature of the Deputy General Manager, Northern Railway, Paharganj, New Delhi.

Following the complaint, the Economic Offences Wing launched a detailed investigation, which prima facie established that the accused had conspired to lure victims on the pretext of providing government jobs and had extracted substantial sums of money from them.

During the course of investigation, officials said, verification of several appointment letters confirmed that they were forged.

The probe further revealed that the complainant, Kumar, was also actively involved in the commission of the offence. Investigators found that Kumar had taken money from other victims on the false pretext of securing employment and had issued fake job orders to them.

Based on the evidence collected during the investigation, the Economic Offences Wing presented the final report under Section 173 of the Code of Criminal Procedure before the court for judicial adjudication, the officials said.

'Red Gold' At Risk

production and a direct blow to our livelihood."

Farmers said saffron, often referred to as "red gold," is a highly sensitive crop and offers little scope for protection against wildlife damage.

"Orchardists can fence or protect trees, but saffron fields do not have such options," said Ishrat Ahmad, a grower from Pampore. "We try using lights, horns and noise to scare porcupines away, but it is not possible to stay awake all night. The animals return repeatedly."

According to cultivators, porcupines are most active between December and March, a critical period for the survival and development of planted corms. During this time, the animals dig out and consume large quantities of corms, causing long-term damage to yields.

Growers said saffron production in Kashmir has already been hit by a combination of factors, including a shrinking cultivation area, erratic weather linked to climate change, lack of timely irrigation, and the non-availability of high-quality corms.

"Porcupines are adding to our misery," Ishrat said. "If this issue is not addressed immediately, there will be no viable saffron corms left in these fields in the coming years."

Farmers recalled that a repellent spray introduced by SKUAST-Kashmir a few years ago provided temporary relief, but its effect was short-lived and failed to offer a long-term solution.

"We are not experts. The government must involve scientists and technical experts who can guide us on sustainable ways to prevent porcupine damage," said a grower from Lethpora. "So far, no permanent measure has been put in place."

Locals said they have repeatedly brought the issue to the notice of agriculture and wildlife departments, but no concrete steps have followed.

"We are not seeking compensation alone. We want preventive measures," farmers said. "If saffron cultivation declines further, it will not only affect farmers but also Kashmir's identity, as Pampore saffron is known across the world."

The growers have urged authorities to intervene urgently, deploy expert teams on the ground and introduce scientifically proven methods to protect saffron corms before the damage becomes irreversible. (KNO)

ATOAI Recognises Kashmir as India's Adventure Capital

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Declaring Jammu and Kashmir as the "Adventure Capital of India", President of the Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI), Ajeet Bajaj, on Friday said the association will partner with local stakeholders to transform the Valley into a world-class adventure tourism destination.

Bajaj said the 17th ATOAI annual convention themed "Safe, Sustainable and Resilient Adventure Tourism", received an "overwhelming" response, with delegates touring Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Sonmarg.

"Our members returned impressed. Jammu and Kashmir truly has everything that makes it a global adventure hotspot," Bajaj said, as reported by KNO.



He added that the ATOAI held B2B sessions with local tour operators to build direct business links and ensure that "local enterprises benefit directly from national and

international traffic."
"The mountains are magnificent, the people are welcoming, and the spirit of adventure is unmatched. We want to steadily

ly reopen all adventure zones and position Kashmir firmly on the global adventure map," Bajaj said.

He said the ATOAI is also co-ordinating with the Ministry of Tourism to accelerate the revival of tourism in the Union Territory, describing the region as "the crown jewel of India's adventure landscape"

He said the perception of insecurity about Kashmir must change. "Everything is normal here and we have seen it for ourselves," he added.

"This is the jewel in the crown of India's tourism sector. We are proud of our men and women in uniform who have ensured peace and security and we want to get more tourists back to Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest," Bajaj said.

THE MOUNTAINS ARE MAGNIFICENT, THE PEOPLE ARE WELCOMING, AND THE SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE IS UNMATCHED. We want to steadily reopen all adventure zones and position Kashmir firmly on the global adventure map,"

He said that the sense of normalcy now visible across the Valley must translate into tourism revival. "Our members returned deeply impressed by the peace and positivity they witnessed," he added.

Over 17,000 Street Vendors Benefit under PM SVANidhi in J&K



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Nearly 17,000 street vendors in Jammu and Kashmir have benefited from the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme and over ₹48 crore loan disbursed so far, as per the official data tabled in Parliament shows.

In a written reply by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in response to a Lok Sabha question, a total of 17,315 street vendors in Jammu and Kashmir are registered as beneficiaries under this scheme.

The data further reveals that loans amounting to ₹50.83 crore have been approved in favour of these vendors. So far, ₹48.18 crore has already been disbursed, which depicts a high disbursement rate in the Union Territory.

The Ministry said, "Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) play a key role in identifying eligible street vendors through surveys conducted under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street

Vending) Act, 2014, or through verification of applications submitted on the PM SVANidhi portal."

After the verification is completed, eligible vendors are provided with Certificates of Vending, identity cards or Letters of Recommendation (LoR). Then their loan applications are sent to banks and other lending institutions for approval and disbursement. Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) also facilitate vendors through handholding, mobilising applicants and coordinating with banks to ensure loans are released promptly.

For effective implementation of the scheme, the Union Government asked the State and UT administrations, including Jammu and Kashmir, to regularly monitor the performance of ULBs and lending institutions. Pertinently, SVANidhi was introduced to offer affordable working capital loans to street vendors affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, to help them restart their businesses and pave a way for self-sufficiency—(KNO)

'Trolley of Shame': Patient Allegedly Denied Ambulance at GMC Handwara

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A shocking video shared widely on social media, showing a sick patient being moved outside GMC Handwara on a trolley has raised serious questions about the emergency healthcare infrastructure of the hospital.

The video purportedly showing a patient being wheeled out of the hospital on a trolley by the attendants, allegedly after being denied an ambulance for emergency transfer.

Footage reveals that the incident occurred when a doctor at the hospital recommended an urgent CT Scan, a facility rendered unavailable on-site due to a malfunctioning machine. When the patient's family sought an ambulance to transport the patient to another facility for the crucial diagnostic test, authorities allegedly failed to provide the service.

Witnesses, as per KNO said the patient had to be moved manually after officials at GMC Handwara reported that the CT scan facility was unavailable. "It was a heart-breaking incident to witness." As the video circulated online, netizens criticized the condition of medical services at GMC Handwara. Some netizens said that

the hospital 'resembles an animal husbandry center, not a medical facility for humans.'

The incident drew a sharp reaction from the Civil Society Forum Handwara (CSFH), which alleged that shortcomings in the hospital were 'not accidental but a deliberate attempt to benefit surrounding private clinics.'

The forum appealed to the GMC Handwara administration to install CCTV cameras in every OPD to ensure accountability and prevent alleged malpractice.

Responding to the controversy, Medical Superintendent of GMC Handwara, Dr. Aijaz Ahmad, admitted that the hospital's CT scan machine had developed a technical fault.

He, however, clarified that the attendants pushed the patient 'in haste' despite being stopped by hospital security personnel.

"The CT scan machine had a technical snag, but the attendants rushed without coordinating with hospital staff. Nobody requested for an ambulance," Dr. Aijaz said. He added that an engineering team had been called to address the malfunction, but the machine again developed a snag. "Hopefully, the CT scanner will be restored to order by tomorrow," he said.

SCM Projects Nearing Completion in J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has made a substantial headway under the Smart Cities Mission (SCM), as data presented in the Parliament records the majority of approved projects in Jammu and Srinagar nearing completion.

In a written reply to Lok Sabha, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, said that Jammu and Kashmir has received ₹941 crore as Central Financial Assistance under SCM, of which ₹864.6 crore has already been utilised. A total of 288 projects amounting to ₹6,603.5 crore were taken up in the Union Territory. Of these, 279 projects, amounting to ₹6,364.7 crore, have been completed, while nine projects totalling to an amount of ₹238.8 crore are under execution, indicating an overall completion rate of more than 96 per cent.

Under Smart City, Srinagar has witnessed significant progress as 156 out of 161 projects have been completed so far. The completed projects in Srinagar account for ₹3,523.6 crore, while five projects with a cost of ₹110.8 crore are under execution. While in Jammu city, 127 projects with a total

cost of ₹2,969.1 crore were approved under the mission. Of these, 123 projects worth ₹2,841.1 crore have been completed, while four projects are still undergoing, which cost ₹128 crore.

While highlighting the objective of Smart Cities, the Union Government clarified that the Smart Cities Mission is not the development of entire cities, but focused area-based development through retrofitting, redevelopment, greenfield projects and pan-city initiatives. These also include interventions in smart mobility, water supply, sanitation, governance, energy and environment sectors, it added.

As per KNO, the Ministry further informed that the projects are implemented through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) and are audited as per provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, with audits conducted by State Audit authorities.

Aimed to improve urban infrastructure and quality of life through technology-driven and sustainable solutions, the Smart Cities Mission was launched in June 2015 and during the different rounds of the national challenge process, Jammu and Srinagar were selected.

Kashmiri Doctor Clinches Fourth International Honour



Kashmiri gastroenterologist and hepatologist Dr. Hameed Raina has added another feather to his cap by winning the Second Best Video Award at the 3rd International Hepatopancreaticobiliary (HPB) Conference, held recently in Dubai. This marks his fourth international award in recent years, underscoring his growing global stature in advanced endoscopy and endoscopic ultrasound (EUS).

Dr. Raina, a native of Hussipora, Chadoora in central Kashmir, was recognised for presenting a highly advanced and innovative technique titled "EUS-Guided Cystogastrostomy and Direct Endoscopic Necrosectomy in Post-Pancreatitis Walled-Off Necrosis." The procedure is considered cutting-edge in the management of severe complications arising from acute pancreatitis and reflects a major leap in minimally invasive gastrointestinal care.

An alumnus of Government Medical College, Srinagar, Dr. Raina completed his MD in Internal Medicine from the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) before earning a DM in Gastroenterology and Hepatology from Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, one of India's most prestigious medical institutions. He also holds multiple international fellowships, including FMPB, FEUS and FATE, and is a Member of the Royal College of Physicians, United Kingdom (MRCP-UK).

Significantly, Dr. Raina is regarded as the first Kashmiri gastroenterologist to achieve international recognition in the highly specialised field of interventional EUS, a domain that bridges advanced endoscopy and complex surgical outcomes. His work has not only contributed to improved patient care but has also influenced evolving practices among gastroenterologists and surgeons alike. (Observer News Service)

J&K Police Registers FIR Against Stunt Biker

Jammu and Kashmir Police in Shopian have taken action against a stunt biker incident reported from the Zawoora area. In this connection, a case FIR No. 270/2025 has been registered under Sections 281 and 125 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 184 of the Motor Vehicles Act. The motorcycle involved in the incident has been seized and further investigation is underway.

The accused rider has been identified as Furqan Ahmad Dar son of Mohd Ashraf Dar resident of Zawoora, Shopian. He was found indulging in dangerous stunts on a public road, thereby endangering his own life and posing a serious risk to other road users.

J&K Police have reiterated that stunt biking and rash driving on public roads are strictly prohibited and will attract stringent legal action. Public roads are meant for safe commuting and such irresponsible behaviour can lead to tragic consequences. The police have appealed to the youth to adhere to traffic rules and adopt responsible driving practices. Parents and guardians have also been urged to guide and counsel their children regarding road safety and traffic discipline. (Observer News Service)

CBK Files Charge Sheet in Job Fraud Case

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Special Crime Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir has filed a charge sheet against a Ganderbal resident for allegedly duping several people of rupees 5.50 lakh on the pretext of providing government jobs, reaffirming its zero-tolerance policy towards job frauds and cheating cases.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, the Special Crime Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir has filed

a charge sheet in case FIR No. 05/2020 under Section 420 RPC before the Hon'ble Court of Sub Judge 13th Finance, Srinagar, against Muzaffar Ahmad Shah S/o Shamsudin Shah, resident of Saloora, Ganderbal, at present residing at Co-operative Colony, Peerbagh.

The statement says, the case originated from a complaint alleging that the accused fraudulently obtained an amount of 5.50 lakh from complainants on the false promise of providing government jobs to them and their relatives. Acting

promptly on the complaint, the Special Crime Wing Kashmir initiated a detailed probe into the matter.

It says, during the course of investigation, substantial evidence came to light establishing the involvement of the accused in the alleged offence. The investigation revealed that the accused had deliberately misled the complainants, exploiting their aspirations for government employment, and dishonestly induced them to part with their hard-earned money.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

MACHINERY DIVISION SRINAGAR

MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR

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

GIST of e-Tender

e-NIT No:

MDSK/TS /2025-26/74

Date

18 . 12.2025

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

Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In rupees)	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	EMD in Rs	Position of AA	Position of TS
1	2	3	4	5	6
Providing & fixing of Blankets and other items for Snow Clearance Control Room Budgam of Machinery Sub Division 1 st Srinagar.	100.00	31,240.00	625.00	Revised Works programme approved by CE vide order No. M&HED/K/ Acctt/ of 2025-26/107 Dt.30.08.2025.	Sanctioned vide No. 42 of 2025-26 Dt. 15.12.2025.

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

01	Publish date	18 .12.2025(18:00hrs)
02	Period of downloading of bidding document	18.12.2025 (18:30 hrs)
03	Bid submission start date	18 .12.2025 (18:55 hrs)
04	Bid submission end date	26.12.2025 (18:55 hrs)
06	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	27.12.2025 (14:00 hrs)

No: MDSK/ TS/4651-54
Date: 18.12.2024

DIPK-9146-25

DT: 19/ 12/2025

Sd/

Executive Engineer,

Machinery Division, Kashmir

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION QAZIGUND

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

FRESH NIT No.43 OF R&B /QAZIGUND/2025-26 / E-TENDERING/4535-50 DATED:18-12-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works: -

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs)	Basic Cost (In Rs)	GST Amount (In Rs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Head of Account	Position of AAA	Class of Contractor
1.	Restoration of innovative link at RD 200 near Rafiq Ahmad Deva's Home BWO Protection work.	249183.30	211172.29	38011.01	200/=	4984/=	30 Working Days	MH:3054 M&R	Authorization No. ARD/ CESK/2025-26/89 Dated: 22/11/2025	DEE Class Only
3.	Restoration of Link near Masjid Shareif Aarifah Lowemunda on Mandipora Changoo Lowermunda road BWO of CC drain at spots.	248073.07	210231.42	37841.65	200/=	4962/=	30 Working Days	MH:3054 M&R	Authorization No. ARD/ CESK/2025-26/89 Dated: 22/11/2025	DEE Class Only
4.	Construction of C/C Drain in km 2nd near chopan mohalla to usman masjid on mandipora changoo lower munda road.	248289.56	210414.88	37874.68	200/=	4966/=	30 Working Days	MH:3054 M&R	Authorization No. ARD/ CESK/2025-26/89 Dated: 22/11/2025	DEE Class Only

Position of TS: Accorded

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

S.No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18.12.2025
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 19.12.2025 (11:00 AM) To 26.12.2025 (04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 19.12.2025 (11:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 26.12.2025 (04:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)	27.12.2025 (11:00 AM)

In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND.

1.

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division QAZIGUND [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)(Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND (Tender receiving Authority).

2.

All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/ Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/ Bid Security shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

3.

The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division QAZIGUND (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period(DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for the period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

4.

The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security@5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The bidders are requested to quote their rates excluding GST. GST @18Percentshall be added to the contract value by the allotting authority at the time of issuance of allotment.

5.

The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.inand conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND.

6.

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

7.

The Earnest Money /Performance Security shall be forfeited If:
a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter of intent.
c) Successful Bidder fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
d) If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security/ EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited.

No. 4535-50

DATED:18-12-2025

DIPK-9135-25

DT: 19/ 12/2025

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,

PW (R&B) Division QAZIGUND

Asia Cup: India U-19 Reach Final, Set Up Clash with Pakistan

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Vice-captain Vihaan Malhotra's exhilarating stroke-play was well complemented by Aaron George's composure as India U-19 set up an U-19 Asia Cup summit date with arch-rivals Pakistan after crushing Sri Lanka colts by eight wickets in a rain-curtailed semi-final here on Friday.

After rain reduced the match to 20 overs per side, the Indian bowling unit, which has been spot on throughout the tournament, restricted Sri Lanka to 138 for 8 in 20 overs.

In reply, left-handed Malhotra (61 not out off 45 balls), who was snapped up by RCB at the recently concluded IPL mini auction, flicked and pulled with ease to hit a couple of sixes apart from muscling a few boundaries.



His partner and India's crisis man in this event, George (58 not out off 49 balls), was technically perfect with his strokes as India chased down the target in 18 overs.

India's eighth appearance in

the final was built on the unbroken 114-run stand for the third wicket between Malhotra and George.

In the other semi-final, Pakistan beat Bangladesh by eight wickets, and the bitter neigh-

bours will meet in the continental final after a gap of 11 years.

The last time India U-19 beat Pakistan in the Asia Cup final in 2014, the team comprised of Shreyas Iyer, Sarfaraz Khan, Sanju Samson and Kuldeep Yadav, to name a few.

India U-19 had an inauspicious start to its chase, with teenage IPL sensations Ayush Mhatre (7) and Vaibhav Suryavanshi (9) being done in by pacer Rasith Nimsara. Mhatre, who has endured a horrible tournament, was hurried into a mistimed pull by a short ball from Nimsara.

Nimsara varied his pace for Suryavanshi, who tried to close the face of the bat but got a leading edge that ballooned.

However, Malhotra started with a flicked six off Nimsara, and there was no looking back. In

the case of George, an imperious drive off off-spinner Kavija Gamage showed his class.

Sri Lanka U19 were still giving a fight till the 13th over bowled by Dunith Sigeru, where Malhotra first played a short firm pull for a boundary, followed by a drive through extra cover and then another front-foot pull that landed on the grass banks.

Opting to field, India's colts' bowling unit did well to reduce Sri Lanka to 28 for 3 within the first six overs before skipper Vimath Dinsara (32) and Chamika Heenatigala (42) added 45 in the next six overs to stabilise the innings.

However, it was Sethmika Seneviratne's cameo -- a 22-ball-30 -- that took Sri Lanka past the 135-run mark. For India, spinner Kanishk Chauhan and Henil Patel took two wickets apiece.

India defeat South Africa by 30 runs, clinch T20I series 3-1



Hard-hitting India batters Tilak Varma and Hardik Pandya hammered fine half-centuries while spinner Varun Chakravarthy snared four wickets as India defeated South Africa by 30 runs to clinch the five-match T20I series 3-1 here on Saturday.

With Varma (73 off 42 balls) and Pandya (63 off 25 balls) in full flow, India scored a competitive 231 for 5 and then restricted the visitors to 201 for 8.

The Proteas were in the match till opener Quinton de Kock (65 off 35 balls) and Dewald Brevis (31 off 17) were at the crease, but the visitors lost wickets quickly once the two departed in successive overs.

Chakravarthy (4/53) removed the dangerous Aiden Markram and Donovan Ferreira off consecutive deliveries in the 13th over to take the fight out of the South Africans by reducing them to 135 for 5 from 118 for 1 in 10 overs.

Earlier, skipper Suryakumar Yadav's poor run with the bat continued as he scored just five runs but India still put up a big total with Varma and Pandya sharing a 115-run stand for the fourth wicket.

Head Century Crushes England's Hopes As Australia Eye Ashes Win

Agencies

Travis Head proved England's nemesis once again as he scored his second century of the Ashes to carry Australia toward a seemingly inevitable series triumph on day three at Adelaide Oval on Friday.

Head's unbeaten 142 in front of an adoring home crowd of 53,696 helped Australia to 271 for four at stumps and a 356-run lead after the hosts bowled England out for 286 in the morning.

Australia lead the five-match series 2-0 after comfortable victories in Perth and Brisbane, and need only a draw in Adelaide to retain the urn as holders.

Head's fellow South Australian Alex Carey also cashed in, adding an unbeaten 52, as the local heroes combined in an unbroken 122-run partnership to bang another nail into Eng-



land's coffin.

Head's century was unwelcome deja vu for the tourists following his sensational 123 off 83 balls in the fourth innings in Perth.

The second ton nearly eluded him, though when he slashed Jofra Archer low to the gully when on 99, only for Harry Brook to spill a second, costly catch of the test.

The following over, Head smashed Will Jacks over his

head for four to bring up the hundred in 146 balls.

The boundary sparked one of the warmest ovations of his sporting career, the 31-year-old getting down on his knees to kiss the pitch where he made his career for state side South Australia.

With England captain Ben Stokes looking tired and opting not to bowl, the tourists had no answer to Head despite plugging away for some reward against the other batters. "From what I understand he's pretty fit to bowl," England bowling coach Jeetan Patel told reporters of Stokes. "I know he's pretty knackered."

Opener Jake Weatherald (1), number three Marcus Labuschagne (13) and Cameron Green (seven) fell cheaply but stand-in number four Usman Khawaja joined Head in an important 86-run stand after Australia were 53 for two.

Runs Aplenty: Kiwis Declare at 575, West Indies 110-0 on Day-2

Agencies

Devon Conway scored his second Test double century more than four years after his first, powering New Zealand to a declaration at 575 for 8 on Friday, the second day of the third Test against the West Indies.

Undeterred by New Zealand's imposing total and the need to bat in gloomy late-afternoon conditions, West Indies openers John Campbell and Brandon King surged to 110 without loss in 23 overs by stumps.

New Zealand lead the three-match series 1-0 after the first Test was drawn and the Black Caps won the second by nine wickets.

King reached his half-century from 63 balls and was 55 not out at the close, while Campbell was 45 not out after the pair



put on a century opening stand from just 116 balls.

After reaching 200, Conway went on to register his highest Test score of 227 in an innings lasting nearly eight-and-a-half hours. He had made exactly 200 in the first innings of his debut Test against England at Lord's in June 2021.

Conway's marathon knock of 227 came from 367 balls and included 31 fours. It featured a commanding 323-run opening partnership with Tom Latham, putting New Zealand firmly in

control. Latham made 145 on the opening day.

Rachin Ravindra then built a half-century across the second and third sessions on Friday, finishing 72 not out when the declaration was made shortly before 5 p.m., with about 90 minutes, or 23 overs, remaining in the day. Ravindra struck six fours and two sixes, accelerating as the declaration approached, and shared an unbroken 39-run stand with Ajaz Patel, who ended on 30 not out.

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