

## Chillai Kalan Sets In; Alert Issued, Travel Restrictions Imposed

Heavy Snow Likely In Higher Reaches Today, Rains In Plains

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir enters Chillai Kalan, the harshest 40-day winter period today as the Meteorological Department forecast an active weather spell with snowfall in higher reaches and rain in the plains across Jammu and Kashmir. Chillai Kalan, a Persian term meaning "major cold," marks the coldest phase of winter in the Valley and will continue till January 31. It is followed by Chillai Khurd (January 31 to February 19) and Chillai Bacha (February 20 to March 2).

The weather department has predicted light to moderate snowfall over higher reaches and light to moderate rain at many places in the plains from the evening of December 20 to December 21. On December 22, light rain or snowfall is likely at



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

scattered locations, followed by partly cloudy conditions till December 30. There is also a possibility of light snowfall at isolated higher reaches on December 31.

Meanwhile, minimum temperatures across Jammu and Kashmir showed marginal improvement on Saturday compared to the previous day, though cold conditions

continued to prevail. As per data compiled by the news agency Kashmir News Observer, fresh snowfall began late Saturday evening in the Warwan Valley, Sinthan Top. | More on P6

### Traffic Plan & Advisories Issued

The administration on Saturday issued a series of snowfall and traffic advisories across Kashmir as the Meteorological Department forecast rain and snowfall over the next few

days, warning of possible disruption on key highways and mountain roads. Authorities advised people to avoid non-essential travel, particularly in upper reaches, and strictly | More on P6

## Delayed Snowfall Due To Climate Variability: Experts

Ansar Hussain

Srinagar: Kashmir's delayed snowfall despite prolonged sub-zero temperatures reflects climate variability altering the Valley's winter pattern, experts said. They, however, assured that snowfall is likely in the coming days and stressed the need for sustainable practices to mitigate long-term impacts.

Professor Parvez Ahmad from the Department of Geography and Disaster Management, University of Kashmir, said altered precipitation behaviour linked to climate change has disrupted traditional snowfall cycles in the Valley.

"There is no need to panic. Snowfall is expected within the next seven to ten days, and the overall winter season is likely to witness a good amount of snow," he said, adding that winter snowfall is crucial for sustaining rivers, agriculture, horticulture, drinking

water supply and tourism, especially winter sports activities in Gulmarg.

Professor Ahmad attributed the changing trends to global warming, deforestation, rising pollution levels and increased emissions from vehicles and heating systems. He noted that the Himalayan region has been witnessing a long-term rise in temperatures alongside a decline in consistent snowfall patterns.

Hydraulic engineering expert and environmentalist Aijaz Rasool said climate change impacts are now being felt more sharply in the Valley. He warned that prolonged dry spells and reduced water levels in the Jhelum River could severely affect agriculture and horticulture.

He stressed that local interventions such as conservation of wetlands, pollution control and proper cleaning of water bodies can help reduce the adverse effects of climate | More on P6

## All Arrangements In Place: CM



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said that all arrangements are in place to tackle the forecast of heavy snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir, expressing hope that the precipitation would help reduce air pollution and provide a boost to winter tourism.

The Chief Minister chaired a comprehensive review meeting on winter preparedness covering both the Jammu region and the Kashmir Valley, with particular focus on areas likely to receive snowfall. The Meteorological Department has forecast moderate to heavy snowfall in the higher reaches of the Union Territory on Sunday.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Omar said preparations have been finalised across all districts of the Valley and higher areas of Jammu. "Whether these arrangements will fully | More on P6

## LG Orders Frequent Checks In J&K Prisons

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday directed authorities to ensure frequent checking and enhanced surveillance of prisons | More on P6



### Ramp-Up Testing To Eliminate TB: LG

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday called for a ramp-up in tuberculosis testing and stronger community-based | More on P6

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## Over 19 Lakh J&K Children to Receive Polio Drops

Observer News Service

Srinagar: More than 19 lakh children in the age group of 0 to 5 years will be administered Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) across Jammu and Kashmir on December 21 as part of the National Immunization Day (NID) 2025.

The vaccination drive will be followed by intensive house-to-house immunisation on December 22 and 23 to ensure that no eligible child is left out.

Director, Family Welfare, MCH & Immunization, J&K, Poonam Sethi, said a total of 19,85,736 children have been targeted for immunisation across the Union Territory. She said extensive arrangements have been put in place to ensure smooth implementation of the campaign.

According to officials, 10,993 vaccination booths and 248 transit points have been established, while 518 mobile teams have been deployed to reach hard-to-access and vulnerable populations.

A media sensitisation meeting in connection with the upcoming National Immunization Day was held at Government Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, to mobilise media | More on P6



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UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

## OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER, SRINAGAR, Old Sectt, Srinagar-190001, Phone No. 0194-2478817

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Subject:- Advertisement of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-matric/Post-matric Scholarship (PM-YASASVI) for the students belonging to OBC, EBC & DNT categories on National Scholarship Portal for the year (2025-26).

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of general public especially eligible students that notification regarding submission of online applications under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-matric/Post-matric Scholarship (PM-YASASVI) for the students belonging to OBC, EBC & DNT categories on National Scholarship Portal has been issued by Directorate of Social Welfare, Kashmir vide No:- DSWK/Sch/2025/4643-53 Dated:- 03-12-2025 for the year 2025-26, the contents of which are as under:-

Name of the Scheme	PM-YASASVI (PM YOUNG ACHIEVEWRS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD SCHEME FOR VIBRANT INDIA)
Category	The student must belong to Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) or De-notified Nomadic & Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) as notified by Central/UT Government.
Annual Family Income	The total annual family income from all sources should not exceed Rs. 2.50 lacs per annum.
Pre-matric Scholarship (PMS) for OBC, EBC and DNT	The student must be currently studying in Class IX or Class X on a full-time basis in a government recognized school.
Post-matric Scholarship (PMS) for OBC, EBC and DNT	He or she must have passed Matriculation (Class 10th) or Higher Secondary (Class 12th) or any higher examination and be pursuing a recognized Post-matric course (e.g Class XI & XII, Diploma, Graduate, Post-Graduate, Professional Course).

TIME LIMIT FOR SUBMISSION OF ONLINE APPLICATIONS:-

SCHEME	ACTIVITY	DATE
PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP (PMS) FOR OBC, EBC & DNT	PORTAL OPENING DATE	NOVEMBER 01-2025
	PORTAL CLOSING DATE	DECEMBER 31-2025
POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP (PMS) FOR OBC, EBC & DNT	PORTAL OPENING DATE	NOVEMBER 25-2025
	PORTAL CLOSING DATE	DECEMBER 31-2025

How to apply

The scholarships are open to Indian Nationals who are residents of J&K and belong to the specified categories, pursuing approved courses in recognized institutions in India.

All eligible students are advised to apply online on the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) within the specified timelines.

All applications must be submitted online on the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) viz <https://scholarships.gov.in/>.

All required requisite documents must be uploaded as per the devised format/specifications mentioned on the application portal in original.

A student who is already covered under any other scholarship scheme from UT/Central Government is not entitled under this scheme.

For further details regarding scholarship and criteria students are requested to visit the National Scholarship Portal (NSP): <https://scholarship.gov.in/> or [https://socialjustice.gov.in/social-audit/public/schemesdoc/PM\\_Yasasvi\\_scheme.pdf](https://socialjustice.gov.in/social-audit/public/schemesdoc/PM_Yasasvi_scheme.pdf).

District Social Welfare Officer,  
Srinagar

No:-DSWK/Sch/2025/  
DIPK-9176/25 Dated:- 20. 12. 2025

## KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED (KPDCL) OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER Planning Circle, KPDCL, Bemina, Srinagar.

### EXTENSION NOTICE-IV

In view of poor response and to ensure fair participation, extension-IV in critical dates to below mentioned e-NIT is accorded. Detailed as under;

e-NIT Nos.	Name of the Item / Equipment	Qty.	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Tender Doc. Fee (In Rs.)	EMD (In Rs.)	Completion Period/ delivery period
SE/P/KPDCL/02 of 2025-26 Dated:- 28-10-2025	6.3 MVA, 33/11 KV, Outdoor Type, 3-Phase, Two Winding, Copper Wound, Oil Immersed Power Transformer(s) with ON Load Tap Changer (OLTC), Remote Tap Change Control (RTCC) panel with SCADA Compatible, complete with all fittings, accessories, associated equipment's, NCT on LV side and Spares. (Tender ID:- 2025_PDD_293426_1).	05 Nos.	Rs. 31344427.79	Rs. 4000.00	Rs. 626889.00	As per SBD, Start 02 months after Issue of P.O & Completion within 03 months thereafter.

1.	Submission of e-Bid (end) Date and Time	29-12-2025 at 14:00 Hrs
2.	Submission of Hard Copy (end) Date and Time	Upto 30 -12-2025 till 16:00 Hrs in the Office of the Chief Engineer Planning & Procurement wing, PDD Complex, Bemina, Srinagar. Pin code:- 190018
3.	Commercial / Technical Bid Opening Date and Time	31-12-2025 at 14:00 Hrs

Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer,  
Planning (KPDCL), Srinagar

No - SE/P/KPDCL/900-901  
DIPK-NB-2795/25  
Dated:- 20-12-2025.

### From Office of the Advocate Javid Ahmad Navoo

In the case of  
1. Gh Hassan Malla S/o Gh Ahmad Malla  
R/o Nehalpora Pattan

Caveator

V/S

1. Mohd Yousuf Teli S/o Ab Khaliq Teli  
2. Ashmi Malie W/o Mohd Yousuf Teli  
3. Jameela Bano D/o Mohd Akbar Teli  
4. Poshia Begum (Alias Fatima Begum) D/o Mohd Akbar Teli  
W/o Tajamul Qadri  
5. Waseem Ahmad Teli S./o Mohd Akbar Teli  
6. Sameera Bano D/o Mohd Akbar Teli All residents of Nehalpora Pattan

Non-Caveators

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.  
fko

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to correct my name in my Aadhaar card Bearing no. 934423846174, from Mohd Umer Dar to Omer Salam Dar .

If anybody having any objection may contact the concern authority within a period of seven days,after that no objection will be entertained.

Omer Salam Dar  
S/o Abdul Salam Dar  
R/o Rangpora, Ellahi Bagh

media line

### NOTICE

I want to change the name in electric connection from Abdul Satar Patloo bearing consumer id No :- 0203020005391 to Shakeela W/o Abdul Salam Batloo R/o :- Pureshyar Habba Kadal, Srinagar. If anybody has anyobjection, he/she may contact office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Sub-Division Habba Kadal Srinagar within 7 Days after that no objection shall not be entertained.  
Shakeela

W/o: Abdul Salam Batloo  
Pureshyar Habba Kadal, Srinagar

media line

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that i have lost my passport bearing Number M6848021 Date of issue 07-04-2015 Date of Expiry 06-04-2025 during travelling from ICHIGAM to HAZRATBAL. Now i want to apply for its duplicate. In this regard. If any body having any objection he/she may contact Regional Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.  
HAMEEDA BANO  
W/O MOHMAD ABDULLA DHOBI  
R/O ICHIGAM BUDGAM.

mcb

### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK-0420120070644

Issued in favour of SHAMSHADA AKHTER Husband MAHMOOD RASHID SHEIKH

Whereas an application has been recieved by one SHAMSHADA AKHTER Husband MAHMOOD RASHID SHEIKH wherein he claimed that the name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as SHMSHADA AKHTER Husband DR. MAHMOOD RASHID Which needs to be changed as SHAMSHA-DA AKHTER Husband MAHMOOD RASHID SHEIKH

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shal reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

### Public Notice

This is information for the general public that i MOHD MUZAFFAR MIR S/O GHULAM AHMAD MIR Prop. of MIR CONSTRUCTION, am holder of BEE class contractor card bear SE/(R&B) SB -30/25 -/ BEE OF 2018-2019 FIRM name M/S MIR CONSTRUCTION. Issued by Superintendent Engineer R & B South Srinagar Kashmir hereby intend to upgrade the said contractor card BEE Class to a CLASS.. If anybody having any objection regarding the same they may submit their objection written to the Cheif Engineer Civil investigation wing JKPD, Bemina within a period of 7 days from the date of this notice. No objection will be entertained after that.  
MOHD MUZAFFAR MIR  
S/O GH AHMAD MIR R/O BUGROO..

mcb

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity beill bearing consumer ID NO: 0211020008120 from Ab Gaffar Khan S/o Ab Samad Khan to Ghulam Nabi Malla S/O Abdul Gaffar Malla . If anybody has any objec- tio in this regard he/she may file them in the PDD office Sub Division Newa within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
Ghulam Nabi Malla  
S/o Abdul Gaffar Malla  
R/o Astaan Mohalla Kakapora

x

### Public Notice

This is information for the general public that i ISHAFAQ GULL S/O GH-ULAM MOHAMMAD DAR Prop. of ISHFAQ GULL, am holder of DEE class contractor card bear SE/Hyd-2017-18-05(civil) (DEE) class Run up to 2025 to 2026, 01-04-2025 to 31-03-2026 issued by Superintendent Engineer Hydraulic DEE to (CEE) change class. Ashafiq Gull Construction works.. If any body having any objection regarding the same they may submit their objection written to the Cheif Engineer Civil investigation wing JKPD, Bemina within a period of 7 days from the date of this notice. No objection will be entertained after that.

ISHAFAQ GULL  
S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD DAR..

mcb

### Public Notice

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 220184193854 the name is entered as MOHAMMAD MAROOF while my actual name is AFAN NAZIR. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

AFAN NAZIR  
S/O NAZIR AHMAD GUJREE  
R/O GULSHAN ABAD HYDERPORA .

mcb

### Public Notice

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 33193477 the name is entered as PARRYZAD MUZAFFAR while my actual name is PAREEZA MUZAFFAR. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

PAREEZA MUZAFFAR  
D/O SHEIKH MUZAFFAR  
R/O HYDERPORA SRINAGAR PIN 190014 .

mcb

### Public Notice

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 2724154572 the name is entered as MUZAMIL NAZIR while my actual name is WAMIQ NAZIR. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

WAMIQ NAZIR  
S/O NAZIR AHMAD GUJREE  
R/O GULSHAN ABAD HYDERPORA .

mcb

### اطلاع عام

منظیر کا بیٹے SOZNI کام کارخانہ بنام RAZIA ART GALARY کی رجسٹریشن منسوخ کر دینا  
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### Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

Sub: Application of Uzma shafi D/O Mohammad Shafi Bhat R/o Kreeri for the issuance of EWS (Economically Weaker Section ) in favour of self

#### NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuanc eof EWS in favour of self Uzma shafi D/O Mohammad Shafi Bhat. In this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals tha tthe applicant is currently residing in village Kreeri . The annual income of the family is rs 106000 and the family details are given below

S. NO	NAME OF DEPENDENT	AGE	OCCUPATION
1	Mohammad Shafi Bhat	45 years	Driver
2	Mehmooda Begum	43 years	H/W
3	Uzma Shafi	daughter 17 yrs	student
4	Maheen shafi	13 yrs	20
5	Hoor Fatima.	6 yrs	12

According to report of Patwari Concerned the applicant's family has not more than 5 acres of land and does not hav egrater than 1000 sqft of residential house. The applicant has not any residential house or residential plot in municipal area. The applicants residential plot is not more than 200 sq ft and the applicant's family income is not more than 8 alcks per year. Moreover the applicant does not belong to any backward area.

Therefore, through this Public Notice Objections are being sought from general public, if any person has any objection, he/ she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days(Sevcn days J positively from the date the notice has been published No objection shall be entertained alter the stipulated time period.

Naib Tehsildar

fko

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the 12th pass Discharge and Character Certificate of my son namely Tajamul Nabi S/o Ghulam Nabi Tantray bearing Roll 321009057 . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the officeof the Govt Higher Secondary School Lalpora within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
Ghulam Nabi Tantray  
F/o Tajamul Nabi

bmrg

R/o Lalpora Wanikhal Tehsil Kunzer Distt Baramulla

### Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of The Naib-Tehsildar Sariwarpora

Executive Magistrate 1st Class

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for information of the general public that the Block Development Officer (BDO) Pattan has forwarded the case file for issuance of Death Certificate in favour of Fatima Begum D/o Abdul Rashid Bhat R/o Sariwarpora with whose father Ab Rashid Son of Abdullah Bhat died on 25.06.2000. Objections, if any, regarding the details furnished by the applicant may be submitted in writing in the office of the Naib Tehsildar, Sariwarpora within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice.

If no objections are received within the stipulated time, the case shall be processed for issuance of the Death certificate as per rules in vogue.

fko

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been inadvertently recorded in my Aadhaar Card as Mahmooda Bano Bearing Aadhar No 3405 5561 3166 while my correct name is Mahmooda Akhter . 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..

Mahmooda Akhter  
D/o Fateh Mohammad Lone  
R/o Khargam PO: kreeri DIST: Baramula,

fko

### Public Notice

I, Ali Mohammad Bhat, father of Qamar Ali Bhat, resident of Ganni Doori, Alamjari Bazar, Srinagar, hereby inform the general public and concerned authorities that I have changed/corrected the spelling of my son's mother's name from "Masarat" to "Masrat."

All concerned authorities and members of the general public are hereby requested to take note of the same. If anyone has any objection in this regard, he/she may submit the objection at Green Land Educational Institute, Hawal, Srinagar, within a period of seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Details are as under:  
Student's Name: Qamar Ali Bhat  
Father's Name: Ali Mohammad Bhat  
Mother's Name (Correct): Masrat  
Class: Grade 9th  
School: Green Land Educational Institute, Hawal, Srinagar  
Contact No.: 9906900904

inf

### Public Notice

In my Driving License bearing DL NO. JK05 20190000155 name is mentioned as JAVED AHMAD AHANGAR But my actual name is JAVEED AHMAD AHANGAR , and my father's Name is mentioned as MOHD SHABAN AHANGAR. But my actual name is MOHAMMAD SHABAN AHANGAR. Now I want to correct it if anybody has any objection, he/she may contact ARTO OFFICE SOPORE within the period of 7 days; after that, no objection will be accepted.

Name: JAVEED AHMAD AHANGAR  
S/O:MOHAMMAD SHABAN AHANGAR  
R/O SHALPORA SOPORE BARAMULLA,JK Pincode: 193201

AB

### Public Notice

In my Driving License bearing DL NO. JK-0520100023372 name is mentioned as ALTAF AHMAD PARRAY But my actual name is ALTAF AHMAD PARRAY , and my father's Name is mentioned as MOHAMMAD RAMZAN PARRAY, But my actual name is MOHD RAMZAN PARRAY. Now I want to correct it if anybody has any objection, he/she may contact ARTO OFFICE SOPORE within the period of 7 days; after that, no objection will be accepted.

Name: ALTAF AHMAD PARRAY  
S/O: MOHD RAMZAN PARRAY  
R/O SARI SINGHPORA PATTAN  
BARAMULLA,JK Pincode: 193402

AB



## Encroached Footpaths Spark Safety Concerns for Pedestrians

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Footpaths in several busy areas of Srinagar have been extensively encroached by shopkeepers who have moved merchandise outside their shops, forcing pedestrians to walk on the main roads and exposing them to the risk of accidents. The issue has emerged across multiple markets, with locals saying the situation worsens during peak hours when traffic is already congested.

In parts of Nowhatta, Dalgate, Batamaloo, Hari Singh High Street and other commercial stretches, walkways remain occupied with display racks, cartons, caged goods and other items placed directly on pedestrian space. Locals said the practice has grown unchecked, leaving little to no room for people to walk safely.

Commuters said footpaths have effectively turned into

extensions of shops, compelling pedestrians to walk on the roads where vehicles move close by. They said the absence of regulation not only endangers pedestrians but also violates basic urban norms meant to ensure safe movement in busy markets.

Locals added that after street vendors occupied significant portions of roads in many areas, now even the footpaths are not being spared. They said the problem persists despite repeated public complaints and periodic drives that offer only temporary relief.

According to KNT, concerned citizens said that footpaths are meant exclusively for pedestrians and cannot be converted into commercial display zones. They noted that continued obstruction increases the danger of road accidents and disrupts traffic discipline.

## Property Worth Rs 1 Crore Attached in Narcotics Case

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar Police on Saturday attached a double-storey residential house measuring eight marlas at Wantpora Eidgah after investigators established that the property was acquired through proceeds of drug trafficking. The house belongs to Basit Bilal Dar, son of Bilal Ahmad Dar, an inhabitant of Wantpora Eidgah, and is valued at nearly one crore rupees.

Police said the accused is involved in two narcotics related cases, including FIR 59 of 2024 under Sections 8 and 21 of the NDPS Act registered at Po-

lice Station Nowhatta and FIR 114 of 2025 under Sections 8, 22 and 29 registered at Police Station Safakadal. Officials said sustained investigation revealed that the attached property was generated from illicit earnings linked to drug trade.

The attachment was executed under Section 68 F of the NDPS Act. Police said the proceedings were carried out in the presence of two independent witnesses and in accordance with the required legal procedure. Notices have been pasted on the structure restricting any alteration, sale, lease, transfer or creation of third party interest in the property.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My name and parentage has been wrongly written in my 10th class certificate as Ubaidullah Qazi S/o. Muneer Ahmad while my correct name is Qazi Ubaidullah S/o..Munaf Ahmad . 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 JK board of education sopore within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Qazi Ubaidullah S/o.Munaf Ahmad R/o.. Chankhan Sopore Class. 10 Year 2012

fko

### PUBLIC NOTICE

In my Driving License bearing DL NO. JK-0520010002116 name is mentioned as MEHMOOD UL HASSAN NAZKI But my actual name is MAHMOODUL HASSAN NAZKI , and my father's Name is mentioned as AB MAJEED , But my actual name is ABDUL MAJEED NAZKI. Now I want to correct it if anybody has any objection, he/she may contact ARTO OFFICE SOPORE within the period of 7 days; after that, no objection will be accepted.

Name: MAHMOODUL HASSAN NAZKI

S/O: MABDUL MAJEED NAZKI

R/O MUQAMI SHAHID SOPORE, BARAMULLA, JK Pincode : 193201

ab



## Pheran Day, Jashn-e-Chilai-Kalan Celebrated at Kashmir Haat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To mark the onset of Chilai-e-Kalan—the harshest 40-day winter period in Kashmir—the Handicrafts and Handloom Department on Saturday organized Pheran Day with traditional fervour at Kashmir Haat, Srinagar.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, inaugurated Pheran Day and Jashn-e-Chilai-Kalan, symbolising the beginning of the Valley's intense winter season. The event celebrated the traditional Kashmiri winter attire, the pheran, while highlighting the region's rich cultural heritage and craftsmanship.

During the inauguration, the Divisional Commissioner visited various stalls set up by local artisans, where traditional winter wear, including pherans and blankets, was put on display. The exhibition aims to promote indigenous handicrafts and handloom products while providing a platform to local artisans to showcase their skills.

Speaking on the occasion, Garg said that the celebration of Pheran Day reflects the cultural and social significance of Chilai-e-Kalan, a period during which people across Kashmir make special preparations to withstand extreme cold conditions. He informed that the exhibition will continue for two days and

has already witnessed a large public turnout at Kashmir Haat.

Describing the pheran as a symbol of Kashmir's cultural identity, the Divisional Commissioner said it represents the region's centuries-old traditions and the fine craftsmanship of local artisans. He congratulated the Handicrafts and Handloom Department for successfully organising the event and appreciated the artisans for

fall, the Divisional Commissioner assured that the administration is fully prepared to deal with any challenges during the winter season. He expressed hope that snowfall would add to the festive spirit and boost tourist footfall during ongoing winter celebrations.

In view of the rise in fire incidents during winters, Garg urged the general public to strictly adhere to the

“The celebration of Pheran Day reflects the cultural and social significance of Chilai-e-Kalan, a period during which people across Kashmir make special preparations to withstand extreme cold conditions,”

their creativity and dedication.

Garg also expressed satisfaction over the growing participation of youth in the handicrafts and handloom sector, terming it a positive sign for the preservation and revival of traditional crafts. Highlighting various initiatives of the department, he said programmes such as Know Your Artisan and skill development workshops are being regularly organised to promote local crafts and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities to artisans.

Referring to the forecast of snow-

Fire Prevention Advisory issued by the Divisional Administration. He emphasised the need for regular audits of heating systems and winter appliances to prevent fire-related mishaps.

The event was attended by Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Mussarat Zia, senior departmental officers, artisans, and people from different walks of life. Adding to the cultural vibrancy of Jashn-e-Chilai-Kalan, the department also organised musical performances at the Exhibition Ground, Kashmir Haat, drawing enthusiastic participation from visitors.

### SAD DEMISE

This news is being conveyed with profound sorrow that the wife of Professor Dr. Kamal Ahmad Farooqi passed away on 18 December 2025.

The collective Fateha (prayer gathering) for the deceased will be held on 29 Jamadi al-Thani 1447 AH, i.e, 21 December 2025, Sunday, at 11:00 a.m., at her ancestral graveyard, Dargah-e-Aaliya. Thereafter, a condolence gathering will be held at the residence of the deceased, located at Sector 3, Mughal Lane, Zakura Crossing.

inf

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

NOTICE OF GRATITUDE

The bereaved family extends its sincere and heartfelt gratitude to ALL FRIENDS AND RELATIVES, and to the RESIDENTS OF CHATTABAL, for their presence, prayers, and unwavering support during this time of profound loss.

We respectfully acknowledge and thank the following organizations, institutions, and individuals for standing with us in this difficult period:

- HUJJIAT-UL-ISLAM WAL MUSLIMEEN, MAULANA MASROOR ABBAS ANSARI
- NAJAWANAN-E-SAJAD ABADI, CHATTABAL
- IMAMIA AQWAF, JAMIA MASJID-E-SAJJADIA
- AASTAN-E-AALIYA BABUL HAWAJI, HAZRAT IMAM MUSA KAZIMI (A.S.)
- SHIA-SUNNI COORDINATION COMMITTEE, CHATTABAL
- GULSHAN-E-SADAAT, SHERI BHAT / BAGHWANPORA
- RESIDENTS AROUND MASJID-E-SAHIB AZ-ZAMMAN (A.J.T.F.)
- BAIT-UL-MAAL, BAGHIVAS
- AAKASH INSTITUTE, Administration/Transport Department
- THE LEARNING EDGE

We humbly pray that Allah (SWT), by the waseela of Muhammad wa Aal-e-Muhammad (A.S.), accepts your condolences, rewards your compassion, and grants you the shafa'at of Bibi Fatima Zahra (S.A) on the Day of Judgment. Your presence, duas, and service reflected the timeless teachings of the Ahlul Bayt (A.S.) and gave us strength during this painful time. This unity and sincerity shall forever remain etched in our hearts.

Kindly recite SURAH AL-FATIHA and offer SALAWAT UPON MUHAMMAD WA AAL-E-MUHAMMAD (A.S.) for the departed soul.

With profound respect and gratitude,

THE BEREAVED FAMILY

GH.ABBAS BHAT, SHONKAT AIL BHAT, NIAMAT ALI BHAT, HAJI PERAZ AIL BHAT AND S.S.MUKTIZA

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

Ganderbal (J&K)-191201 Website: www.cukashmir.ac.in

(ADMISSIONS - 2026)

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR ANNOUNCES ADMISSION TO POST-GRADUATE (PG) PROGRAMMES

Online applications are invited from the eligible candidates for admission to various post-graduate programmes through **Common University Entrance Test CUET (PG) - 2026** to be conducted by **National Testing Agency (NTA)**. Candidates who are pursuing their Bachelor's degree or equivalent Examination and appearing in the Final Year of their Bachelor's degree/equivalent examination in 2026, are eligible to appear in CUET (PG)- 2026. The eligibility/paper code(s) and other details for admission to PG programmes are available on our website: [www.cukashmir.ac.in](http://www.cukashmir.ac.in). The University is offering admission to the below mentioned PG programmes: -

S.No	Name of the programme	S.No	Name of the programme
1.	M.A. English	12.	M.Sc. Botany
2.	M.A. Urdu	13.	M.Sc. Chemistry
3.	M.Com	14.	M.Sc. Zoology (Lateral Entry)
4.	M. A. Mass Communication & Journalism	15.	M.Sc. Biotechnology (Lateral Entry)
5.	M. A. Economics	16.	M.Sc. Physics (Lateral Entry)
6.	M. A. Political Science	17.	M.Sc. Mathematics (Lateral Entry)
7.	M.A. Kashmiri	18.	MBA (Master of Business Administration)
8.	LL.M	19.	MBA (Travel & Tourism Management)
9.	M. Ed.	20.	M.A Philosophy (Specialization in Islamic Studies & Religious Studies)
10.	Integrated B.Ed.-M.Ed.	21.	M. Tech (Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning)
11.	M.P.Ed	22.	M. Tech (Structural Engineering)

Activity Schedule for CUET (PG)-2026:

Events	Tentative Date(s)
Online registration and submission of Application Form (complete in all respects) through NTA Website	14 December 2025 to 14 January 2026 (up to 11:50 P.M.)
Last date for successful transaction of Examination fee (through Credit Card/ Debit Card/Net Banking/UPI Payment Modes)	14 January 2026 (up to 11:50 P.M.)
Correction in the Particulars of the Application Form online only	18 January 2026 to 20 January 2026 (up to 11:50 P.M.)
Month of Examination	March 2026
Website(s)	<a href="https://exams.nta.nic.in/cuet-pg/">https://exams.nta.nic.in/cuet-pg/</a> , <a href="http://www.nta.ac.in">www.nta.ac.in</a>
Email and Helpline Number	<a href="mailto:helpdesk-cuetpg@nta.ac.in">helpdesk-cuetpg@nta.ac.in</a> / 011-40759000

**Note: (1)** The Candidates are advised to select the course/s of their choice and corresponding course codes/s and test paper code/s carefully before submitting the application form. The University shall not be responsible for any error made by the candidates/s at the time of form submission. **(2)** For admission to MBA and MBA (TTM), the preference will be first given to candidates who have appeared/qualified CMAT 2026. **(3)** For admission to M.Tech. Programmes, the preference will be first given to candidates coming through CCMT-2026 based on their GATE Score. **Important Instruction: (1)** Candidates can apply for CUET (PG) - 2026 through the "Online" mode only. The Application Form in any other mode will not be accepted. **(2)** Candidates must read carefully the Instructions (including how to fill up the Application Form online) given in the Information Bulletin available on the NTA Website. **(3)** Candidates are advised to fill only one Application Form and to take utmost care while filling out the mobile number and e-mail address. One mobile number and email address can be used for one Application Form only. **(4)** Candidates who do not comply with the instructions shall be summarily disqualified. Further, for any assistance at university level, please call at 7889593153 - 9469147277 Office hours (10:00AM to 5:00PM). S/d

No:CUKMr/DOA/Admission.PG/2026/118

Dated:15-12-2025

Director Directorate of Admissions

## اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی

یہ خبر نہایت دکھ کے ساتھ دی جا رہی ہے کہ پروفیسر ڈاکٹر کمال احمد فاروقی کی اہلیہ محترمہ کا انتقال 18 دسمبر 2025ء کو ہو گیا۔

## إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

مرحومہ کی نمازِ جنازہ اسی روز درگاہ عالیہ میں نمازِ مغرب کے بعد ادا کی گئی۔

مرحومہ کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی

29 جمادی الثانی 1447ھ

مطابق 21 دسمبر 2025ء

بروز اتوار، صبح 11 بجے مرحومہ کے آبائی مقبرہ، درگاہ

عالیہ میں ادا کی جائے گی۔

بعد ازاں تعزیتی مجلس کا انعقاد اُن کی رہائش گاہ واقع

سیکٹر 3، مغل لین، زکوره کراسنگ میں ہوگا۔

لواحقین



## KASHMIR OBSERVER™

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## My Gripe with IGNOU

A first-person account of  
how fairness weakens inside  
IGNOU's Kashmir centres.

Dr. Rameez Ahmad

I still remember the moment clearly.

During the 2023-24 academic session, I was travelling with two colleagues from another department. They were casually comparing how many days of examination duty each had received. Seniority, they said, explained the difference.

I listened for a while and then said, half joking, that I had not received even a single day.

The reason was simple. I belonged to a different discipline.

The conversation moved on, but that small exchange stayed with me. It captured, in a silent way, how things often work inside the IGNOU system in Kashmir.

Opportunity does not always follow merit or rules. It often follows familiarity.

I have always seen IGNOU as an educational lifeline in a valley shaped by discord, distance and distress. It is the only realistic way into higher education for many students. But for educators like me, it offers a chance to remain part of academic life.

In such a setting, fairness is the foundation of trust.

But my experience within the system shows a growing gap between principle and practice.

Officially, counselling classes, assignment evaluation and examination duties are to be distributed transparently. But in practice, they tend to stay within a small and familiar circle.

Who gets work depends less on qualifications and more on proximity.

Where you teach, who you know and how well you please the right people matters more than academic credentials.

Over time, this creates a culture where compliance is rewarded and integrity feels risky. Subtle flattery travels further than honest work. Merit is slowly pushed to the margins, until inequality begins to feel normal.

This becomes especially clear during examinations.

When a study centre coordinator belongs to a particular discipline, exam duties tend to flow towards staff from that same background. Counselling classes often follow the same pattern. Preference is given to counsellors from the host college of the study centre, while equally qualified educators teaching elsewhere are ignored.

Assignment distribution reveals an even deeper problem. There is no clear, rule-based system. Assignments are often shared through prior personal contact. A phone call can matter more than formal approval.

What troubled me most was how openly this informality is accepted.

When I raised concerns with senior counsellors about the lack of a proper channel, one response was blunt. I was told that offering a small cash amount to non-teaching staff could help.

When such suggestions are made casually, it shows how deeply unethical practices have settled in.

Even the idea of first come, first serve collapses on closer look.

Counsellors arrive early, only to find staff unavailable. Meanwhile, preferred individuals are informed about the exact time to come.

Rules exist, but they are applied selectively.

When you step back and look over time, the imbalance is hard to ignore. Despite being approved for multiple courses across two study centres for several years, my own academic engagement has remained limited.

I have handled only a handful of classes and assignments. At the same time, others are repeatedly entrusted with hundreds. But this is not just my story.

Many educators experience this, and choose silence because speaking up feels futile.

Students suffer in this scheme.

Evaluated assignments are rarely returned. Learners lose the chance to understand their mistakes or improve. Carefully written comments never reach them. Scripts pile up and are later discarded. Assessment becomes a ritual, rather than a learning process.

IGNOU is a publicly funded university with a mandate of equity and access. That mandate demands transparency, written norms and accountability. It cannot rely on discretion shaped by familiarity or informal loyalty.

The solutions are neither radical nor unrealistic. Class schedules, assignment allocations and examination duty lists should be published online for every study centre. Digital and time-bound systems can reduce arbitrariness.

Study centres need proper technical support to manage these processes. Most importantly, UGC norms must be followed in both letter and spirit, so that PhD holders, NET-qualified and genuinely deserving educators receive fair consideration.

IGNOU has built its reputation over decades. Preserving it requires honest introspection, especially in a region like Kashmir, where education is social capital, hope and stability.

I am not questioning IGNOU's founding vision of inclusive and democratic education. I am pointing to how local practices, shaped by prolonged uncertainty, unemployment and weak accountability, can slowly distort merit-based functioning within public institutions.

If IGNOU is to remain a true beacon of inclusion, fairness cannot remain a promise on paper. It must be visible, verifiable and practiced every day, at every study centre.

The author is a former Senior Research Fellow in Sociology at Aligarh Muslim University. Views expressed in this article are author's own and don't necessarily reflect KO's editorial policy.

# Misinformation and Meals

## Eggs are the latest food blamed for cancer, fueling confusion and fear in Kashmiri kitchens.

Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili

Time and again, the valley sees the same story unfold. A food item is sent for official testing, partial results leak to the media, and by the time the science is clear, panic has already taken over.

Eggs are the latest target.

Before them, it was allegedly rotten meat, chemically ripened fruits like watermelon, pesticide-heavy vegetables, rice from adulterated mills, dried and smoked fish, and even microplastics in salt tea.

Families stare at their plates, unsure what is safe to eat and what might slowly harm them.

Food carries culture, survival, and memory. When fear replaces evidence, society becomes anxious, mistrustful, and vulnerable to misinformation.

The question is not whether food safety matters, it does, but how we can responsibly say that a particular food causes cancer.

When fear travels faster than facts, cancer turns from a disease into a breakfast plate phobia. People decide what to eat, avoid, and blame without real evidence.

Cancer in Kashmir has silently moved from hospitals into kitchens, dining rooms, and social media feeds. Headlines, viral videos, and misinterpreted studies often trigger panic: Eggs are dangerous, milk is toxic, rice contains chemicals, fruits and vegetables are contaminated, meat is lethal.

Foods that have nourished families for generations become villains overnight. Families change diets abruptly, while anxiety replaces reason.

We need to ask whether these scares are real or whether they have turned into collective fears.

Cancer is real and devastating. It is rising globally because people live longer, cities grow, lifestyles change, and detection improves. What is often exaggerated is how we interpret risk.

Fear that is disconnected from science harms more than it protects. Not everything that can cause cancer actually does. Confusing potential danger with proven harm turns nutrition into anxiety.

Medical science distinguishes hazard from risk.

A hazard can cause harm under certain conditions. Risk is the chance it will harm a person in everyday life.

Laboratory experiments often use doses far higher than humans ever encounter. Early findings matter because they signal possible danger, but they do not automatically translate into daily risk.

When preliminary results are presented as absolute truth, fear spreads.

Social media thrives on extremes. Eat this, die. Avoid that, survive. Cancer does not appear from a single meal or a single ingredient. It develops over years, shaped by patterns, immunity, exposure, and lifestyle.

One food item is rarely the culprit.

Every decade produces a new dietary enemy. Yesterday it was fats. Today it is carbohydrates.



Education and awareness deserve seriousness over sensationalism. Plates should be places of nourishment, culture, and balance, not fear. Thinking critically, calmly, and compassionately about cancer is the first step toward replacing panic with purpose and fear with facts.

Tomorrow it may be proteins.

Nothing is safe from suspicion: eggs, milk, meat, rice, tea, even coffee. Foods that have fed generations suddenly seem dangerous, often without solid evidence.

Focusing on single foods distracts from what really matters. Tobacco, alcohol, inactivity, obesity, stress, pollution, and delayed diagnosis influence cancer risk far more than a single meal.

When we blame food, we ignore systemic problems like poor regulation, unsafe workplaces, environmental toxins, and limited healthcare.

Fear-driven nutrition also takes a psychological toll.

Parents worry endlessly about feeding children the wrong foods. Patients blame themselves. Communities fracture over conflicting dietary advice. Families abandon traditional, affordable diets for expensive "clean" or "super" foods marketed without strong evidence.

Panic eating can harm society more than food itself. Repeated warnings that everything causes cancer erode trust in science and public health.

Evidence-based nutrition offers guidance. Studies consistently show that balanced diets rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, legumes, and nuts support health. Excessive processed foods, sugary drinks, and alcohol increase risk. Obesity and inactivity contribute to cancer.

Food safety matters, and contamination or unregulated additives deserve attention from authorities. None of this requires fear. It requires understanding, trust in credible institutions, and patience with science.

The media shapes how people think about

cancer. Sensational headlines attract attention but erode understanding. Reporting must explain differences between association and causation, and between preliminary findings and established evidence.

Authorities must communicate uncertainty honestly. Silence breeds rumours and delayed clarification fuels panic. Interim guidance should be proportionate, evidence-based, and clear.

We need to reclaim the conversation from fear. Cancer prevention is not living in constant terror over every meal. It is about making informed choices, demanding safer environments, and improving healthcare.

The most effective tools are simple: quitting tobacco, staying active, maintaining a healthy weight, vaccinating where possible, attending screenings, and seeking timely care.

Food matters, but it is one chapter, not the whole story.

When fear moves faster than facts, cancer becomes a phobia that dictates what we eat, and avoid.

Education and awareness deserve seriousness over sensationalism. Plates should be places of nourishment, culture, and balance.

Thinking critically, calmly, and compassionately about cancer is the first step toward replacing panic with purpose and fear with facts.

The author is a medico involved in cancer awareness and preventive oncology. He can be reached at drfiazfazili@gmail.com.

## Are We Thinking... or Just Prompting?

Kashmiri students and professionals increasingly turn to AI, raising questions about dependence, learning, and intellectual growth.

Shahid Tariq Lone

egating mental effort to machines instead of engaging deeply oneself.

As AI increasingly performs tasks like analysis, synthesis, and judgment, users tend to invest less effort in reasoning on their own.

Together, these studies do not argue that AI makes humans less intelligent. Rather, they deliver a consistent message: when AI replaces thinking instead of supporting it, our capacity for deep thought weakens.

It's equally true that every new technology has faced resistance. Books once did too. But this is not about rejecting progress. It's essentially about recognizing gradual intellectual erosion.

AI saves time, but saving time is not the same as building understanding. I was once told by a highly conscious and respected schoolteacher that she felt guilty using AI while framing question papers, even though the work was not entirely AI-generated. Her concern was not about efficiency, but about dependence.

In modern educational setups, this dependence feels particularly dangerous.

Books are increasingly shelved to gather dust, while AI sits comfortably in our pockets, offering instant summaries and shortcuts.



The question is no longer whether AI will be part of our lives, it already is. The real question is whether we use it as a tool that sharpens the mind, or as a crutch that slowly weakens it.

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# An Old Man Remembers the Air of Kashmir

One man's recollection of a time when development had not drowned out daily life.

Sahil Jahangir Mir

The first thing Ghulam Rasool remembers about his childhood in Kashmir is the air.

He talks about it the way people talk about someone they loved and still miss. You stepped outside, he says, and the air told you what kind of day it would be. It felt soft on the skin, carried a light sweetness from apple blossoms, and held the cool hint of snow melting high in the mountains.

Breathing came easily then. You filled your lungs, and something inside you eased.

Ghulam Rasool is in his late seventies now. He sits most afternoons outside his small home on the edge of Srinagar, wrapped in a woolen shawl that has grown thinner over the years, much like him. A handkerchief stays close to his mouth. The cough arrives without warning, deep and dry, as if it has travelled a long way before finding its voice. Doctors have given it a name that sounds clinical and tidy. He gives it a history.

"When I was young," he says, looking toward the hills that rise faintly in the distance, "we did not know the word pollution. We only knew seasons."

His childhood village was built of mud and wood. Kitchens sent up thin lines of smoke that dissolved into the open sky. Trees stood everywhere as companions. Walnut



Representational Photo by Abid Bhat

its surface, oars dipping gently into water clear enough to reveal fish flashing beneath like slivers of light. Chinar trees lined the banks, casting steady and serene reflections on the lake. Tourists arrived, though their presence felt light.

There were fewer engines, fewer

appear more easily than forests.

Vehicles multiplied, smoke followed, and the air grew heavier, though the weight was easy to ignore at first.

People adjusted, believing discomfort would pass. Modern life settled in with shopping complex-

mountains vanish behind a dull grey wall.

Schools close for days. Hospital wards fill with patients struggling to breathe. Children learn the use of inhalers earlier than multiplication tables.

Mornings are the hardest for Ghulam Rasool. There was a time, he says, when he would wake and take one long breath before opening his eyes. That breath felt like gratitude.

Now his hand reaches for medicine first. His grandchildren know a different valley. Traffic jams, horns, and dust from construction sites form their daily landscape.

On certain days the sky looks worn out. Stories of sweet air sound unreal to them, spoken in the tone reserved for myths.

One afternoon, his youngest grandson asked if the air had truly been different. The question stayed with him. Loss without shape resists explanation.

He thought of a winter from his youth when snow fell thick and clean, the cold sharp enough to wake the senses without wounding them. Wood burned sparingly, with respect for the forests that shel-

tered the valley.

Winters today feel harsher in another way. Snow arrives less often. Smoke fills the gaps. People burn whatever they can find, while heaters draw power from generators that run on diesel.

Doctors and environmental researchers have words for what is happening. They speak of particulate matter, emissions, deforestation, and rapid urban growth. Reports circulate, charts rise and fall, warnings grow more urgent.

Ghulam Rasool listens politely. His conclusion comes from a simpler place. Gratitude, he says, was forgotten somewhere along the way.

Chinar leaves once covered the ground in autumn, turning paths into rivers of gold. Many of those trees are gone, cleared to make room for traffic and expansion. Saplings stand in their place, thin and young, fighting for space in soil and air that offer little kindness.

Growth takes time, and time feels scarce.

He still walks to the Dal Lake when his strength allows, leaning heavily on a wooden stick polished smooth by use. The lake remains beautiful, though its tiredness shows.

The water carries more waste now. Weeds spread where clarity once lived. Houseboats hum through the night, generators replacing the hush of water and oars.

He closes his eyes, searching for older sounds, and smells. Memory brings them back for a moment. A bus passes, coughing smoke, and the present asserts itself.

Air pollution in Kashmir has become an emergency that wears no uniform. It advances by wearing people down. Breath shortens, bodies weaken sooner than expected, children spend more time indoors, and elders lose strength at a pace that feels unfair.

The land once known for healing now struggles to sustain itself.

Hope remains part of Ghulam Rasool's vocabulary. He speaks of nature as something capable of mercy, provided respect returns.

Trees can be planted as commitments rather than ceremonies. Public transport can reduce the flood of private vehicles. Construction can slow and consider the ground it stands on. Lakes and rivers can re-



**TREES CAN BE PLANTED AS COMMITMENTS RATHER THAN CEREMONIES.**

Public transport can reduce the flood of private vehicles. Construction can slow and consider the ground it stands on. Lakes and rivers can recover if allowed to rest. Balance, he believes, still offers a way forward.

cover if allowed to rest.

Balance, he believes, still offers a way forward.

On rare days when the air clears and the mountains step back into view, the old man smiles. He draws in a deeper breath, careful and composed, like someone greeting an old companion after a long absence.

"This is how," he says, "Kashmir is meant to feel."

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**ON RARE DAYS WHEN THE AIR CLEARS AND THE MOUNTAINS STEP BACK INTO VIEW, HE SMILES.** He draws in a deeper breath, careful and composed, like someone greeting an old companion after a long absence. "This is how," he says, "Kashmir is meant to feel."

and willow, poplar and chinar offered shade, fuel, timber, and reassurance. They were never counted, only relied upon. Silence came easily in those days, and people treated it with care.

As a young man, Ghulam Rasool became a boatman on the Dal Lake. He learned the water the way others learn streets. He remembers mornings when the lake stirred before sunrise, shikaras sliding across

roads, and more walking. Development had not started making noise yet.

Change did not come all at once. Roads appeared first, wider and darker than before. Trees fell one at a time, each cut justified by need. A building rose here, a road stretched there. Promises followed, spoken with confidence. More trees would be planted. Progress would benefit everyone. Promises, he learned, dis-

es, concrete homes, diesel generators filling the gaps left by unreliable power. Brick kilns burned day and night.

Forests thinned, hills lost their cover, and the valley that once seemed to lift the sky began to hold it down.

The change now shows itself plainly. The air stings the eyes and scratches the throat. Winter brings smog that blends with fog until the

## Chillai Kalan Begins

As Kashmir enters into 40 days of harsh cold season, the valley hopes for a winter that brings water, harvest, and the beauty of white landscapes.

Peerzada Aarif

Every year, Kashmir reads itself for a season that tests its people and shapes daily life. This is Chillai Kalan, forty days of deep winter, when icy winds sweep through the mountains.

For centuries, it has guided how Kashmiris live, work, and endure the cold.

Chillai Kalan is life itself. The snow that falls during these forty days collects in the mountains and glaciers. As it melts, it feeds the Jhelum River, fills irrigation canals, and replenishes springs that supply drinking water.

Without this snow, orchards and farms would struggle. Every flake plays a role in keeping the land alive.

In the past, Kashmiris greeted Chillai Kalan with both caution and respect. Families stacked firewood and dried vegetables like hokh syun to last through frozen days. Houses were built from wood and mud bricks to keep out the cold.

Inside, kangris warmed laps, and hamams steamed with heat. Outside, snow covered roofs, roads, and fields.

Nights were long, but they were filled with stories, laughter, and songs. Neighbours helped each other. The cold brought the community together.

Today, life has changed. Central heating, weather forecasts, and phones make winter easier to endure. But technology cannot replace what snow does for the land.

Water pumps and reservoirs rely on winter's natural recharge. A dry Chillai Kalan



**CHILLAI KALAN SHAPES HOMES, STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES,** and reminds Kashmiris of nature's power and generosity. When the snow falls, the valley knows life will continue, full and ready for the year ahead.

leaves springs low, rivers shallow, and orchards thirsty.

Climate change has made snowfall unpredictable, reminding Kashmiris of the importance of preparation and the wisdom of their ancestors.

This season, the valley waits for snow. People hope for a heavy, steady blanket that will fill rivers, nourish fields, and cover the mountains in white.

A strong Chillai Kalan boosts orchards, supports agriculture, and attracts tourists who marvel at the winter beauty.

It is a season of survival, work, hope, and life.

Chillai Kalan shapes homes, strengthens communities, and reminds Kashmiris of nature's power and generosity.

When the snow falls, the valley knows life will continue, full and ready for the year ahead.

— The author is a teacher and freelance writer from Baramulla. He can be reached at [aarifpeerzadai@gmail.com](mailto:aarifpeerzadai@gmail.com).

## Life Wrapped in Wool

Forty days of cold, one fold of warmth, and the threads that connect past and present.

Syed Nissar H Gilani

After more than thirty years, I wore a Pheran again.

It belonged to a friend and was soft in the pale light of winter.

The moment I slipped into it, memories returned of the winters from 1988 to 1992.

Those were the last years I had a Pheran stitched for myself.

The touch of the wool and the weight of the fabric carried the winters of my youth, winters that taught patience, endurance, and closeness.

The Pheran I wore then began its life in Downtown Srinagar, near Bohri Kadal, at a shop called "Beduban hiund waan."

The shop was run by the Bedaba family, whose name carries a sense of timeless grace in Kashmir.

A Bedaba house has its own elegance. It is modest but beautiful, with a compact first floor that holds space and light in equal measure.

The family's home near Zaina Kadal showed this style perfectly, and their shop carried the same careful touch.

The owner, Late Ghulam Hussan Ganayi, known as Hus Lal, was a man of treatment and taste.

He was careful, professional, and honest. He dealt only in the finest fabrics.

I remember seeing one piece of cloth and knowing it was perfect. I asked Hus Lal to wrap it up, and I paid my tailor extra so that the stitching would honour the material.

Every stitch and detail mattered.

The Pheran is not complete without a "Poss," a white inner



**I AM GLAD TO SEE THE PHERAN EMBRACED BY TRADERS AND ADMIRERS ALIKE,** inside Kashmir and beyond. Its comfort and beauty touch anyone who wears it.

lining that protects against the heat of the Kangri, our traditional fire-pot.

The Kangri shapes the way the Pheran is worn. It allows mothers to hold their children

close, keeping them warm in a shared circle of comfort.

Similar robes exist in Nepal, Tibet, and Bhutan, but the Kashmiri Pheran is unique in the way it holds life, closeness,

and warmth together.

In recent years, I have spent winters away from the valley. A new Pheran never became need, but that never meant my love for it faded.

The Pheran carries home in its folds. It carries memory, care, and a sense of belonging.

I am glad to see the Pheran embraced by traders and admirers alike, inside Kashmir and beyond. Its comfort and beauty touch anyone who wears it.

— The author is a former civil servant. He can be reached at [nissargilani57748@gmail.com](mailto:nissargilani57748@gmail.com).



# NIA Court Issues Non-bailable Warrant Against Hizb Chief

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: An NIA special court in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district on Saturday issued a non-bailable warrant against Pakistan-based Hizbul Mujahideen chief Mohammad Yousuf Shah alias Syed Salah-ud-din, directing the police to arrest him.

The Court of Special Judge designated under the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act issued the direction after hearing a case registered under various provisions of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), and Section 506 of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC) -- specific criminal law for Jammu and Kashmir until 2019, analogous to the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The court said the accused has been



investigating officer has collected sufficient evidence which prima facie implicates Shah in various offences under sections 13, 18, 20, and 39 of the UAPA, pertaining to threat to sovereignty, terror conspiracy, and involvement in terrorist activities.

evading arrest, the court held, thus issuing a non-bailable warrant against Shah and directing the Jammu and Kashmir Police to arrest him in connection with the FIR.

Section 73 CrPC empowers the magistrate to issue a warrant against any person accused of non-bailable offence and evading arrest, it said.

Shah fled to Pakistan in 1993 and was designated as a terrorist by the government in 2020. He is currently operating from Pakistan, and is also the chief of United Jihad Council (UJC), a conglomerate of several terror outfits.

The NIA attached properties linked to Shah and his two sons in 2023. His sons were sacked from government services in 2021 after their arrest in a terror funding case.

# Indian Cyber Agency Flags WhatsApp 'Hijack'

Neelabh Srivastava

New Delhi ~ Indian cyber security agency CERT-In has flagged a vulnerability in the WhatsApp "device-linking" feature that enables attackers to take "complete" control of an account, including access to real-time messages, photos, and videos on the web version.

The agency named the issue "GhostPairing" on Friday in an advisory that has been accessed by PTI.

"It has been reported that malicious actors are exploiting WhatsApp's device-linking feature to hijack accounts using pairing codes without authentication requirements.

"This newly identified cyber campaign called GhostPairing enables cybercriminals to take complete control of WhatsApp accounts without needing passwords or SIM swaps," the advisory said.



A response from WhatsApp to the revelation is awaited.

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is the national technology arm to combat cyber attacks and guard the Indian Internet space.

The advisory said that the "high" severity attack campaign usually begins with the victim receiving a message like "Hi, check this photo" from a

"trusted" contact.

The message contains a link with a Facebook-style preview. The link leads to a "fake" Facebook viewer that prompts users to "verify" to see the content. Here, the attackers exploit WhatsApp's "link device via phone number" feature by tricking unsuspecting users into entering their phone numbers, the advisory said.

This way, the victims

"unknowingly" grant the attackers full access to their WhatsApp accounts.

The 'GhostPairing' attack tricks users into granting an attacker's browser access as an additional trusted and hidden device by using a pairing code that looks authentic.

The advisory said that once the attacker links their device, they get almost the same access as the victim would get on WhatsApp Web.

They can read messages that sync to their device, receive new messages in real time, and view photos, videos and voice notes, and they can send messages to the victim's contacts and group chats, the advisory said.

The agency suggested such countermeasures as not clicking suspicious links even if they come from known contacts and not entering one's phone number on external sites claiming to be WhatsApp or Facebook.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Chillai Kalan Sets

Razdan Pass and Sadhna Top in north Kashmir and other upper reaches. The Zojila Pass on the Srinagar-Ladakh highway also received fresh snowfall.

In the Kashmir Valley, Pulwama recorded the coldest night at minus 3.2 degrees Celsius, improving from minus 4.0 degrees Celsius a day earlier. Shopian recorded minus 2.9 degrees Celsius, Pampore minus 2.0 degrees Celsius, and Srinagar city minus 0.4 degrees Celsius, significantly warmer than Friday's minus 2.1 degrees Celsius. Srinagar Airport recorded a minimum of minus 1.6 degrees Celsius, while Qazigund and Pahalgam settled at minus 1.0 degrees Celsius each.

Kupwara recorded minus 0.7 degrees Celsius, Baramulla minus 1.5 degrees Celsius and Bandipora minus 0.9 degrees Celsius. Gulmarg, the ski resort, recorded a minimum of 2.0 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded 9.3 degrees Celsius, while Jammu Airport settled at 11.0 degrees Celsius. Banihal recorded 3.8 degrees Celsius and Bhaderwah 4.4 degrees Celsius. In Ladakh, Leh recorded minus 4.2 degrees Celsius, while Kargil recorded minus 4.0 degrees Celsius.

An advisory has been issued warning that higher reaches of Kupwara, Bandipora and Ganderbal districts may receive moderate to heavy snowfall, particularly on December 21. Authorities have advised travellers and transporters to plan journeys accordingly and strictly follow traffic and administrative advisories.

The onset of Chillai Kalan is traditionally associated with the most severe winter conditions in Kashmir, bringing challenges to daily life while also drawing tourists to snowbound destinations across the Valley.

### LG Orders Frequent

across the Union Territory, stressing the need for tighter monitoring and sensitisation of jail staff.

The directions were issued during a high-level review meeting of subordinate departments of the Home Department chaired by the Lieutenant Governor at Lok Bhavan in Jammu.

The meeting reviewed the budget and expenditure position of key wings under the Home Department, including Prisons, Prosecution, Home Guards, Civil Defence and SDRF, Fire and Emergency Services, the Forensic Sciences Laboratory, Sainik Welfare Department and the Advisory Board under the Public Safety Act for the Budget Estimates 2025-26.

The Lieutenant Governor also took stock of progress on major ongoing projects, including the construction of a high-security prison at Mahanpur in Kathua district, the establishment of a Cyber Division at the Forensic Sciences Laboratory in Jammu, the upgradation of the Cyber Division at FSL Srinagar, and the construction of bunkers in border districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Emphasising timely completion, he directed officials to expedite the pace of work

and strengthen various wings of the Home Department through coordinated efforts.

During the review, the Lieutenant Governor instructed authorities to focus on sensitisation of prison officers and staff, along with regular inspections and surveillance, to ensure improved security and effective prison management across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Director General of Police Prisons Deepak Kumar, Principal Secretary Home Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D. Vaidya, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor Manddeep K. Bhandari, and other senior officials.

### Ramp-Up Testing

support systems to achieve the goal of eliminating TB in the Union Territory.

Chairing a high-level review meeting on the implementation and progress of the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, the Lieutenant Governor reaffirmed the administration's commitment to the national target of tuberculosis elimination.

He emphasised the need for detailed analysis of TB cases and treatment outcomes, and stressed seamless inter-departmental coordination to ensure that no patient is left behind. The Lieutenant Governor directed the Health Department and district administrations to scale up testing and prioritise the mapping of vulnerable populations.

Highlighting the importance of public awareness, he also called for intensifying door-to-door Information, Education and Communication campaigns to educate people about TB symptoms, diagnosis, and the availability of free treatment.

District administrations were instructed to adopt best practices to accelerate progress towards TB Mukh Jammu and Kashmir and TB Mukh Bharat.

The meeting reviewed district-wise data on treatment outcomes, presumptive TB testing rates, TB case notifications, drug-resistant TB cases, and the implementation of key initiatives such as the Nikshay Poshan Yojana and the Ni-kshay Mitra programme. The saturation of Ayushman Bharat Golden Cards, with special focus on covering all TB patients, incentivisation of ASHA workers, and the "One Patient-One Ni-kshay Mitra" model were also discussed.

Officials informed the meeting that Jammu and Kashmir has achieved 99 percent coverage of vulnerable populations, covering 28,62,686 individuals.

Secretary, Health and Medical Education Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah presented a detailed overview of the Union Territory's performance under the National TB Elimination Programme and submitted an action taken report on directives issued during the previous review.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor Manddeep K. Bhandari, Mission Director NHM J&K Baseer Ul Haq

Chaudhary, Deputy Commissioners, heads of medical and health institutions, and other senior officials.

### Traffic Plan

follow traffic and administrative instructions.

The Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Kokernag cautioned commuters against travelling on the Daksum-Sinthan Top-Chhatroo road and the Gowran-Margan Top-Warwan road during snowfall, warning that vehicles must carry anti-skid devices or snow chains. Police have been authorised to close roads if found unsafe.

District Police Kupwara also issued an advisory urging residents, tourists and trekkers to avoid unnecessary travel and remain cautious on snow-bound roads. In Gurez, vehicular movement between Gurez and Bandipora has been suspended as a precautionary measure until further orders. Similarly, authorities in Gulmarg advised that heavy vehicles and vehicles without anti-skid chains should not ply on the Tangmarg-Gulmarg road until further notice.

Traffic Police Rural Kashmir advised motorists travelling on hilly roads to adhere to cut-off timings, ensure vehicle fitness and avoid roadside parking during adverse weather. Commuters were asked to plan journeys during daylight hours to reduce the risk of accidents.

Fresh snowfall was reported from Sonamarg along the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road, prompting authorities to advise the public to avoid travel on the Srinagar-Kargil route without prior confirmation of road status. Commuters have been asked to check with Traffic Control Units at Srinagar or PCR Kargil before travelling.

Meanwhile, the Traffic Police Headquarters, Jammu and Kashmir issued a detailed traffic plan and advisory for December 21 in view of adverse weather predictions. On National Highway-44, connecting Jammu and Srinagar, traffic movement has remained slow due to single-lane stretches at Balinalla, Dewal, Nashri-Dalwas and between Marog and Kishtwari Pather, compounded by the breakdown of heavy vehicles.

Travellers have been advised to undertake journeys only after confirming road status from Traffic Control Units at Jammu, Srinagar and Ramban and to follow official traffic updates. Passengers and light motor vehicle operators were asked to prefer day-time travel on NH-44 and avoid night journeys, while maintaining strict lane discipline to prevent congestion.

Subject to fair weather and improved road conditions, light motor vehicles, passenger vehicles and goods carriers will be allowed from both sides on NH-44, with movement regulated based on real-time assessment by traffic authorities.

On the Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road (NH-244), only light motor vehicles will be permitted between 1000 hrs and 1500 hrs, subject to clearance. Traffic on the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road will be allowed in a regulated manner after clearance, with strict cut-off timings. On the Mughal Road, light motor

vehicles will be allowed from both sides, while restrictions remain in place for heavy vehicles.

The Meteorological Department has forecast light to moderate snowfall in higher reaches and light to moderate rain in the plains from December 20 evening to December 21 evening. Light rain or snowfall is expected at scattered places on December 22.

An advisory has warned that higher reaches of Kupwara, Bandipora and Ganderbal districts may receive moderate to heavy snowfall, particularly on December 21. Authorities have urged commuters to plan travel judiciously and strictly adhere to advisories to avoid inconvenience and accidents.

### Delayed Snowfall

variability, even if global climate change cannot be fully reversed.

Meanwhile, Weather In-charge at the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, Mohammad Hussain Mir, said December 18 and 19 are expected to remain partly to generally cloudy, with the possibility of very light snowfall at isolated higher reaches.

He said December 20 and 21 may witness generally cloudy conditions with light to moderate snowfall over higher reaches of the Kashmir division and light to moderate rain at many places in the plains. December 22 is expected to see generally cloudy weather with light rain or snow at scattered locations, while December 23 to 29 is likely to remain partly to generally cloudy. December 30 and 31 may again witness generally cloudy conditions with a possibility of light snowfall at isolated higher reaches.

An advisory has been issued stating that higher reaches of Kupwara, Bandipora and Ganderbal districts may receive moderate to heavy snowfall, particularly on December 21. Travellers and transporters have been advised to plan their journeys accordingly and strictly follow traffic and administrative advisories.

### All Arrangements

suffice will only be known once the snowfall begins," he said.

Despite the challenges heavy snowfall may pose, the Chief Minister said the region has been eagerly awaiting precipitation after a prolonged dry spell. He said snowfall would help clear the air, mitigate pollution levels and mark the beginning of the winter tourism season.

In a post on X, Omar said he reviewed preparedness related to road connectivity, power and water supply, health services and the availability of essential commodities across both divisions. He directed all departments to ensure round-the-clock snow clearance on priority routes, uninterrupted power and water supply, fully functional control rooms and swift emergency response to minimise public inconvenience.

Highlighting the administration's core winter responsibilities, the Chief Minister said the government would be judged primarily on three parameters: timely road clearance,

uninterrupted electricity supply and availability of drinking water. "These three, roads, electricity and water, are the ABC of our winter response. Everything else flows from them," he said.

Stressing a pre-emptive approach, Omar instructed departments to ensure advance deployment of manpower and machinery wherever required. While expressing satisfaction over the overall preparedness, he also flagged certain areas requiring closer monitoring.

In the power sector, the Chief Minister directed strict monitoring of transformer oil availability, cautioning that any shortage would likely be due to pilferage. He also reviewed the status of distribution transformer buffer stock and directed departments to hire vehicles wherever required to ensure quick replacement of damaged transformers, particularly in Baramulla and Bandipora.

On healthcare preparedness, Omar acknowledged the limited availability of 4x4 ambulances and stressed optimal deployment based on terrain requirements, directing coordination between the Health Department and district administrations.

Reviewing urban preparedness, especially in Srinagar, the Chief Minister emphasised advance dewatering arrangements and directed the placement of mobile pumps in known waterlogging-prone areas such as Airport Road and Maulana Azad Road.

He also raised concerns over passenger facilities at Srinagar Airport during weather-related flight disruptions and directed district authorities to coordinate with airport management to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness, particularly with the onset of the tourist season.

Regarding helicopter services, Omar expressed optimism about early operationalisation of heli services for remote and snowbound areas such as Kupwara and Bandipora.

Turning to Jammu division, the Chief Minister cautioned about roads that were only temporarily restored after heavy rains earlier this year, stressing heightened vigilance to prevent landslides and ensure swift restoration, especially along the Nashri-Udhampur stretch of NH-44.

He said 24x7 control rooms are operational across the Union Territory and added that lessons from the upcoming weather spell would be incorporated into future preparedness plans to further strengthen the administration's winter response.

### Over 19 Lakh

support and strengthen public outreach. Officials appealed to parents and guardians to ensure that every eligible child receives the mandatory two drops of OPV to sustain Jammu and Kashmir's polio-free status.

State Immunization Officer Shahid Hussain said adequate stocks of OPV are available and assured that cold chain mechanisms are fully functional and under strict monitoring to maintain vaccine potency throughout the campaign.



The methods used to consume news have changed over time from newspapers, to television, to the Internet on our computers to carrying the news around with us 24/7 on smartphones in our pockets. Kashmir Observer, with 28 years of experience in news gathering is now available 24x7 on all digital platforms like laptops, cell phones or via Bluetooth on your smart TV's across the world.

Kashmir Observer is a one stop information bank for you. Watch live debates, talk shows and documentaries on critical issues facing Kashmir on KO youtube channel.

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**NOTICE**

***To All Dealers Engaged in Buying/Selling of Pre-Owned / Second-Hand Vehicles in District Budgam.***

It is hereby notified for the information of all dealers engaged in the sale of Pre-owned / Second-hand vehicles in District Budgam that, as per Rule 55A of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, all such dealers are required to apply for Form 29B and enroll/register with this office.

Accordingly, a time period of one (01) week from the date of issuance of this notice is hereby granted to all concerned dealers to complete the enrollment process and submit the requisite application/documents in this office.

Failure to comply within the stipulated time shall render the defaulters liable for action as warranted under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act. 1988 and rules made thereunder, without any further notice.

This notice is issued for information and strict compliance.

DIPK-9184-25  
DT: 20/12/2025

Assistant Regional Transport Officer  
Budgam



# India Eye Dominating Pakistan in U-19 Asia Cup Final



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Eyeing a record-extending 12th title, a dominant India will look to underline their supremacy over arch-rivals Pakistan when they clash in the Under-19 Asia Cup final at the ICC Academy here on Sunday.

The Ayush Mhatre-led Indian colts have been a class apart, winning all their Group A matches to finish on top ahead of Pakistan, who suffered their only group-stage defeat against India, a 90-run loss last Sunday.

India carried that momentum into the semifinals on Friday, brushing aside Sri Lanka by eight wickets. Pakistan, on the other hand, reached the final by knocking out defending champions Bangladesh.

India's march to the final has been built on an all-round effort, with batters and bowlers gelling together seamlessly to form a formidable unit.

With the bat, India have been nothing short of spectacular, posting two 400-plus totals.

The 50-over tournament has seen the rise of exciting young talents, such as 17-year-old wicketkeeper-batter Abhigyan Kundu.

If teenage prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi set the tone in the opener against UAE with a breathtaking 95-ball 171 as India piled up 433/6, Kundu etched his name into the record books against Malaysia.

The left-hander smashed an unbeaten 125-ball 209, becoming the first Indian to score a double century in Youth ODIs.

The duo will look for yet another good show against a disciplined Pakistan bowling attack.

Even when the top-order has faltered, India's middle-order has risen to the occasion.

Hyderabad's Aaron George has been the glue, registering three successive half-centuries, often batting through the critical middle overs while maintaining a strike rate of 100-plus.

He has been ably supported by Vihaan Malhotra, who offers a left-handed option and is fresh from a 61 not out against Sri Lanka.

Adding depth is all-rounder Kanishk Chouhan, who has reimaged the finisher's role with a strike rate of over 127, while making timely breakthroughs with the ball.

Chouhan has picked up six wickets in four matches, including a telling 3/33 against Pakistan in the group stage.

With the ball, India were led by pacer Deepesh Devendran, the joint-highest wicket-taker in the tournament with 11 scalps, alongside Pakistan's Abdul Subhan.

Deepesh has thrived by bowling probing lines at 130 kmph-plus with the new ball.

His standout spell of 5/22 against Malaysia showcased his threat, while against Pakistan he dismantled the top-order, removing three batters in successive overs, including tournament top scorer Sameer Minhas.

Minhas, who struck an unbeaten 177 against Malaysia, comes into the final on the back of a half-century against Bangladesh and will be keen to make amends.

Pakistan's biggest strength lies in their pace-heavy bowling attack, with Subhan leading the charts and receiving solid support from left-arm pacer

Mohammad Sayyam and Ali Raza.

In the spin department, left-armer Niqab Shafiq impressed with a two-wicket burst against India, while leg-spinner Ahmed Hussain adds variety as Pakistan attempt to nullify India's batting juggernaut.

Batting, however, remains an area of concern for the Farhan Yousaf-led side, which has struggled for consistency and will be desperate to halt their recent reversals against India at the biggest stage.

In September, India's senior team had swept Pakistan three times en route to lifting the Asia Cup (T20) title, a trend the junior side will hope to continue.

As in previous encounters, players from both teams are expected to adhere to the no-handshake policy.

Pakistan have been champions of the Asia Cup once in 2012 and since then they have been runners-up twice (2013-14 and 2017).

Teams (from):

India: Ayush Mhatre (C), Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Vihaan Malhotra (vc), Vedant Trivedi, Abhigyan Kundu (wk), Harvansh Singh (wk), Yuvraj Gohil, Kanishk Chouhan, Khilan A. Patel, Naman Pushpak, D. Deepesh, Henil Patel, Kishan Kumar Singh\*, Udhav Mohan, Aaron George.

Pakistan: Farhan Yousaf (captain), Usman Khan (vice-captain), Abdul Subhan, Ahmed Hussain, Ali Hasan Baloch, Ali Raza, Daniyal Ali Khan, Hamza Zahoor (wk), Huzaifa Ahsan, Momin Qamar, Mohammad Sayyam, Mohammad Shayan (wk), Niqab Shafiq, Sameer Minhas and Mohammad Huzaifa.

The match starts at 10.30am IST.

## A look At India's T20 World Cup Picks

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: As India gear up for the T20 World Cup at home, the selectors have backed a squad built on impact, and versatility.

PTI takes a look at the profile the players entrusted with India's campaign at the global event, starting February 7 next year.

Suryakumar Yadav

One of the finest to have played the shortest format, the Indian skipper is going into a global event in the worst form of his life. For past 14 months, Suryakumar didn't score a single fifty and his strike -rate ha dropped below 125.

In the T20 World Cup, Indian team would need its skipper to fire and bat at No. 3 where he carved a niche for himself as 'Mr 360 degree'. As far as his captaincy is concerned, he has been on point and a winning percentage of 83 is a testimony to that. But then every captain wants to lead by example and SKY would like to do that in T20WC.

Abhishek Sharma:

The man who has completely rewritten the template of T20 batting for the Gen Z, Abhishek's starts will be one of the determining factors in India taking control of the Powerplay.

In the purple patch of his career, the world's No. 1 T20 batter has set a different benchmark for openers across the globe with a strike-rate hovering around 200.

Tilak Varma

Tilak is the most important top-order batter after Abhishek Sharma, going into the T20 World Cup. The T20 format is a slam bang version but Tilak's batting is a fine blend of technique and innovation with innate ability to keep composure in a tense game.

Remember Asia Cup final against Pakistan and that final over six off Haris Rauf. He can bat at No. 3 or 4 depending on team's need and possibly in the best outfielder in the T20 set-up.

Hardik Pandya

If Indian cricket in the past nine years had a synonym for balance, it had to be Pandya. As and when he has been absent in T20s or ODIs, India have struggled to put up an ideal combination.

While comparisons with Kapil Dev can be a bit unfair considering latter's body of work but in shorter format, his clean and monstrous hits does remind one of Haryana Hurricane. His pace bowling allows team fielding an extra batter or bowler.

Shivam Dube

On flat Indian tracks or the ones that are slightly tacky in nature, Dube is an asset for this Indian team. He is the man you would want between overs 9 to 16 when mainly spinners are in operation as he can murder slow bowlers on sub-continental tracks.

His mastery while playing the leg-spinners is such that often Adam Zampa, Abrar Ahmed or Wanindu Hasaranga aren't asked to bowl by their captains when Dube is at the crease. His medium pace bowling has improved by leaps and bounds and slower tracks, he can slip in two overs.

Sanju Samson

India's designated wicketkeeper-batter may finally breathe easy following the omission of Shubman Gill, which opens up a spot in the batting order.

The Kerala star, India's leading run-getter in 2024 with 436 runs from 12 innings, had slipped down the pecking order after Gill's return as opener.

Team management had preferred Jitesh Sharma for his lower-order utility, limiting Samson's opportunities. Now, Samson will look to do what he does best -- score runs -- even if he is asked to play as a specialist batter, with the gloves potentially going to Ishan Kishan.

Ishan Kishan

The pocket dynamite from Jharkhand has scripted a strong comeback, earning a

recall after more than two years by leading his state to their maiden Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title. Once a regular across formats, Kishan fell out of favour, lost his Central contract and faced questions over 'commitment'.

He responded on the field grinding through County cricket and domestic circuit. Kishan finished as the top-scorer in the SMAT, crowned his redemption arc with a century in the final, and forced his way back into the national reckoning.

Kuldeep Yadav

The wily chinaman remains India's X-factor in the spin department. The left-arm wrist-spinner was central to India's triumphant Asia Cup campaign in September, emerging as the leading wicket-taker with seven scalps at a striking average of 9.29.

On Indian surfaces, Kuldeep's guile -- especially his deceptive wrong 'uns could be decisive as India look to field a three-pronged spin attack.

Jasprit Bumrah

The ultimate match-winner with the ball on any surface, any conditions, Bumrah's outings will have a direct link with India's title defence.

Cutters, dippers, slower ball, bouncers, yorkers, Bumrah's arsenal has just about everything a pacer dreams for and can be as lethal in the limited space of four overs as he is in longer formats.

Axar Patel

Saddled with the additional responsibility of being the vice-captain of the side, Axar will have to make an impact with both ball and bat. While his left-arm spin is accurate, the left-handed batter has the mental and technical flexibility to bat anywhere in the order, making him an invaluable asset.

Arshdeep Singh

The left-arm pacer is the perfect foil for Bumrah. Arshdeep does not have the magic of his senior partner. But a cool head and the

ability to mix his deliveries and alter pace make him a huge threat for batters in the Power Play as well as in the death overs.

Varun Chakravarthy

The mystery in his craft is hard to explain. With no real change in action, the spinner can produce a variety of deliveries to trouble batters. It's quite hard to read him off his hands, and his inherent quickness makes him tough to play off the pitch too.

Along with his bottomless bag of tricks, Chakravarthy has now added a bit more steel to himself, making him an all the more difficult customer.

Harshit Rana

Now a regular across formats, the Indian seamer remains under scrutiny amid talk of preferential backing from head coach Gautam Gambhir.

Slotted as the reserve pacer behind Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh, Rana has once again been preferred over the more experienced Mohammed Siraj. His returns at the top level have been mixed.

In the Asia Cup, Rana played two matches and nearly let one slip against Sri Lanka in the Super Fours after conceding 55 runs before a tense final over -- 11 runs and a wicket -- pushed the game into a Super Over, where Arshdeep salvaged the result.

With a limited role expected, Rana's role will once again be under scrutiny.

Washington Sundar

The Tamil Nadu off-spinner, who batted at No. 3 in the opening Test against South Africa, offers another all-round option in a squad already packed with them.

In 24 T20I innings, he has scored one half-century and picked up 51 wickets at an average of 22.76, but recent opportunities have been limited. Washington featured in just four of the last 10 T20Is against Australia and South Africa and may once again find himself warming the bench.

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