



## Drive Safely in Fog & Snow

Dated: 24.12.2025  
DIPK-9318/25

**1. ESSENTIAL LIGHTING**

- LOW BEAMS ONLY
- USE FOG LIGHTS

**2. SPEED & SPACE**

- 8-10 SECONDS GAP
- BRAKE EARLY & GENTLY

**3. NAVIGATING THE ROAD**

- FOLLOW "FOG LINE"
- NO CRUISE CONTROL

In case of any Emergency Call: 112, 0194-2502254, 9797041155.

Department of Information & Public Relations, J&K

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@diprjk | @dipr\_jk

## Snow, Rain Predicted For New Year's Eve

WD Likely Towards December End: MeT



**Ansar Hussain**  
Srinagar: Snowfall and rain-fall are likely to affect parts of Jammu and Kashmir around New Year's Eve, with a western disturbance expected

to approach the region towards the end of December, the Meteorological Department said. According to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, generally cloudy weather is [More on P6](#)

KO Photo | Abid Bhat

## 10 Years Of Modi Govt Ensured Peace In J&K: Shah

India Safer on Three Major Internal Security Fronts | Centre Stands Like a Rock With States Against Drugs, Crimes

**KO Web Desk**

Srinagar: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday asserted that the past ten years of the Narendra Modi led government have ensured lasting peace in Jammu and Kashmir and improved internal security across the country. Addressing the Passing Out Parade of the Recruit Basic Course Batch-93 at Panchkula in Haryana, Shah said that a decade ago India faced three major law and order challenges in the form of left wing extremism, terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, and armed groups in the northeast.



"After 10 years of the Modi government, there is peace in these three areas and the country is safer on all three fronts," he said.

Shah said the Union government stands firmly with states in tackling emerging threats such as drug and human trafficking, cybercrime,

and organised crime. "We stand like a rock with the states," he said, adding that police forces must strengthen the hands of leadership to sustain security gains. Addressing the recruits, he said, "Your leadership is ready for it, and you will have to strengthen the hands of your leadership." "We stand like a rock with the states," he said, referring to the Union government. He said that the role of forensic science under the new criminal laws has been decided. "In crimes in which punishment is more than seven years, a visit by forensic experts to the [More on P6](#)

## Public Transport Fares In J&K To Rise By 18%

**Observer News Service**

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved an 18 percent increase in public transport fares, which will come into effect from January 1, 2026.

The decision was taken at a high level meeting chaired by the Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Santosh D. Vaidhya, according to the news agency GNS.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Transport, Finance, Planning and Development, and General Administration Departments. Representatives of the All Jammu and Kashmir Transport Welfare Association, led by its chairman Karan Singh Wazir, also participated in the deliberations.

During the meeting, the transport association raised concerns over the sustained rise in fuel prices, taxes, and overall [More on P6](#)

## Avalanche Warning Issued For 5 Districts

Authorities on Wednesday issued a low danger avalanche warning for five districts of Jammu and Kashmir in view of recent snowfall in the higher reaches, officials said. The warning has been issued for Doda, Ganderbal, Kishtwar, [More on P6](#)

## Jammu-Srinagar NH: Slow Traffic Amid Breakdowns

Traffic moved slowly on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on Wednesday due to single-lane traffic and the breakdown of two heavy motor vehicles (HMVs). An official while sharing the details said, "Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) and passenger vehicles have [More on P6](#)

## HC Stays Shopian Bar Association Elections

**KO Correspondent**

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has stayed the proposed elections to the District Bar Association Shopian. A bench of Justice Rajesh Sekhri passed the order while hearing a petition filed by a practicing advocate from the District, who has challenged amendments made to the Bar Association's constitution in 2023. He contended that the amendments were introduced by a handful of members without any enabling amendment clause in the original 2012 constitution. The advocate alleged that the changes were aimed at restricting and depriving young advocates from participating in the Bar elections. The advocate [More on P6](#)



People pose for photographs outside a church illuminated for Christmas celebrations in Srinagar. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

## LG, CM Extend Christmas Greetings

**Observer News Service**

Srinagar: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended his heartiest greetings to the people on the joyous occasion of Christmas.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said, "On the joyous occasion of Christmas, I convey my warm greetings to the people. I hope that this occasion of festivity ushers in love and harmony amongst the people.

The festival, commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, serves as a reminder to embrace Lord Christ's teachings of love, compassion, and forgiveness in our daily lives. This auspicious occasion inspires us to renew our commitment towards the welfare of [More on P6](#)

## J&K Bank Bags 'Best MSME Bank' Award 2025

Secures 2nd Place In 'CSR Initiative & Business Responsibility' Category

**Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir Bank has won the prestigious 'Best MSME Bank - Winner' award at the MSME Banking Excellence Awards 2025, while also securing the Runner-Up position in the 'CSR Initiative & Business Responsibility' category. The MSME Banking Excellence Awards recognise banks for exemplary performance and best practices in promoting MSMEs, corporate social responsibility and sustainable business models.

Notably, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal presented the awards at a high-profile ceremony held in New Delhi. On behalf of the Bank the awards were received by Chief General Manager



(Business Development) Sunit Kumar and GM/Divisional Head (ROI) Khursheed Muzaffar. Expressing delight over the recognition, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "We are deeply honoured to receive national recognition for our work in the MSME sector [More on P6](#)

## Online Impersonation Scam EOW Kashmir Files Chargesheet In ₹26.25 Lakh Fraud

**Agencies**

Srinagar: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch Kashmir has filed a chargesheet before the Court of Judge Small Causes, Srinagar, in connection with an online impersonation and cheating case involving ₹26.25 lakh. The chargesheet pertains to FIR No. 17/2020 and names a woman from Arunachal Pradesh, identified as Jumbom Riba, as the accused. The case relates to an alleged

international online fraud carried out through social media impersonation. According to officials, the case originated from a written complaint in which the victim stated that they were contacted through social media by a woman identifying herself as "Christiana," who claimed to be a secretary with Abbot Pharmaceutical in the United Kingdom. The accused allegedly offered dealership rights for a product named "Agasina Nut," said to be sourced from Arunachal [More on P6](#)

## Schools In Kashmir To Implement In-Campus De-Addiction Mechanisms

**KO Web Desk**

Srinagar: Authorities in Kashmir on Wednesday directed educational institutions, including schools and colleges, to establish in-situ de-addiction mechanisms to address the growing problem of drug abuse among students.

The directions were issued during a high-level meeting chaired by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg to review and strengthen ongoing measures aimed at curbing substance abuse in the Valley, an official spokesperson



said. Emphasising coordinated and sustained action, the Divisional Commissioner instructed all

educational institutions to put in place campus-level de-addiction systems. Each institution has [More on P6](#)

# KO Classifieds

PLACE YOUR **AD** TODAY!

*You can do it all here*

• PUBLIC NOTICES

• NAME CHANGE

• SALE/ PURCHASE

• BIRTHDAY WISHES

• OBITUARIES



# Study Explains How Harm, Responsibility Are Linked With Feelings Of Guilt, Shame

Press Trust Of India

A study has found that the harm one causes another individual could have a stronger impact on guilt, while one's sense of responsibility for causing the harm might more strongly impact their feelings of shame.

partment of Psychology, Sun Yat-sen University, China, said. The researchers devised a 'dots estimation game' to look at how harm and responsibility evoke feelings of guilt and shame, and how the emotions drive compensatory behaviour.



fictitious, the researchers said. After each outcome, the participant decided how much financial compensation to give to the receiver. The participant's perception of harm caused on a scale of one to four was manipulated through the intensity of the electric shock, while the level of responsibility

tionnaire on feelings of guilt and shame experienced, along with their perceived responsibility. "Behaviorally, we found that harm had a stronger impact on guilt, whereas responsibility had a stronger impact on shame," the authors wrote.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Sr.DEE/G/JAT acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No.	Name of Work	App. Cost. (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
251-J-Elect-T-20-2025-26	Electrical Work in c/w Improvement of Lighting Arrangements in Ventilated Tunnels T-25, T-23, T-07, Station Yards, Circulating Areas, Colonies, etc., over BJPL-SVDK SECTION.	Rs. 1,81,43,065.03	2,40,700.00	06 Months	15.01.2026 after 15:00 Hrs	www.ireps.gov.in

No. 251-J-Elect/T. Notice No. 20-Elect/2025-26 Dated:- 24.12.2025 3989/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have changed my name from (old Name) Nusrat Abbas Ansari to (new Name) Nusrat Abbas. In future, I will be known as (new name) Nusrat Abbas. If any body is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days, no objection will be accepted. ajko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is for the information of general public that I Farooz Ahmad Wani S/O Gulam Rasool Wani R/O Panzgam Kokernag Anantnag I have applied for Fertilizer License under the name & Style M/S Farooz Pesticides & Fertilizers at Panzgam. If anybody having any kind of objection in this regard he/she may object his objection in Chief Agriculture Officer Anantnag, within Seven days from the date of issuance of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained. Farooz Ahmad Wani S/O Gulam Rasool Wani R/O Panzgam Kokernag Anantnag JNA7780878931

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-Tender Notice**

Sr.DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost. (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
251-Elect-T-20-2025-26	Electrical work in c/w Provision of smart prepaid energy meter for staff quarter with allied electrical work over FZR division.	Rs. 3,53,30,106.32/-	Rs. 326,700.00/-	06 Months	14.01.2026 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

No. 251-Elect/T. Notice No. 22-Elect/2025-26 Dated :- 24.12.2025 3985/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC THE JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION**

CERTIFICATES-KD, NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR ATTENTION PLEASE

I have passed /appeared in SSE/HSE-I/HSE-II (Class 10th.) under Roll No. 117022106 Session Annual Regular 2025. Through the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by parents against my Mothers name as LALIY ZEHRA instead of LALIY BANO. Now I have applied for correction / rectification of error in the Jammu & Kashmir board of School Education, New campus Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Deputy Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained. This is published for the information of the general public. The Correct particulars be recorded as under: Name: MOHAMMAD KASHIF BHATI, Fathers Name: BASHIR AHMAD BHAT, Mothers Name, LALIY BANO Date of Birth: 07-01-2008, Residence:- Naras Pora New Bus Stand Budgam. mcb

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE DIVISION No. IIND SRINAGAR.**

Phone/ Fax No. 0194-2950058  
GIST OF FRESH TENDER NOTICE No:- 31 /E-Tendering OF 2025-26

For and on behalf of the Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis from the Registered PWD Civil Contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules, for the below mentioned works strictly as per the terms and conditions given hereunder:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estt. Cost of work incld. Deptl. materials (Amount in lacs)	Earnest Money	Class of Contractor	Time of completion.	Cost of Tender Document in the shape of Treasury Challan (Rs.)	Head of Account
1.	Construction of cement concrete drain including manholes from H/o Ayoub Ahmad Zaroo upto the outfall Nallah in sector A-1 Mohalla Bilaliya, Hmadania Colony Bemina Srinagar.	Rs.27.98	Rs.55960/-	AAY/BEE	30 Days	Rs.850/-	NGT AFA 2025-26

In terms of Government order Circular No.01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated:- 08.07.2025 that "Every participating supplier/contractor to mandatory disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payment shall be released by the Government Department /Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder"

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is for the information of general public that I Farooz Ahmad Wani S/O Gulam Rasool Wani R/O Panzgam Kokernag Anantnag I have applied for Pesticides License under the name & Style M/S Farooz Pesticides & Fertilizers at Panzgam. If anybody having any kind of objection in this regard he/she may object his objection in Plant Protection Officer Lal Mandi Sringar, within Seven days from the date of issuance of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained. Farooz Ahmad Wani S/O Gulam Rasool Wani R/O Panzgam Kokernag Anantnag JNA7780878931

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have changed my name from (old Name) Syed Athar Murtaz to (new Name) Syed Ather Murtaza. In future, I will be known as (new name) Syed Ather Murtaza. If any body is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days, no objection will be accepted. ajko

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.iktenders.gov.in](http://www.iktenders.gov.in) as per the schedule of dates given hereunder:-

Sr. No.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	23.12.2025
01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	23.12.2025
02.	Period of down loading of bidding documents	24.12.2025 from 11:00 A.M. to 30.12.2025 up to 4:00 PM
03.	Bid Submission Start Date	24.12.2025 from 11:30 AM
04.	Bid Submission end Date	30.12.2025 up to 4:00 PM
05.	Date & time of opening of Bids on line	31.12.2025 at 11.30 PM in the office of Executive Engineer, Sewerage & Drainage Division No. II, SMC, Daresh Kadal Srinagar or any subsequent date convenient date to the tender Opening Authority
06.	List of soft copies to be uploaded	Scanned copy of Treasury challan (cost of tender document) with Sl. No. of NIT/ Name of the work (without overwriting). Scanned copy of CDR/ FDR/BG (Earnest Money) (without Over writing). Scanned copy of GST Registration with latest clearance and PAN Card. Scanned copy of JKPWDOMS Registration card with latest renewal on JKPWDOMS PORTAL, Cell No./ e-mail ID and correspondence address. NIT (Terms and conditions) duly signed by the bidder. BOQ.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

I. In case the bids are found unbalanced / abnormally low bid price, the Successful bidder has to produce/ deposit additional performance security in shape of FDR/CDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer Sewerage & Drainage Division 2nd. SMC Srinagar within three days after opening the bids, as per the circular instructions of the Finance Department Circular No. FD-Code/44/2021-02-158 Dated:- 08.08.2025. The additional performance security shall be released after the successful completion of work till Defective Liability (DLP) period is over and the defective liability period for each work shall be reflected in the allotment order when issued.

II. Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the Advertised cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee / security percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of Bid Price Below 10% of advertised cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this Additional Performance Guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid Price.

III. Where the Bid Price is 20% or more below the advertised cost put to bid the Additional Performance Grantee percentage shall be increment ed by 0.28% for every percentage of Bid Price Below 20% of project cost put to bid in addition to 0.1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

IV. Additional Performance Security shall be treated as part of Performance Security.

V. In addition to above the successful bidder has to produce/ deposit Performance security i.e. 05% (Five Percent) of the value of contract in shape of FDR/ CDR pledged to Executive Engineer Sewerage & Drainage Division 2nd. SMC Srinagar within three days after opening the bids. The performance security shall be released after the Defective Liability (DLP) period of the work

VI. In case of tie bids the department shall identify the tied bidder and shall select the LI based on the draw lots, in presence of tied bidders, if they chose to be present.

VII. The Successful Bidder has to produce Hard Copies within three days after opening of Bids.

VIII. Bidders are advised to read the NIT carefully before participate in the Bidding process.

IX. Treasury Challan (Tender Document Fee) should be a fresh i.e. between the date of issue of tender notice & bid submission end date.

X. The Contract shall be awarded only after obtaining Administrative Approval from Competent Authority and release of funds on BEAMS portal by the Finance Department.

XI. The payment of work on account of work done shall be made under rules subject to availability of funds under the prescribed head of account.

XII. The tender receiving authority reserves the right to accept or reject or cancel any bid / tender / NIT or all tenders without assigning any reason therefor.

C.Opt Camp Clerk HD HA TO

Sd/- Executive Engineer, S&D Division IInd, Sgr.

NO.S&D-II/4342 Dated:- 24.12.2025

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have changed my name from (old Name) Syed Athar Murtaz to (new Name) Syed Ather Murtaza. In future, I will be known as (new name) Syed Ather Murtaza. If any body is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days, no objection will be accepted. ajko

**ازنیات بوئی**

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب جاوید احمد تاج ولد غلام رسول تاج صاحب ساکن سٹیٹ ہاؤس برادرا برائی تحت SRO 176 بحق اولاد اولاد شاہد جاوید حنیف جاوید ناہد جاوید

اشتیاء ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں سال کے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بذمہ تاج پیش کی ہے جو کہ ریکارڈ آئی ہے اس بارے میں پیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سال کے واقعی تاج ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور سال کے سٹیٹ ہاؤس میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کسی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سال کا کہہ بیڈل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

شیر احمد چوہان ولد غلام علی الدین مزدوری 45 سال 8000

جاوید احمد تاج ولد غلام رسول تاج مزدوری 49 سال 22

علیہ بیگم زوجہ جاوید احمد گھر بیلا کام 46 سال 22

حنیف جاوید پسر - زیر تعلیم 20

ناہد جاوید دختر - 20

شاہد جاوید پسر 16

سال مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور ترقی کی سہولت دینی 8,000 روپے تک ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث ازراہ کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی خرابی یا اعتراض ہو تو بعد از شہرہ اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے مندرجہ اعتراض عدالت حذا کو پیش کریں۔ بعد کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے سے جا کوئی مندرجہ اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ناہد جاوید پسر FKO

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM**

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No. JK-042018005544 issued in favour of RAYEES MAQBOOL Parentage MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL KHAN Whereas an application has been received by one RAYEES MAQBOOL Parentage MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL KHAN wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as RAVEES MAQBOOL Which needs to be changed as RAYEES MAQBOOL.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer 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

**NOTICE**

I have changed my name from (old name) Rafiqa to (new name) Rafiq Wani. In future I will be known as Rafiq Wani. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office Srinagar, within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted. Media line advt

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I, Zaiba Begum, W/o Late Abdul Ahad Dar, R/o Saloosa, Block Wagoora, District Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that my husband Abdul Ahad Dar, S/o Gulam Mohammad Dar, R/o Saloosa, expired on 03-08-1993. That I am now applying for issuance of his Death Certificate from the concerned authorities. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same before the BDO Office, Wagoora, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained. Name: Zaiba Begum W/o: Late Abdul Ahad Dar R/o: Saloosa Block: Wagoora District: Baramulla fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby notified for general information that my son's name has been incorrectly recorded in the official records of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) Aadhaar Card No. 593354081075. The name has been mentioned as Shahid Ahmad Gujri, S/o Nazir Ahmad Gujri, R/o Danihama, Hazratbal, Srinagar, whereas the correct name is Shahid Ahmad Gujri, S/o Nazir Ahmad Gujri. Any person having any objection may contact the undersigned within seven (07) days from the date of publication, failing which no claim shall be entertained thereafter.

It is hereby notified for general information that my daughter name has been incorrectly recorded in official records of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) Aadhaar Card No. 39124604609 the name has been mentioned as Sadiya Nazir, D/o Nazir Ahmad Gujri, R/o Danihama, Hazratbal, Srinagar, whereas the correct name is Sadiya Nazir, D/o Nazir Ahmad Gujri. Any person having any objection may contact the undersigned within seven (07) days from the date of publication, failing which no claim shall be entertained thereafter.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is here by notified that my name has been incorrectly mentioned on my Aadhaar card as SYED ZIA UD DIN BUKHARI bearing aadhar no 5682 8983 0627 while my correct name is ZIA UD DIN S/O SYED MOHAMMAD AMIN which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his /her objection in the office concerned Aadhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained Name...ZIA UD DIN S/O...SYED MOHAMMAD AMIN R/O:..KREERI fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his/he adhaar card as Aasha Jan While her correct name is Ayesha Rafiq . 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.

Rafiq Ah Malik F/o Ayesha Rafiq R/o Killoora Malikgund Shopian fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

My name has been wrongly written in my driving license bearing dl no: Syed Abas Ahmad S/o Syed Afzal while my correct name as per adhaar is Syed Abbas Mosvi S/o Syed Afzal Mosvi. 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 RTO within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Syed Abbas Mosvi S/o Syed Afzal Mosvi R/o Goom Ahmadpora Near Waterpump DL NO: JK-0320000000840 FKO

**ازنیات بوئی زمینگیر**

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب جہانگیر احمد لون ولد محمد رمضان ساکن سٹیٹ ہاؤس برادرا برائی Property Certificate

اشتیاء ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں سال کے ایک درخواست بغرض پراپرٹی سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ ریکارڈ آئی ہے اس بارے میں فیڈ بک سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ موضع ٹیٹ ہاؤس میں نمبر 114, 112, 114, 144 رقبہ موجود ہے جس کی ملکیت فی کنال 1 کنال 4 مرلہ ہے اور کئی رقبہ کی ملکیت 903500 روپے تک ہے اس سال جہانگیر احمد لون ولد محمد رمضان لون اپنے حق میں Property Certificate حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔

سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث ازراہ کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی خرابی یا اعتراض ہو تو بعد از شہرہ اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے مندرجہ اعتراض عدالت حذا کو پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے سے جا کوئی مندرجہ اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ناہد جاوید پسر FKO



## Uninterrupted Electricity Supply Benefitting 1.25 Lakh Households in City: CM

Observer News Service

Jammu- Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that 108 areas in Srinagar are now enjoying round-the-clock, uninterrupted electricity supply, benefitting about 1.25 lakh households.

He congratulated the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCCL) for successfully bringing 83 more areas of Srinagar under 24-hour power supply.

“Chief Minister today congratulated KPDCCL on successfully making another 83 areas in Srinagar 24-hour power zones following a successful Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) trial with zero power cuts,” the Office of the Chief Minister, J-K, said on X.

With this, 108 areas in Srinagar now enjoy round-the-clock, uninterrupted electricity supply, benefitting 1.25 lakh households, nearly 48 per cent of the city, Abdullah said. “Similar upgrades are underway in other districts to ensure 24x7 power supply,” he added.

The RDSS, launched by the central government in July 2021, aims to enhance the operational efficiency and financial sustainability of power distribution utilities, reduce technical and commercial losses, and ensure reliable power supply, officials said.

The project, implemented by the KPDCCL and other agencies in Srinagar, the summer capital, involves extensive infrastructure upgrades and the installation of smart metres to reduce power losses.

## City Traffic Police Intensify Decongestion Drive

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Traffic Police Srinagar on Wednesday intensified enforcement drives across the city to check violations and ease congestion on the city roads.

SSP Traffic Srinagar Ajaz Ahmad Bhat said, “The drives will continue daily and violators will have to face the law.” “The vehicles without valid documents, fitness certificates or driving licences will face strict action. Wrong parking, overloading and minors driving vehicles will not be tolerated,” he added.

“This is not a one-day drive. We are on the roads every day and have further intensified enforcement to bring discipline on city roads,” the SSP said. He said the department is targeting vehicles with incomplete documentation, expired fitness certificates, non-transfer of registration certificates and those violating pollution norms. He added that many vehicles have crossed their permissible lifespan but are still plying on roads.

The SSP said, “Vehicles coming from Budgam or other outside areas are not allowed to enter the city, and wherever entry is permitted for public convenience, it will be regulated and terminated at designated points.” He said major arteries like MA Road and Residency Road need immediate decongestion. The SSP told KNO that simultaneous drives are underway across Srinagar, including Boulevard, Batamalo and Qamarwari areas, with officers deployed at multiple locations.

Under the Central Government’s Smart Cities Mission, has faced repeated downtime despite official claims of digital progress and online transparency. Officials from Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) said that they will check the website but are unsure of the current status. “Website... it is working. If not, we will check it,” an official said when asked about the issue.(KNO)

## Srinagar Airport Records Over 21,500 Flights, 35.26 Lakh Passengers in 2025

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Reflecting both operational resilience and recovery capacity, Srinagar International Airport handled a total of 35.26 lakh passengers and recorded 21,576 flight movements between January and December 21, 2025, officials said on Wednesday.

The year unfolded with sharp contrasts, marked by peak tourism months, weather-related operational challenges, and a sudden disruption in air traffic following the Pahalgam terror attack. Despite these hurdles, the airport demonstrated a steady bounce-back, particularly in the latter half of the year.

Official data accessed by KNO reveals a clear month-wise traffic pattern, with consistent growth until April, a sharp decline during May and June, and a gradual recovery that continued through the end of the year.

January witnessed steady winter operations, with 1,966 total flight movements and 3,47,040 passengers, including 1,75,352 arrivals and 1,71,688 departures. February maintained a stable flow with 1,894 movements and 3,34,264 passengers, comprising 1,61,084 arrivals and 1,73,180 departures.

Traffic picked up in March, recording an early spring rise with 2,220 movements and 3,81,559 passengers, including 2,00,546 arrivals and 1,81,013 departures. April emerged as the peak tourism month of the year, with the airport handling 2,872 flight movements and 4,69,902 passengers—2,24,056 arrivals and 2,45,846 departures—the highest monthly footfall in 2025.

However, the situation changed sharply in May. Following the Pahalgam terror attack, passenger numbers dropped significantly. The airport recorded just 1,160 movements and 1,65,863 passengers, including 88,131 arrivals and 77,732 departures, marking a decline of over 64 per cent compared to April.



“Officials attributed the recovery to resumed tourism activity and steady domestic travel on key routes such as Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chandigarh and Amritsar”

The slowdown continued into June, with 1,492 movements and 2,41,305 passengers, comprising 1,29,896 arrivals and 1,11,410 departures. Officials said this period reflected the combined impact of security concerns and temporary suspension of certain flight sectors.

Signs of recovery began to emerge in July, when the airport handled 1,992 movements and 3,01,384 passengers—1,52,281 arrivals and 1,49,103 departures—indicating renewed tourist and domestic travel confidence. August saw operations stabilise further, with 1,776 movements and 2,61,562 passengers. September recorded consistent traffic, with 1,646 movements and 2,75,945 passengers, including 1,38,941 arrivals and 1,37,004 departures. The steady trend continued into October, which logged 1,818 movements and 2,89,311 passengers, reflecting a smooth pre-winter flow.

In November, the airport handled near-normal traffic, recording 1,698 movements and 2,83,563 passengers, with departures slightly outnumbering arrivals. December 1-21 saw reduced winter operations, with 1,042 movements and 1,74,706 passengers, including 86,982 arrivals and 87,724 departures.

Data further shows a clear shift in air traffic patterns before and after the Pahalgam terror attack. Until the attack in May, Srinagar Airport maintained full connectivity, including flights to Dehradun and Lucknow. These sectors were temporarily suspended post-attack, contributing to the sharp fall in passenger footfall during May and June.

While April recorded nearly 4.7 lakh passengers—the highest monthly figure of the year—traffic rebounded beyond the 3 lakh mark by July. Officials attributed the recovery to resumed tourism activity and steady domestic travel on key routes such as Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chandigarh and Amritsar.

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

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

PRAYERS

FAJR	6: 05
ZUHR	12:28
ASR	3: 49
Magrib	5:31
ISHA	6: 55

HIJRI CALENDAR

04 Rajab 1447

## This Day In History

- 1- The first Christmas according to calendar-maker and Eastern Roman monk Dionysius Exiguus
- 337- Earliest possible date that Christmas was celebrated on Dec 25th
- 352- 1st definite date Christmas was celebrated on Dec 25th
- 496- King Clovis I is baptized a Roman Catholic in Reims cathedral - first Germanic king to do so, according to Henry of Tours (year disputed)
- 597- England adopts Julian calendar
- 604- Battle at Etampes (Stampae): Burgundy beat Neustrius
- 800- Pope Leo III crowns Charles the Great (Charlemagne), Roman Emperor
- 875- Charles the Bald crowned emperor of Rome
- 967- John XIII crowned Otto II the Red German compassionate emperor
- 969- Johannes I Tzimiscos crowned Emperor of Byzantium

## Srinagar Smart City Website Remains Offline for Over Three Months

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A day after Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, conducted an on-site review of the ongoing Amira Kadal wooden pedestrian bridge and other flagship works, the Srinagar Smart City’s official website continues to remain offline, leaving citizens unable to access updates on projects and tenders.

Attempts to visit the portal, <http://www.srinagarsmartcity.in> shows an error message stating “This site can’t be reached” with the code ERR\_TIMED\_OUT, even when accessed from multiple devices and networks.

The website was designed to host information about multi-core infrastructure initiatives

under the Central Government’s Smart Cities Mission, has faced repeated downtime despite official claims of digital progress and online transparency. Officials from Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) said that they will check the website but are unsure of the current status. “Website... it is working. If not, we will check it,” an official said when asked about the issue.(KNO)

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited  
Impaired Assets Recovery Branch  
Corporate Headquarters  
M.A.Road, Srinagar - 190 001  
Tel: +91(0)194-2481930-35, Extn.1070/71/72  
Email: iarb.chq@jkbmail.com

### POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 29.06.2024 thereby calling upon the Borrower Namely M/s Shuhul Roller Flour Mills Pvt Ltd through (1) Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Guroo S/o Late Gh. Mohd Guroo R/o 11-Guroo Estate Baghi Mehtab Srinagar (Director/Legal Heir)(2) Mr. Bilal Ahmad Guroo S/o Late Gh. Mohd Guroo R/o 11-Guroo Estate Baghi Mehtab Srinagar (Director/Legal Heir)(3) Mr. Owais Ahmad Guroo S/o Late Gh. Mohd Guroo R/o Baghi Mehtab Methan Natipora Srinagar (Director/Legal Heir) (4) Mrs. Jawahira W/o Late Gh. Mohd Guroo R/o 11-Guroo Estate Baghi Mehtab Srinagar (Legal heir) (5) Razia Guroo D/o Late Gh. Mohd Guroo R/o 11-Guroo Estate Baghi Mehtab Srinagar (Legal Heir) to repay an amount Rs.5,52,19,251.70 (Rupees Five Crore Fifty Two Lakhs Nineteen Thousand Two Hundred Fifty One and Paise Seventy Only) being the balance outstanding as on 26.06.2024 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgaged property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this day 23rd of December, 2025.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs.6, 80, 22,490.70 (Rupees Six Crore Eighty Lakhs Twenty Two Thousand Four Hundred Ninety and paise Seventy Only) together with future interest thereon from 01.12.2025 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

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

**DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY**  
Land Measuring 10K 09M under khasra no 1386 (02K 05M) Khata No 559 Khawat no 98 khasra no 1492/1388/ (05K 17M) khata no 638 khawat no 108 khasra no 1387 (02K 07M) khata no 555 khawat no 98 along with building, plant & machinery situated at Waranhal Jablipora Bijbehara. in the name of Ghulam Mohammad Guroo S/o Abdul Gaffar Guroo R/o Baghi-Mehtab Srinagar.  
**Place:**  
**Dated: 23.12.2025**  
**Authorized Officer**

## SAD DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of Abdul Majeed Sheikh S/O Late Ghulam Mohi ud din Sheikh R/O HassanAbad Rainawari on 23-12-25.

May Allah grant him jannatul firdous. The congregational Fateh khani will be held on (Friday) 26-12-2025 at 8:00 AM at their ancestral graveyard HassanAbad near Imam Barah, followed by Fateh Khawani (Majlis) at Imam Bargah HassanAbad.

Note: Ladies are requested not to bring any kind of eatables.

BEREAVED  
Zawar Mohammad Amin Sheikh (Brother)  
Mohammad Yousuf Sheikh (Brother)  
Abid Raza sheikh (Son)  
Mohammad Shafi Ashraf (954728229)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to apply for a Fertilizer License under the name ROOMI FARMERS, at GONIPORA KAWARHAMA BARAMULLA. If anybody has any objection in this regard, they may submit it to the CHIEF AGRICULTURE OFFICE BARAMULLA within 7 days from the publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

ISHFAQ AHMAD RESHI S/o: HABIBULLAH RESHI  
R/o: GONIPORA KUNZER BARAMULLA  
jvd

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sr.DEE/TR/JAT acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids up to closing date 16.01.2026 at 15:00 Hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost (Rs.)	Cost of Tender form (Rs.)	Date & time of submission of tender	Earnest Money # (Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
273-RSO-JAT-2025-26	Implementation of Virtual Reality based training module for Running Staff for crew Lobbies over Jammu Division	43,07,000.00	NIL	Up to 16.01.2026 15:00 Hrs	86,100.00/-	Three (03) Months	16.01.2026 after 15:00 Hrs.	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

Note: Tenderer (s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway. No.: 273-RSO-JAT-2025-26 Dated: 23.12.2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3986/25

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**OFFICE OF THE SUB DIVISIONAL MAGISTRATE, URI BARAMULLA**  
Phone No: 01956-244040 Contact No: 7780940038

Subject:- Magisterial Enquiry into the incident at Churunda Area along the LOC on 22-04-2025.

### NOTICE

The District Magistrate, Baramulla, has appointed Sub Divisional Magistrate, Uri, as the Inquiry Officer to conduct a Magisterial Enquiry into the incident that occurred in the Churunda area along the Line of Control (LOC) on 22-04-2025.

In this regard, general public having knowledge, evidence, or relevant information about the incident are hereby informed to record their statements. Statements may be submitted within (07) days from the date of publication of this notice in local newspapers, at the Office of the Sub Divisional Magistrate, Uri during office hours.

No:-SDM/Uri/2025/2110-11  
DIPK-9315/25 Dated:- 24/12/2025

Shubhankar P. Pathak (IAS)  
Sub Divisional Magistrate Uri

### 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](http://www.ireps.gov.in) with closing date-15.01.2026 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 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](http://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 logon to [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
23.12.2025	01.01.2026	15.01.2026/15:00 Hrs.

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
1.	208-2025-26-SrDEN-III-FZR	Manual Deep screening 30.157 km on BEAS-TTO section, 8.140 km on VKA-DENK section and 10.518 km on BAT-QDN section. (G Total= 49.815 km) in the section of ADEN-IASR & ADEN-IIASR.
		Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money Validity of Offer/ Period of Completion
		5,91,90,975.11 4,46,000.00 60 Days 12 Months

Similar nature of work:- "CTR/TRR/FR/TTT" including raising of Track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machines/ballast screening/regulating machines and TTR by T-28."

Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender No.: 208-2025-26-SrDEN-III-FZR Date: 23.12.2025 3988/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## KASHMIR OBSERVER™

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### KO VIEW

## Cold Without Closure

Every winter, Kashmir slows down in a way that feels almost scripted. Schools and colleges shut their gates. Many government offices thin out as employees move to Jammu. Streets grow silent, conversations shorter, and the valley slips into a waiting mode. Winter, we tell ourselves, is for rest.

This long-held idea was recently questioned by a lecturer in an article published in Kashmir Observer. His point was simple but sharp. Why do we treat these two winter months as a full stop, especially in education, when they could be used far better?

His words struck a chord because they named something people here have felt for years but rarely challenged.

The winter break is often defended as a time for rest and recovery, particularly for teachers and academic staff. The cold is harsh, travel becomes difficult, and daily life demands more effort.

All of that is true. But what we rarely discuss is what this long pause does to Kashmir's intellectual and social life. When campuses shut and officials leave, entire towns feel empty.

Over time, this has stopped feeling unusual. It has become tradition. But tradition should not stop us from asking hard questions.

Other regions face winters far more severe than ours, but they do not retreat from public life. In countries like Norway, Sweden, Canada, and Finland, snow does not mean shutdown. Universities continue with adjusted schedules. Teachers use winter for research, training, and planning. Students attend short courses, workshops, and online programs. Communities hold winter festivals, lectures, and cultural gatherings that turn isolation into connection.

Kashmir can learn from this approach. Winter does not have to mean complete closure. Rest does not require withdrawal. These months could become a time for deeper work.

Teachers could focus on writing, mentoring, and updating courses. Institutions could host winter schools, reading programs, or online classes that suit the season. Even limited, well-planned activity would keep minds engaged and communities connected.

This conversation is essentially about how society as a whole treats winter as a dead zone. We accept inactivity as natural, even inevitable. But that mindset holds us back. Progress does not always need speed. Sometimes it needs steadiness, even in the cold.

The lecturer who raised this issue did not demand an end to winter breaks. He asked for a rethink. That matters. Kashmir does not need to fight winter. It needs to live with it differently.

### CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

## Trapped Private Capital

Non-listed shares promise high returns, but exiting them can be harder than investors expect.

Irshad Mushtaq

Did you know that the hardest part of investing in non-listed shares often comes not at the time of buying, but when you want to sell?

Private shares sound exciting. They offer the thrill of getting in early, of backing a company before the rest of the world notices. Many investors are drawn by stories of startups turning into unicorns and early believers walking away rich. What is discussed far less is a silent, more uncomfortable truth. Once your money goes in, getting it back can be painfully difficult.

Unlike listed shares, non-listed shares do not trade on a stock exchange. There is no daily price, no visible queue of buyers and sellers, no simple click to exit. Liquidity, the ability to turn an investment into cash when you need it, is often missing. You may want to sell, but there may be no one ready to buy.

In most cases, selling non-listed shares means private negotiations. You might have to search for a buyer on your own, accept a steep discount, or wait for years in the hope of a buyout or an IPO. Sometimes, the exit exists only on paper. Life, however, does not wait. Medical needs, business losses, or family emergencies can make locked-in capital feel like a burden rather than an asset.

This does not mean non-listed shares are always a bad idea. It means they demand caution and clarity. Before investing, it is crucial to understand how and when you can exit. Does the company have a realistic plan to go public or get acquired? Are exit rights clearly written into agreements? Are you prepared to stay invested longer than planned if the market turns cold?

Private investments reward patience, but they punish assumptions. The return may look attractive, but without liquidity, it remains only a promise.

In finance, as in life, access matters as much as opportunity.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

# Packed and Perilous

From shrines to ski slopes, Jammu and Kashmir needs modern crowd management to protect people, preserve nature, and sustain tourism.



Peerzada Mohsin Shafi



Winter is already here. Snow will fall. Cameras will come out. Cars will line the roads. Jammu and Kashmir can choose whether those scenes end in frustration or in smooth passage. With modern tools, careful design, and local knowledge, the region can host devotion, adventure, and beauty without putting lives at risk. Crowd management is the foundation for safety, security, and sustainable growth.

The road into Gulmarg on a winter morning looks like a postcard at first. Pine trees sag under fresh snow, and the air is sharp and clean. Then the cars stop moving.

A family climbs out to take photos by the roadside. Another group parks at an awkward angle, narrowing the lane. Within minutes, the slope grinds to a halt. Engines hum, and children grow restless.

A local driver points uphill. "An ambulance tried to get through an hour ago," he says. "It had to turn back."

Scenes like this are becoming familiar across Jammu and Kashmir. They are signs of systems struggling to keep up with the growing number of visitors.

In many busy destinations, places that host large gatherings plan for crowds as carefully as they plan buildings or roads.

Pilgrimage routes in the Middle East, football stadiums in Europe, and crowded public squares in East Asia use real-time cameras, crowd-density sensors, timed entry, wide walkways, and teams trained to watch how people move under pressure.

These measures help reduce fear and confusion. Visitors feel safer because they can move in a way that feels predictable.

Jammu and Kashmir sees crowds of a similar scale.

At Vaishno Devi in Katra, tens of thousands of pilgrims arrive on peak days. The walk passes through steep stretches and enclosed corridors built decades ago for far smaller numbers.

The stampede in 2022 at this sacred site showed what happens when a surge meets limited space and weak monitoring.

Faith draws people together, but planning keeps them safe.

The same pressures appear at other shrines such as Amarnath Cave, Hazratbal, Charar-i-Sharief, and Shadra Sharief.

Queues stretch far beyond entry points. Entry and exit often overlap. A stumble or a sudden stop can ripple through the line. Beyond ethics, these are engineering problems.

Tourism adds another layer in this crowd situation. Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg, Doodhpathri, Yusmarg, Aru Valley, Gurez, Bangus, Patnitop, and the lakes around Srinagar all experience sharp seasonal spikes. Winter pushes the system hardest.

Early snowfall turns Gulmarg into an international skiing hub almost overnight. Roads through Tangmarg clog as visitors stop wherever snow looks inviting. Random parking narrows already tight curves. Traffic jams stretch for hours. Emergency vehicles wait behind private cars.

Pedestrians crowd single viewpoints. Slippery roads increase the chance of small accidents that quickly snowball into blockages.

Similar scenes play out in Pahalgam during peak holidays. Sonamarg faces closures during heavy snowfall, which concentrates crowds into shorter windows when the road opens.

Crowds also form when movement stops unexpectedly. The Srinagar-Jammu highway becomes a holding zone after landslides or snow. Passengers step out and gather along blocked stretches with little information. Tempers rise as hours pass.

Major transit hubs around the world plan for such moments with rest areas, clear communication, and controlled movement. The highway deserves the same thinking.

Recent tragedies elsewhere in India underline the stakes.

The crowd crush at the New Delhi railway station grew from confusion, speed mismatches, and limited exits. People did what people always do when space tightens and information runs thin. Planning failed them.

Kashmir's terrain, with its narrow roads and steep slopes, raises the risk even higher as visitor numbers

continue to grow.

A comprehensive crowd management plan for Jammu and Kashmir is both possible and plausible. Real-time monitoring at shrines and tourist hubs would allow early intervention before congestion turns dangerous. Timed entry and digital queues at pilgrimage sites would spread footfall through the day. Separate routes for opposing movement would ease pressure at choke points.

In places like Gulmarg, traffic redesign matters. Limiting private vehicles on final stretches and running shuttle buses from parking hubs would keep roads clear and emergency lanes open. Clear pedestrian zones would reduce chaos around popular spots.

Environmental limits must guide these decisions. Meadows get trampled, lakes collect waste, and trails erode when numbers exceed what the land can absorb.

Managing crowds protects visitors and preserves the landscapes they come to see. Regulated parking, clean routes, and caps on daily entries in sensitive zones would support long-term health.

Orderly movement also strengthens security. Predictable flows are easier to monitor. Visitors feel reassured when systems look calm and professional. Tourism benefits when safety feels visible.

Winter is already here. Snow will fall. Cameras will come out. Cars will line the roads. Jammu and Kashmir can choose whether those scenes end in frustration or in smooth passage.

With modern tools, careful design, and local knowledge, the region can host devotion, adventure, and beauty without putting lives at risk.

Crowd management is the foundation for safety, security, and sustainable growth.

The author is an infrastructure columnist from Anantnag. He can be reached at mssf21@gmail.com.



OBSERVER MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001  
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

## Why Winter Is Hard on the Kashmiri Heart

Each winter, as the air turns sharp and mornings feel heavier, hospitals brace for a familiar rise in emergencies.

Heart attacks, strokes, sudden cardiac deaths and hospital admissions for heart disease all increase during the colder months.

This pattern shows up year after year across countries and climates. It is not a coincidence and it is not just about discomfort.

Cold weather places real stress on the human heart.

Research from around the world confirms this seasonal link. Studies following millions of people show that blood pressure, cholesterol levels and blood clotting activity tend to rise in winter. Even the inner lining of blood vessels functions less smoothly.

Together, these changes raise the risk of heart attacks and strokes. One large analysis covering 15 coun-

tries found that many of the body's key cardiovascular risk factors peak during the coldest months.

Cold spells can act as a trigger on their own. Recent research presented at a major cardiology meeting showed that short exposure to low temperatures increases the risk of a heart attack within the following few days.

Other studies suggest that heart attack rates may be up to one third higher in winter, while strokes can rise sharply during sudden drops in temperature.

The reasons are rooted in basic biology. When we are exposed to cold, blood vessels narrow to preserve heat. This natural response raises blood pressure and forces the heart to work harder.

Narrowed vessels also reduce the flow of oxygen to the heart muscle, which can be dangerous for people who already have blocked arteries.

Cold weather also changes the blood itself. It becomes thicker and more prone

to clotting. Since most heart attacks are caused by clots blocking blood flow to the heart, this shift increases danger.

At the same time, cold exposure releases stress hormones such as adrenaline, which speed up the heart and raise blood pressure even more.

Winter brings other challenges. Flu and pneumonia are more common and these infections trigger inflammation throughout the body. Inflammation can weaken fatty plaques inside arteries and make them more likely to rupture, setting off heart attacks or strokes.

Daily habits also shift. People move less, spend more time indoors and often eat heavier, saltier foods. Shorter days mean less sunlight, which can lower vitamin D levels and affect overall health.

The risk is not the same for everyone. Older adults, people with existing heart disease, diabetes or high blood pressure, smokers and those who are inactive or overweight face higher danger

during winter. People with chronic lung conditions are also more vulnerable.

The good news is that small, steady choices can make a big difference. Dressing warmly helps prevent sudden strain on blood vessels. Staying active indoors keeps the heart and circulation strong. Regularly checking blood pressure can catch silent rises early. Eating well, drinking enough water, avoiding sudden heavy effort in the cold and getting vaccinated against flu and pneumonia all reduce risk.

Winter lowers temperatures, but it silently raises the burden on the heart. Paying attention to warmth, routine and warning signs can be the difference between a healthy winter and a medical emergency in the valley.

Sincerely,

Dr Musawir Mohsin Parsa  
parsamusawir@gmail.com

# The Friend I Found One Christmas in Kashmir

Snowy winters, shared meals, and a friendship in Kashmir that shaped my understanding of Christmas.

Syed Nissar H Gilani

December 25 is celebrated across the world, but for me the day has always felt personal.

When it arrives, I do not think of public holidays or distant traditions. My mind travels back to Kashmir, to winters that were placid and poetic, and to moments of warmth that came from people rather than occasions.

One memory takes me back to 1976, when I was posted in Dooru Shahbad.

That morning, snow had covered everything. It fell so heavily that the world seemed to disappear beneath it.

Roads vanished, rooftops bent, and the mountains nearby lost their sharp edges. They softened into wide white shapes, their peaks blending into the sky.

The silence felt complete, as if the valley itself had decided to pause.

I remember stepping outside with a sense of excitement that surprised me.

I pushed my feet into the fresh snow and felt the cold rush through me. The air bit my face, sharp and clean. It was uncomfortable, but joyful.

Inside the house, a bowl of homemade harisa steamed on the table. I shared that meal with my grandmother and the children.

We talked, laughed, and stayed



close while the world outside remained frozen.

That morning stayed with me, not because it was Christmas, but because it showed how winter in Kashmir could still feel kind.

Ten years later, in 1986, Christmas returned to my life in a different way.

I was serving as an administrator

in Bandipore then. One of my closest colleagues at the time was Mr Joseph, an inspector with the 122 Battalion of the CRPF.

He was a Christian from Kerala, posted far from home. I knew the day would be difficult for him, away from his family and everything familiar.

I decided to host a Christmas din-

ner at my official residence. It was not meant to be grand or symbolic. I simply wanted him to feel less alone.

We arranged a campfire in the snow-covered lawn. The flames flickered against the white ground as a Christmas song played on a tape recorder.

As we sat there, I noticed tears in Joseph's eyes. He missed his family deeply.

The distance from Kerala felt especially heavy that evening.

Others were there too. My son Tahir sat nearby, along with Major Bakashi and colleagues who had slowly become part of our everyday lives in Bandipore.

When dinner arrived, the mood changed. We served a full wazwan, generous and comforting. The smell of spices and warm meat filled the cold air. Joseph smiled as he ate

and went back for an extra bowl of yakhni.

Surrounded by people who cared, he seemed lighter. His sadness did not disappear, but it softened.

That evening remains one of my most powerful memories, because it showed how sharing food and time can create belonging.

Our friendship did not end with that winter. Joseph and I stayed in touch long after 1986, and even after both of us retired.

The distance between Kashmir and Kerala never weakened our bond. We spoke often about current affairs, about our children and how they were doing, and about family life.

We shared old memories and made plans. We invited each other again and again, speaking of visits to Kerala and of Joseph returning to Kashmir, even when time made those plans harder to fulfil.

Two years ago, Joseph passed away at his home in Thiruvalla, Kerala. I could not travel to be there. I attended his funeral through a video call, watching from far away as my dear friend was laid to rest. It felt strange and painful.

Our friendship had begun in a time of handwritten letters and long, silent winters. It ended through a screen.

Still, the bond felt real until the very end.

After retirement, life carried me away from Kashmir more often than I expected. By coincidence, I now find myself outside the state, and sometimes outside the country, during December.

Without planning for it, I become part of Christmas celebrations wherever I am. I see lights, hear carols, and watch families gather in places far from home.

In those moments, my thoughts return to Bandipore. I remember the campfire glowing in the snow, the warmth of wazwan, and a friend finding comfort among people who



**AS ANOTHER DECEMBER PASSES, I CARRY THESE MEMORIES WITH ME.** They remind me that harmony often lives in simple moments, and that friendships formed in the cold can warm a lifetime.

became family.

Christmas, I have learned, does not belong to one faith or one place. It belongs to anyone who values friendship, hospitality, and shared humanity.

The Christian community in Kashmir has always been small, but the spirit of the season was never absent.

Those were good days. Nights filled with the crackle of fire, the scent of yakhni, and the serenity of a Kashmiri winter.

As another December passes, I carry these memories with me. They remind me that harmony often lives in simple moments, and that friendships formed in the cold can warm a lifetime.

— The author is a former civil servant from Kashmir. He can be reached at [nisarilani57748@gmail.com](mailto:nisarilani57748@gmail.com).



**THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN KASHMIR HAS ALWAYS BEEN SMALL, BUT THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON WAS NEVER ABSENT.** Those were good days. Nights filled with the crackle of fire, the scent of yakhni, and the serenity of a Kashmiri winter.

## King of Kashmiri Kitchens

More than a vegetable, Nadru reflects Kashmir's culinary wisdom, cultural memory, and fragile ecology.

Mushtaq Hurra

Every Kashmiri kitchen is a repository of condiments, spices, aromas, and flavours.

Vegetarian and non-vegetarian cuisines run parallel to each other. However, vegetarian dishes tend to dominate our dining tables because vegetables are more affordable, readily available, economical, and easier to manage than non-vegetarian foods.

Although their prices witness a steep surge during the peak winter months, vegetable aromas still frequently imbue the kitchens of common Kashmiris.

The delicacies of Wazwan and winter-special Hareesa make our taste buds salivate, but vegetables of diverse colours and tastes remain an inseparable part of our culinary system.

Proximity to organically grown vegetables has long been the secret of the longevity and good health of our ancestors.

Non-vegetarian cuisines certainly entice food lovers to include them in their daily meals, but vegetarian dishes remain staples in most households. Even sun-dried vegetables compensate for the scarcity of fresh greens during the harsh winter months.

These exotic dainties have become symbols of our civilisation and heritage. The facades of markets selling sun-dried vegetables proclaim the glory of a culture known for its illustrious past.

Shop fronts laden with dried delicacies lend the old Srinagar city markets an antique charm. It would not be an exaggeration to call Al-Hachi (sun-dried bottle gourd) an emblem of our cultural identity.

Kashmiris undoubtedly consume substantial amounts of mutton, beef, chicken, and fish, but middle- and lower-middle-class families often prefer vegetarian dishes to make ends meet.

The vegetarian trend is also gaining momentum in contemporary times, as health ex-

perts and medical professionals urge people to consume more greens, vegetables, and pulses instead of meat and other non-vegetarian foods.

Prosperity is often associated with vegetables rather than meat or fish. The Kashmiri phrase "Haakh Batte" serves as a benchmark of a prosperous and contented life.

When someone is advised to spend judiciously, they are often told to stick to vegetables. Modern healthcare experts, too, emphasise the frequent and adequate consumption of vegetables and legumes due to their wide-ranging health benefits.

Fresh and sun-dried vegetables, along with legumes, are deeply cherished in our part of the world.

Though Haakh (collard greens) often paints our cooking pots green, it is not the most loved vegetable among Kashmiris. Nelumbo nucifera, commonly known as Nadru, is perhaps the crown jewel of our vegetable clan.

Nadru is a perennial aquatic vegetable found in the lakes of the valley. It is believed to have been discovered by Budshah the Great in the fifteenth century, when he, along with his courtiers, was exploring the enchanting beauty of Gilsar.

Since then, the vegetable has ruled our culinary traditions. Even a blend of Nadru and spinach has become an integral part of the multi-course non-vegetarian feast of Kashmir, known as Wazwan.

Major producers of this aquatic delicacy include Dal, Mansbal, Wular, and Anchar lakes. Nadru from Dal Lake is admired by all for its delectable taste.

Our Pandit brethren consume it with great fondness and associate it with Goddess Lakshmi, the deity of wealth and prosperity.

Both Muslims and Hindus of Kashmir never fail to prepare Nadru dishes on festive occasions.

The extraction of Nadru is nothing short of an adventure. The tubers are removed from deep water at the bottom of the



**THIS AQUATIC DELICACY IS UNDER SERIOUS THREAT.** Sewage inlets flowing into major lakes such as Dal, Wular, and Mansbal must be stopped. Polythene and other harmful toxins released into these perennial lakes endanger aquatic flora and fauna. Both policymakers and public must take every possible measure to safeguard this delicate vegetable from constant peril.

valley's major lakes.

Harvesting Nadru is a laborious and arduous task, particularly during winter and late autumn. Many brave souls plunge into freezing waters to uproot the tubers from the swampy lakebeds.

Usually, a special long and thin wooden pole called a "Shum" is used to extract the tuberous plants from beneath

the water. A metallic, fork-like tool is tied to one end of the Shum to uproot the plants.

Its taste, flavour, and the difficulty involved in harvesting make Nadru an expensive vegetable.

It is often preferred with fish during winters, and its Yakhni is commonly prepared in Kashmiri kitchens. Its crispy texture also makes it the most popular

street snack in Kashmir.

Nader Munji can be found in almost every nook and corner of the valley. Thin slices of Nadru dipped in spicy batter are deep-fried in simmering oil, and people relish these bites to keep their bodies warm.

Nadru has crossed the frontiers of our kitchens and cuisines and has seeped into our language and culture. Though

Kashmiri poets may not have extensively popularised it in their works, it remains deeply embedded in everyday conversations.

Several Kashmiri phrases are closely linked to this plant. Nader Phulai (lotus bloom) is often equated with prosperity, purity, strength, and spirituality.

Since Nadru grows from slime and mud, a person who rises economically is said to be enjoying Nader Phulai.

Someone who is tall, lanky, and thin is often referred to as a "Nadur." The phrase "Yuhai Nadur Hue Chhukh" (you are like a lotus stem) is commonly used to gently ridicule someone for being extremely thin and tall.

However, this aquatic delicacy is under serious threat.

Sewage inlets flowing into major lakes such as Dal, Wular, and Mansbal must be stopped. Polythene and other harmful toxins released into these perennial lakes endanger aquatic flora and fauna.



**BEYOND ITS RICH FLAVOUR AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, NADRU IS A SOURCE OF LIVELIHOOD FOR THOUSANDS OF HOUSEHOLDS.** Let us not be cruel or careless enough to snatch away the sustenance of the poor. We must all join hands to conserve our traditions, customs, and heritage

Both policymakers and public must take every possible measure to safeguard this delicate vegetable from constant peril.

Beyond its rich flavour and cultural significance, Nadru is a source of livelihood for thousands of households.

Let us not be cruel or careless enough to snatch away the sustenance of the poor. We must all join hands to conserve our traditions, customs, and heritage.

— The author is a teacher and a regular columnist from Bandipora, writing on culture, climate, history, education, folklore, and social issues. He can be reached at [mushtaqhurra143@gmail.com](mailto:mushtaqhurra143@gmail.com).

# China Eyes Overseas Military Bases, Including Pakistan: Pentagon

Press Trust Of India

New York: A report by the Pentagon highlights the co-operation between China and Pakistan in sectors such as defence and space, adding that Beijing "likely also considered" setting up a base in Pakistan.

In its annual report to Congress on Tuesday on 'Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China 2025', the US Department of War said the People's Liberation Army (PLA) is actively considering and planning for additional military facilities.

These facilities will support naval and air projection with associated ground security forces. Pakistan is one of the countries where China has likely considered setting up a base.

"China has likely also considered basing in Angola, Bangladesh, Burma, Cuba,

Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tanzania, the United Arab Emirates, and Vanuatu," the report said.

The PLA is probably most interested in military access along the sea lines of communication in the Malacca Strait, the Strait of Hormuz, and other areas in Africa and the Middle East, it added.

In March 2025, Gabonese President Brice Oligui Nguema confirmed China's interest in a base in the Gulf of Guinea, alleging that PLA basing in Gabon was discussed with President Xi in 2024.

China offers three combat aircraft for export, including the fifth-generation FC-31 and the fourth-generation J-10C multirole combat aircraft, and the China-Pakistan co-produced



JF-17 light combat aircraft, it said.

In addition to manned aircraft, China has supplied

strike-capable Caihong and Wing Loong UAVs to Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iraq, Morocco, Myanmar, Pakistan,

Serbia, and the UAE.

As of May 2025, China delivered 20 units—their only J-10C exports—to Pakistan as part of

two previous orders totalling 36 since 2020.

On space cooperation, the report said that throughout 2024, China increased its space co-operation outreach worldwide, probably to boost its image as a collaborative space power while "undermining US global leadership", particularly with developing nations.

As of December 2024, China has signed nearly 200 inter-governmental space cooperation agreements with more than 50 countries and international organisations, covering fields including earth observation, deep space exploration, satellite development, lunar exploration, and manned spaceflight.

"In 2024, Senegal became the latest country to join the China-led International Lunar Research Station (ILRS), and entities from the United Arab Emirates, Switzerland, Panama, Serbia,

Pakistan, South Africa, and Indonesia signed agreements on ILRS cooperation.

China also has a close bilateral space partnership with Russia, and in 2024, Beijing publicly reaffirmed its intent to expand space cooperation with Moscow," it said.

During the next five years, China probably will grow its naval export market, adding to a customer base that currently includes Bangladesh, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Thailand.

In 2024, China accepted Thailand's proposal to purchase either two offshore patrol vessels or one frigate. As of April 2024, China had not delivered any Yuan submarines but had delivered two Ming-class submarines to Bangladesh in 2016 and one to Burma in 2021.

In 2017 and 2018, China sold two frigates to Bangladesh and four to Pakistan, respectively, it said.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Snow, Rain

expected from December 30 to January 1, with chances of light rain over the plains and light snowfall over higher areas at scattered places. The weather is likely to remain partly to generally cloudy from January 2 to 5.

Another weather forecaster said that mostly dry and cold conditions are expected to prevail till December 29. However, a western disturbance is likely to impact the region between December 30 and January 2, bringing widespread rain and snowfall. The forecaster added that the season's first snowfall is also possible over the plains of Kashmir, including Srinagar city, as per current indications.

Earlier, the India Meteorological Department reported that cold conditions continued across Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday. Maximum temperatures in many parts of the Kashmir division remained 0 to 2 degrees Celsius below normal, while several areas of the Jammu division recorded day temperatures 1 to 3 degrees above normal.

Night temperatures stayed above normal by 4 to 5 degrees at many places in Kashmir and by 2 to 4 degrees at several locations in Jammu. Gulmarg recorded the lowest minimum temperature in the Valley at minus 4.2 degrees Celsius, while Baderwah was the coldest place in the Jammu division with a minimum of 0.6 degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile, travellers and transporters have been advised to avoid traffic and administrative advisories, as moderate to dense fog is likely to affect the plains of the Jammu division over the next four days.

### Avalanche Warning

Poonch and Ramban districts. Avalanches are likely to occur at elevations above 2,800 metres in these areas during the next 24 hours. People have been advised to stay away from avalanche-prone zones and follow official advisories.

Most higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir have received moderate to heavy snowfall over the past few days.

### Jammu-Srinagar NH

been advised to travel on NH-44 during the day and avoid night journeys, particularly between Nashri Tunnel and Navyug Tunnel, where HMV movement may cause delays."

He urged the drivers to maintain strict lane discipline and warned that overtaking or wrong-lane driving can lead to congestion.

The official said, "Subject to fair weather and road conditions, LMVs, passenger vehicles, private cars, and HMVs (good carrier) will be allowed to move in both directions on NH-44 on Thursday."

Meanwhile, Traffic Control Units (TCUs) in Jammu and Srinagar have been asked to coordinate with TCU Ramban regarding road

conditions and Security forces convoys have been advised to move on the NH-44 only after confirmation of road status.

According to the officials the Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag NH-244 remains closed due to snow accumulation while vehicles on the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumari (SSG) Road, will be allowed to move in a regulated manner after getting a green signal from BRO. "LMVs and HMVs (up to six tyres) with anti-skid chains will be permitted from Minamarg towards Srinagar between 8 AM and 11:30 AM, and from Sonamarg towards Kargil between 1 PM and 4 PM," the official said, adding, "Similarly, on Mughal Road, LMVs and private cars with anti-skid chains will be allowed from Behramgala towards Shopian and Herpora-Shopian towards Poonch between 10:30 AM and 2:30 PM, subject to fair weather and road clearance from GREF. Vehicles will not be allowed after the cutoff timings. Security forces convoys will coordinate their movement to avoid disrupting civil traffic."

Commuters have been urged to confirm road conditions before travel from the following Traffic Control Units: Jammu (0191-2459048, 0191-2740550, 9419147732, 103), Srinagar (0194-2450022, 2485396, 18001807091, 103), Ramban (9419993745, 1800-180-7043), Udhampur (8491928625), PCR Kishtwar (9906154100), and PCR Kargil (9541902330, 9541902331).(KNO)

### 10 Years Of Modi

scene of the crime has been made compulsory, and the main objective of this is to ensure punishment for the guilty," he said.

Shah told the constables that they were joining the police force at a time when the Colonial-era laws had been replaced by the new criminal laws.

He said the batch is the first from Haryana since the implementation of the new criminal laws.

As many as 5,061 newly trained constables formally joined the state police force from the batch.

This is the first batch in which 85 per cent youth are graduates and above, with an average age of 26, Shah said.

When Haryana was formed, it had one police range and six districts, which have now increased to five ranges and 19 districts, in addition to railway police and cyber crime, the minister said.

According to a Haryana Police statement, the recruits underwent rigorous training from December 16, 2024, to September 22, 2025.

The statement quoted A S Chawla, Director, Haryana Police Academy, Madhuban, Karnal, to say that the batch is noteworthy for its strong academic background.

Of the 5,061 recruits, 969 are postgraduates, 3,324 are graduates, and 768 possess Class 12 or diploma qualifications, it said.

Many recruits are proficient in Hindi, English, and Punjabi.

The programme was a part of the series of events where Shah was the chief guest.

Before the event, Shah, who is also the Cooperation Minister, addressed a national cooperative conference here. The Haryana Police has a strength of 77,000 police personnel.

### Public Transport

operational costs. They informed the government that public transport fares had not been revised for nearly five years, despite mounting financial pressure on transport operators across the Union Territory.

After detailed discussions, the Principal Secretary Finance agreed to the association's demand and approved an 18 per cent hike in fares for public transport services across Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials said the revised fare structure will be implemented from January 1, 2026, following the issuance of a formal notification by the Transport Department.

### LG, CM Extend

each other for a prosperous future for all. May the spirit of Christmas encourage us to help those in need and bring peace, prosperity and happiness to all."

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also extended warm greetings to the people celebrating Christmas in Jammu and Kashmir and across the world.

Describing Christmas as a festival symbolising peace, love and compassion, the Chief Minister said that the teachings of Jesus Christ continue to inspire humanity to uphold the values of kindness, forgiveness and harmony.

"Christmas is not merely a celebration; it is a reaffirmation of our shared values of harmony and mutual respect, where people from all communities come together in a spirit of unity," he said.

The Chief Minister highlighted the rich secular ethos and age-old tradition of brotherhood in Jammu and Kashmir, and urged people to mark the occasion by extending support to the less privileged so that everyone can partake in the joy of the festival.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah wished peace, prosperity and happiness to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and prayed for a future marked by greater harmony and goodwill.

### HC Stays Shopian

further submitted that on October 17 he sought details related to the amendment process, including a copy of the amended constitution, names of members who proposed the amendment, notice for the general body meeting, minutes of the meeting, list of members who voted in favour of the amendment, and the circular adopting the amendment.

However, none of the requested information was provided to him, he said.

The advocate has also challenged the notification dated December 11, issued by the Election Commission of the Bar Association, announcing fresh elections on December 27.

After hearing the matter, the Court observed that a prima facie case for indulgence was made out. Accordingly, the court issued notice to the respondents, returnable within four weeks, with requisite steps to be taken within one week.

The Court directed that the notification dated December 11, concerning the fresh elections shall remain stayed, subject to objections from the other side. The matter has been listed for further hearing on January 27.

### Schools In Kashmir

been asked to nominate one male and one female nodal officer responsible for implementing information, education and communication activities, student counselling, identification of vulnerable individuals, and continuous monitoring and follow-up of affected students.

The meeting also directed Waqf authorities to organise orientation programmes for religious leaders so that their social influence is effectively used to raise awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse and to promote community responsibility.

Regarding coaching centres and student accommodations, the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences was tasked with developing a structured monitoring framework to ensure effective oversight of coaching hubs across the Valley.

The Director of Health Services was instructed to prepare a comprehensive training calendar for educators, with the aim of creating a pool of trained resource persons within educational institutions. Meanwhile, the directors of school and college education were asked to compile and submit lists of staff members to be trained and assigned responsibilities related to identification, counselling, and monitoring of students vulnerable to substance abuse.

The Divisional Commissioner further stressed the importance of regular awareness sessions, maintenance of performance reports, and proper documentation and dissemination of success stories.

The police department was also directed to enhance surveillance over identified drug hotspots in Srinagar city and other districts, in close coordination with the health department, the spokesperson said.

### EOW Kashmir

Pradesh, and assured high returns through an international purchase agreement.

Believing the claims to be genuine, the victim transferred 26.25 lakh to multiple bank

accounts as instructed by the accused.

Investigations revealed that the accused had opened several bank accounts using forged identity documents, including fake voter identity cards, under assumed names such as Tabu Juli and Aisha Kholi. Officials said the accounts were operated by Riba herself and were used to route and withdraw the defrauded money.

Forensic examination of bank transactions showed suspicious inter bank transfers and rapid cash withdrawals, indicating a coordinated and deliberate fraud. The investigation confirmed the accused's involvement in offences related to cheating, impersonation, forgery, and use of forged documents.

The chargesheet has been filed in absentia under Section 512 of the Code of Criminal Procedure as the accused is currently absconding.

EOW Kashmir has advised the public to remain vigilant against online frauds and avoid falling prey to impersonation scams that promise high returns or international business opportunities. (KNS)

### J&K Bank Bags

as well as for our CSR initiatives. I sincerely thank the organisers and the distinguished jury for this recognition. And I place my appreciation on record for our MSME team and CSR functionaries, whose dedicated efforts and efficient on-ground engagements have been instrumental in achieving these milestones."

Calling MSMEs a focus area for J&K Bank, MD & CEO further said, "In line with the national development objectives and regulatory expectations, MSME financing has been our strategic priority. As of now, we are exclusively implementing the UT Government's flagship Mission YUVA program, which aims at creating 1.37 lakh enterprises in next 5 years resulting in employment opportunities for 4.25 lakh youth."

"The Bank remains committed to support entrepreneurs through tailored financial solutions, simplified processes, digital interventions and continuous handholding, especially in our core geography, while steadily expanding its MSME portfolio across the country," he added.

On CSR, MD & CEO noted that the Bank's initiatives are closely aligned with national development priorities, focusing on education, healthcare, environmental sustainability, skill development and livelihood generation, thereby ensuring that the Bank's growth also translates into meaningful social impact for the people it serves.

Pertinently, former Supreme Court Judge Justice Deepak Verma chaired the jury for the awards organised by the Chamber of Indian Micro Small and Medium Enterprises with the evaluation carried out by its knowledge partner CareEdge Ratings.



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# Worm Infections, Poor Diet Driving Childhood Anaemia in Kashmir: Doctors

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Doctors in Kashmir have identified intestinal worm infections and inadequate intake of iron-rich and balanced diets as the primary contributors to the high prevalence of anaemia among children.

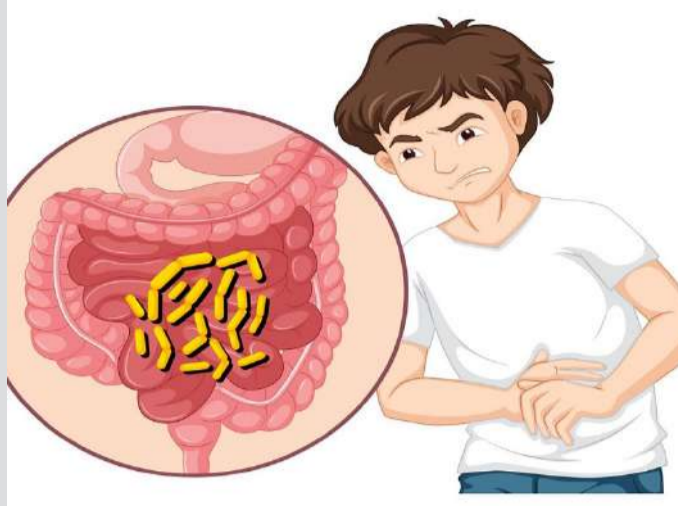
Medical professionals said that helminthic infections—parasitic worm infestations affecting the intestines—remain widespread among children, particularly when combined with malnutrition.

They emphasized that regular deworming, along with proper nutrition and hygiene, is essential to curb anaemia and its long-term health consequences.

Dr Nazir Ahmad posted in South Kashmir's Pulwama district said that helminthic infections are one of the leading yet overlooked causes behind the growing burden of anaemia in children.

"Intestinal worm infestation, especially when associated with poor nutrition, is frequently observed in children suffering from anaemia. These parasites affect the body in multiple ways—they reduce iron absorption, consume essential nutrients, cause chronic blood loss, and trigger inflammation, all of which significantly contribute to anaemia," he said.

He explained that helminths compromise a child's nutritional status, making it difficult for the body to maintain adequate haemoglobin levels even if food



intake improves later. Dr Shagufta a gynaecologist told KNO that helminthic infections result from parasitic worms that live inside the human body and compete for nutrients, damage the intestinal lining, and in some cases cause blood loss.

"These infections can lead to nutrient depletion, impaired absorption of iron, inflammatory responses and general weakness. Over time, they push children into a cycle of malnutrition and anaemia," she said.

Dr Shagufta also dispelled a common misconception regarding deworming. "Many parents believe deworming medicines should not be given during winter, which is incorrect. Deworming can and should be done in any season at regular intervals.

Unfortunately, many children miss scheduled doses, increasing their risk of anaemia," she added.

Doctors said diet plays an equally critical role, noting that insufficient intake of iron-rich foods remains a major driver of childhood anaemia. They stressed the importance of foods rich in iron, vitamin B12 and folate, along with dietary diversity, safe feeding practices, proper hygiene, and timely introduction of complementary foods after breastfeeding.

"Children with worm infestations often feel constantly tired, weak and lethargic due to anaemia and poor nutrition. If left untreated, this can result in impaired physical growth and delayed cognitive development," doctors said.

However, they reassured parents that worm infections are easy to control and do not warrant panic. "Parents must remain vigilant, monitor their children's growth, appetite, school performance and overall behaviour, and seek timely medical advice," they said.

Medical experts warned that untreated worm infestations can severely affect a child's health, leading to poor nutritional status, reduced immunity, learning difficulties and lower concentration levels.

"The treatment is simple, safe, effective and available free of cost through government health programmes. Even a single dose of deworming medication can drastically reduce the worm load in a child," doctors said.

They further explained that worm infections can cause a range of health issues including anaemia, abdominal swelling, severe stomach pain, diarrhoea, loss of appetite, malnutrition and, in severe cases, tissue damage requiring surgical intervention.

Highlighting the broader benefits, doctors said deworming improves immunity, protects children from chronic illnesses, enhances concentration and school attendance, boosts nutrient absorption, controls anaemia and gastrointestinal problems, and contributes to better productivity and livelihood outcomes in the long run. "Regular deworming also helps reduce transmission within the

community," they added.

Meanwhile, data from the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5) paints a grim picture.

According to the survey, nearly three-fourths (73 per cent) of children aged 6-59 months in India are anaemic. This includes 25 per cent mildly anaemic, 44 per cent moderately anaemic, and 4 per cent severely anaemic children.

The survey shows a sharp rise in childhood anaemia, increasing from 43 per cent in NFHS-4 to 73 per cent in NFHS-5. The prevalence remains almost equal among girls (71 per cent) and boys (71 per cent).

NFHS-5 data further indicates that children born to anaemic mothers are significantly more likely to suffer from anaemia themselves. While levels vary across social and economic groups, anaemia remains widespread across all sections of society.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the situation is equally concerning. NFHS-5 reveals that nearly 74 per cent of children are anaemic, even among those whose mothers have attained 12 or more years of schooling—highlighting that education alone is not sufficient without proper nutrition and healthcare access.

Doctors urged coordinated efforts involving parents, health workers and policymakers to tackle the issue through awareness, regular deworming drives, nutritional supplementation and improved child healthcare services.

## CAG Flags Major Lapses in Implementation of Rural Power Scheme

A performance audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has exposed major lapses in the implementation of the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) in Jammu & Kashmir, including Ladakh.

The audit report tabled in the Parliament on December 18, a copy of which lies KNO reveals that Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh failed to complete 62.62% of its sanctioned work before the scheme's closure in March 2022.

Audit also observed that 20 States/UTs could not execute the quantum of work ranging between 3.31 per cent and 62.62 per cent till the closure of the scheme. Particularly, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and Tripura could not complete 62.62 per cent and 20.72 per cent of their respective sanctioned project costs.

In its response to audit observations, the Union Ministry of Power stated that delay in J&K was due to unexpected events. "In respect of Jammu & Kashmir, it was stated that delays happened due to unexpected events i.e., issues in tendering, hostile terrain," the report said.

The Centre had launched the scheme—Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) in December 2014 to provide continuous and reliable electricity supply to rural areas through feeder separation, strengthening of distribution infrastructure, and rural electrification initiatives.

DDUGJY guidelines stipulated that in a project, the work was to be completed within 24 months from the date of issue of Letter of Award in case of turnkey contract and within 30 months in case of partial turnkey contract/departmental execution.

The Monitoring Committee overseeing the implementation of DDUGJY, in its 23rd meeting held on December 21, 2021, instructed state distribution companies (DISCOMs) to take up only those works that could be completed by December 31, 2021. (Observer News Service)

## ACB Files Chargesheet in Jammu Bribe Case

The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday filed a chargesheet for allegedly offering a bribe of Rs. 30,000 to the Superintendent of Police, City South Jammu.

Officials said the bribe was allegedly offered in exchange for extending the date of an exhibition-cum-sale at Gole Market, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, on 24th December 2025, Jammu & Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau produced charge-sheet in case FIR No. 01/2024 u/s 8 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 before the Hon'ble Court of Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Jammu against Chander Sekhar Vohra, Proprietor of M/s Asian Associates, for offering bribe to the Superintendent of Police, City South, Jammu, for seeking undue favour in connection with extending the date of exhibition cum sale at Gole Market, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

The statement reads, the instant case came to be registered at PS ACB Jammu, upon the receipt of a written complaint lodged by the then Superintendent of Police, City South, Jammu, alleging therein that the above named individual approached her to seek undue favour in connection with the extension of the exhibition date for the exhibition cum sale at Gole Market, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu and tried to bribe her by offering bribe amount of 30,000 for doing the needful. During the course of investigation, a team was constituted and the accused, namely, Sekhar Vohra, Proprietor of M/s Asian Associates, was caught on spot, in the office of SP City south, Jammu, for offering bribe of ₹30,000 to her for seeking undue favour. The bribe money was also recovered and seized on spot in presence of independent witnesses. (Observer News Service)

## From Stigma to Choice:

# Menstrual Health Awareness Finds Space in Mir Behri

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In the quiet interiors of Dal Lake, where homes float on water and generations have lived with limited access to structured health education, a conversation long shrouded in silence found an open and welcoming space. In Mir Behri, WeTheChange India, a New Delhi-based non-governmental organisation, conducted a community-centred menstrual health awareness programme, bringing dignity, choice and sustainability to a subject often considered private or even forbidden.

Founded on the belief that women's health is inseparable from human rights, environmental responsibility and social equity, WeTheChange India has steadily emerged as a leading voice in menstrual health education across the country. Its work seeks to challenge stigma, misinformation and silence—particularly in regions where geography, tradition and poverty combine to restrict access to reliable healthcare knowledge.

Since its inception, the organisation has promoted a simple yet transformative idea: menstruation must be understood, not hidden; supported, not stigmatised. This philosophy guided its Kashmir outreach, which began in 2022 under the leadership of founder Farheen Naaz. The initiative marked one of the first efforts to openly discuss menstrual health in several remote areas of the Valley as



well as academic institutions.

The Mir Behri programme was led by Dr Saba Riyaz, State Lead of WeTheChange India for Jammu and Kashmir, who framed menstrual health not merely as a woman's issue but as a matter of public health, environmental sustainability and human dignity. Addressing women from the local community, she emphasised that informed menstrual practices directly impact physical well-being, family health, sanitation systems and ecological balance.

A key feature of the session was its inclusive, non-prescriptive approach to menstrual management. Participants were introduced to multiple

options—disposable pads, reusable cloth pads, period panties and menstrual cups—allowing women to make informed choices based on comfort, lifestyle and personal needs.

The discussion also examined the composition of commonly used sanitary products and their implications for health and the environment. Participants were informed that many conventional pads contain plastic and chemical additives that may cause skin irritation, hormonal disruption and long-term reproductive health risks, while also contributing significantly to non-biodegradable waste.

To counter this, WeTheChange India highlighted organic and biodegradable alternatives, presenting sustainability as a practical and health-protective choice rather than a luxury. Market-available options such as Zeevah, Nua, Azah, Pee Safe, Plush, Avni and Fab Pad were showcased during the session.

To ensure the learning extended beyond the event, 100 free organic sanitary pads from Zeevah were distributed among participants. These pads are certified biodegradable within six months and are free from plastic and harmful chemicals. Women also received Menstrupedia mini comic books, which use simple illustrations and culturally sensitive language to explain menstruation, hygiene, nutrition and self-care, making them easy to share with daughters and other family members.

## Police Attach Property of Drug Peddler

**SRINAGAR:** In its sustained efforts to eliminate the menace of drugs from the society and dismantle the infrastructure supporting illegal narcotics trade, Srinagar Police has attached double-storeyed residential house and double-storeyed shopping complex, along with land measuring 1 Kanal and 4 marlas, worth approximately Rs 3 crores. According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, the aforementioned properties belong to a notorious drug peddler named Ajaz Ahmad Mir, S/o Late Ali Ahmad, R/o Palpora Noorbagh, who is involved in case FIR No. 201/2022 u/s 8/21 NDPS Act of Police Station Safakadal.

The attachment was carried out under the relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. (Observer News Service)

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION II SRINAGAR PAMPORE.

Subject: Extension of e-NIT No. TLMD-II/ 12 of 2025-26 dt:04.12.2025.

No: TLMD II/3644

dt: 22.12.2025.

(EXTENSION-I)

Due to the poor response the fresh dates for e-filling of e-NIT No.TLMD-II/ 12 of 2025-26 dt: 04.12.2025 for the work "Stabilization of 132 KV Pampore-Wanpoh Double Circuit Transmission Line by way of insertion of 03 No. AN Type towers (KAMANI Design) at Location No.97-98(Barsoo), 136-137(Kaigam) and 187-188(Batengoo)under the jurisdiction of TLMD-II Pampore" are hereby extended as detailed below:-

Last Date of online filling of e-bids	29.12.2025 upto 02:00 pm
Date of opening of e-bids	30.12.2025 at 04:00 pm

DIPK-NB-2832-25  
DT: 24/12/2025

Sd/= Executive Engineer  
TLMD II Pampore

## JMC Intensifies Cleanliness Drive Through 'Wall of Shame' Initiative

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Under its flagship "Wall of Shame" initiative, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) continued its sustained and focused efforts to promote civic awareness and bring about behavioural change among citizens by discouraging public littering and open urination, which adversely impact public health, sanitation and the overall image of the city.

As part of the ongoing campaign, the JMC on Wednesday organized a

and emphasized the importance of civic sense, cleanliness and shared responsibility in maintaining public spaces. He appealed to the public to refrain from unhygienic practices and extend full cooperation to JMC in its mission to keep the city neat, clean and dignified. He underscored that sustained awareness coupled with strict enforcement is essential to achieve long-term cleanliness objectives.

Detailed discussions were held with locals to sensitize them about the harmful ef-



fects of littering and open urination on public health, environmental hygiene and the aesthetic appeal of the city. Citizens were encouraged to act as "cleanliness ambassadors" and motivate others in their neighbourhoods to adopt proper waste disposal practices.

fects of littering and open urination on public health, environmental hygiene and the aesthetic appeal of the city. Citizens were encouraged to act as "cleanliness ambassadors" and motivate others in their neighbourhoods to adopt proper waste disposal practices.

## Minister Sharma Exhorts Students to Inculcate Scientific Temper



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, ARI and Training, Satish Sharma exhorted upon the students to imbibe a stronger scientific temper while remaining deeply rooted in the unique cultural ethos of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister was speaking at the Annual Day celebrations of JP World School, marking 20 years of excellence and togetherness.

The Minister lauded the institution for its consistent contribution towards shaping the enlightened, disciplined and socially responsible citizens. He said that education must not only impart academic knowledge but also nurture curiosity, innovation, ethical values and respect for

diversity, which are vital for building a progressive and inclusive society.

Satish Sharma highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir is fast emerging as a hub of innovation and technological growth, particularly in the fields of Information Technology, Science and Technology. He informed the gathering that the government has undertaken several initiatives to promote the digital governance, scientific research, start-ups and youth-led innovation, creating new opportunities for the young generation.

"Today's students will be the architects of tomorrow's Jammu and Kashmir. They must combine scientific thinking with cultural sensitivity to drive sustainable and inclusive development," the Minister remarked, while encouraging the students to explore careers in technology, research, sports and entrepreneurship.

## 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 /2025-26/77
Date	23 . 12 . 2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union territory of J&K, e-tenders are invited on percentage BoQ 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
Supply of filters of reputed brands for Snow Clearance Machines TATA LPTA 715 for Snow Clearance Operation at Snow Clearance Control Room Budgam of Machinery Sub Division 1 <sup>st</sup>	100.00	24,900.00	500.00	Revised Works programme approved by CE vide order No. M&HED/K/ Acctt/ of 2025-26/107 Dt.30.08.2025.	Sanctioned vide No. 43 of 2025-26 Dt. 18.12.2025.

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	23.12-2025(18:00hrs)
02	Period of downloading of bidding document	23.12-2025 (18:30 hrs)
03	Bid submission start date	23.12-2025 (18:55 hrs)
04	Bid submission end date	29.12-2025 (18:55 hrs)
06	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	30.12-2025 (14:00 hrs)

No: MDSK/ TS/4799-802  
Date: 23.12.2024

DIPK-9303-25  
DT: 24/12/2025

Sd/ Executive Engineer,  
Machinery Division, Kashmir

# Dazzling Rohit Hits 155 as Mumbai Decimate Sikkim by 8 Wickets

Press Trust of India

**JAIPUR:** Rohit Sharma made a mockery of an inexperienced Sikkim bowling attack with a 94-ball-155 on his return to List A cricket, as Mumbai cruised to an eight-wicket victory in their opening Group C match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Wednesday.

A near-capacity crowd of 20,000-odd fans celebrated Christmas Eve witnessing the 'Hitman' carnage, which included 18 fours and nine sixes, with Mumbai chasing down a target of 237 in just 30.3 overs.

Truth be told, there was not much to write home about Sikkim's bowling unit, with Palzor Tamang, Kranthi Kumar, Gurinder Singh and Ankur Malik looking overawed or clueless from the moment Rohit took guard.

It started with a trademark pull shot over mid-wicket off Kranthi for a boundary, followed by a swivel pull shot off

his hips.

The pacers lacked sting, and twice, seamer Palzor's 125 kmph deliveries were swept fine behind the square for sixes.

Rohit played a few late cuts against the spinners using the pace of their deliveries. He was dropped twice, but Rohit remained undeterred and always found a way to bisect the gaps at a time and over of his choice.

Rohit also hit some delectable straight shots, leaving the Sikkim bowlers in complete awe.

"It is the best day of our lives, as we shared the pitch with such a great cricketer. He respected the good balls and punished the poor deliveries. At times he would speak to himself and say, 'Yeh achha delivery thaa. Yeh shot mujhe waaha nahi yehaan marna chhiye thaa (This was a good shot. I should not have played this shot in that area),' Sikkim skipper Le Yong Lepcha told PTI.



Rohit had two partnerships, one that yielded 141 runs for the opening stand with Angkrish Raghuvansi (38 of 56 balls) and another 75 with debutant Musheer Khan (27).

Abhishek contributes 48 in Punjab's win

Skipper Abhishek Sharma contributed 48 off 45 balls but it was Naman Dhir who stole the show with a fine 97 off 78 balls as Punjab

beat Maharashtra by 51 runs in another group league game.

Punjab scored 347 for six largely due to contributions from Dhir along with the Singh cousins -- Anmolpreet (85 off 78 balls) and Prabhsimran (60 off 77 balls).

In reply, Maharashtra managed 296 for 8, with skipper Rituraj Gaikwad (1) enduring a rare failure.

BRIEF SCORES

Sikkim 236/7 in 50 overs (Ashish Thapa 79, Shardul Thakur 2/19).

Mumbai 237/2 in 30.3 overs (Rohit Sharma 155).

Mumbai won by 8 wickets.

Punjab 347/6 in 50 overs (Naman Dhir 97, Anmolpreet Singh 85, Prabhsimran Singh 60).

Maharashtra 296/8 in 50 overs (Prithvi Shaw 47, Ramakrishna Ghosh 73, SS Bajwa 2/36).

Punjab won by 51 runs.

Chattisgarh 233 in 48.5 (Amandeep Khare 76, Deepraj Gaonkar 4/35).

Goa 234/4 in 44.1 overs (Snehal Kauthankar 107 no, Lalit Yadav 4/3).

Goa won by 6 wickets.

Himachal Pradesh 259 in 47.3 overs (Innesh Mahajan 60, DS Bora 4/44).

Uttarakhand 164 in 40.3 overs (Aanjaneya Suryavanshi 55, J Sucheeth 51, Akash Vashist 3/30).

Himachal Pradesh won by 95 runs.

## Arsenal Scores Dramatic 8-7 Shootout Win Over Palace



Agence France-Presse

**K**epa Arrizabalaga was Arsenal's League Cup quarter-final hero with the decisive penalty shootout save that completed a miserable evening for Crystal Palace defender Maxence Lacroix on Tuesday. Lacroix's own goal put Arsenal ahead with 10 minutes left at the Emirates Stadium before Marc Guehi snatched Palace's stoppage-time equaliser in the 1-1 draw. That set the stage for a shoot-out in which both teams scored their first seven penalties. William Saliba converted Arsenal's eighth kick and Kepa dived to his right to save Lacroix's effort and secure an 8-7 victory.

It was a cathartic moment for the Spanish goalkeeper, who infamously refused to be substituted before Chelsea's League Cup final penalty shoot-out defeat against Manchester City in 2019.

Kepa also missed a spot-kick in the Blues' 2022 League Cup final shoot-out loss to Liverpool.

The Gunners will play London rivals Chelsea in the semi-finals over two legs in January and February, with Manchester City facing holders Newcastle in the other last four clash.

"We generated a lot and should have scored many more goals. When you don't close the games, it can always happen that you concede," Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta said.

"We had some big individual performances. Kepa, his level of commitment with the group is just incredible.

"I think the players were so composed with the pen-

alties and in the end, Kepa managed to save one. We are where we want to be."

Arsenal are into the League Cup semi-finals for a second successive year as they chase their first trophy since winning the FA Cup in 2020.

The north Londoners have only won the League Cup twice, with their last triumph coming in 1992-93, before any of their current squad were born.

After celebrating Christmas on Thursday, Arteta's men will turn their attention back to the title race with home games against Brighton and third-placed Aston Villa to close out 2025.

Winning their first English title since 2004 is clearly Arsenal's main aim this season, but lifting the League Cup in March would be a significant boost to a club starved of silverware in recent years.

Arteta made eight changes to the side that won at Everton on Saturday, but still fielded a strong line-up featuring William Saliba, Mikel Merino, Eberechi Eze, Gabriel Martinelli and Gabriel Jesus.

**- Kepa redemption -**  
Noni Madueke, another of Arteta's changes, should have put Arsenal ahead early on but he was twice denied by Palace 'keeper Walter Benitez, who produced an inspired performance.

Benitez plunged to his left to keep out Jesus's close-range header with another fine save and repelled another blast from Madueke.

By the time Jurrien Timber headed wastefully over from 10 yards, Arteta must have been wondering if Arsenal would ever make the breakthrough.



## Kohli Breaks Tendulkar's All-Time Record

Press Trust of India

**BENGALURU:** India batting star Virat Kohli on Wednesday went past the iconic Sachin Tendulkar as the fastest to reach 16,000 runs in List A cricket, achieving the milestone in his 330th innings in the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy here.

Tendulkar had achieved the landmark in 391 innings. The 37-year-old Kohli touched the mark during his team Delhi's opening Vijay Hazare game against Andhra here at the BCCI Centre of Excellence.

Kohli now holds the record for being the fastest to each block of 1000 List A runs from 10,000 runs onwards.

Kohli is playing the Vijay Hazare Trophy after a gap of 15 years, but the former India skipper has a stellar record in the tournament.

In the premier domestic one-day competition, he has made 819 runs from 13 matches at an average of 68.25 and a strike-rate of 106 with four centuries and three fifties. Retired from the Test and T20 International formats, Kohli's next India assignment is expected to be the home ODI series against New Zealand beginning January 11.

## Suryavanshi Triggers Cricketing Quake Bihar Smash 'World Record' 574 In 50 Overs

Press Trust of India

**T**eenage sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi produced a breathtaking display of power-hitting, smashing an 84-ball 190 for Bihar in their Vijay Hazare Trophy Plate Group match against Arunachal Pradesh on Wednesday.

The 14-year-old opener reached his century in just 36 balls, striking 15 sixes and 16 fours in a sustained onslaught that lit up the opening day of the 50-over domestic tournament. His hundred is the second-fastest by an Indian in List A cricket, behind Punjab's Anmolpreet Singh, who scored a 35-ball century against the same opposition in 2024.

Suryavanshi's innings came just three days after his failure in the final of the U19 Asia Cup against Pakistan in the UAE, underlining his ability to bounce back in emphatic fashion.



The overall record for the fastest List A century is held by Australia's Jake Fraser-McGurk, who reached the milestone in 29 balls for South Australia against Tasmania in the 2023-24 season, followed by South Africa great AB de Villiers' 31-ball hundred against West Indies in Johannesburg. With this knock, Suryavanshi also became the youngest player to score a century in List A cricket.

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