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## Justice Ensured For 1984 Riot Victims: LG

Says Sikh Gurus' Sacrifice Inspires Unity & Nation-Building

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi ensured justice to the victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, ending decades of injustice faced by the Sikh community.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at a Vishesh Shaheedi Samagam titled Safar-e-Shahadat, organised by the All Jammu Kashmir Sikh Coordination Committee at Gurdwara Digiana Ashram on the occasion of Veer Bal Diwas.

Sinha said historic steps taken under the leadership of the Prime Minister reflected the government's commitment to honouring the sacrifices of Sikh Gurus and safeguarding the dignity of the Sikh community.

He said that for years, victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots were denied justice, but decisive action under Prime Minister Modi ensured accountability and closure for the affected families.

The LG also highlighted other key initiatives taken to preserve and promote Sikh heritage, including the grant of FCRA approval to Sri Harmandir Sahib, opening of the Kartarpur Sahib



Corridor, rejuvenation of the Jallianwala Bagh memorial, and promotion of research on the teachings of Sikh Gurus.

"These initiatives ensure that the Gurus' message of universal brotherhood continues to guide India's future," he said.

He said the supreme sacrifice of the Sikh Gurus continues to inspire unity, courage and nation-building, calling upon citizens to work together to build a prosperous and inclusive India.

Paying tributes to the Sahibzades, Mata Gujri Ji and Guru Gobind Singh, Sinha said their unparalleled bravery, sacrifice and moral strength remain a guiding force for the nation. He said | [More on P6](#)

## Pahalgam Terror Case Probe A Global Model: Shah

» Inaugurates Two-day Anti-Terror Conference Organised By NIA » 'Security Forces Gave A Befitting Reply To Pak's Terror Masters'

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the investigation into the Pahalgam terror attack was a complete and successful probe that would be studied by agencies across the world, asserting that it set a global benchmark in counter-terror investigations.

Inaugurating a two-day Anti-Terror Conference organised by the National Investigation Agency, Shah praised the security forces and investigating agencies for their coordinated response, stating that the case was not an example of routine policing but of water-tight investigation.

Lauding the neutralisation of the terrorists involved in the Baisaran Valley attack, the home minister said the perpetrators aimed to



disrupt communal harmony and derail the new phase of development and tourism in Kashmir. He said the security forces, acting on precise intelligence, eliminated all three terrorists and sent a strong message to Pakistan. "This is the first terrorist incident where those who planned the attack were punished through

Operation Sindoor, and those who executed it were neutralised through Operation Mahadev," Shah said, adding that India had responded firmly at both ends through its security forces and intelligence agencies.

Shah said the results of the investigation would put Pakistan in the dock on international platforms, asserting that the evidence gathered exposed the full chain behind the attack. He said agencies worldwide would study the probe for its precision, coordination and outcomes.

The home minister also praised the investigations conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Delhi Police in the Red Fort area blast case, saying they exposed the entire network involved. "Investigations into the Pahalgam and Delhi blast cases are | [More on P6](#)

## 'Databases Would Form Core Asset Of Zero-terror Policy'

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said a common ATS structure for the police force across the country and an impenetrable and strong anti-terrorism grid -- vigilant and capable of swift, result-oriented action -- are essential for "uniform preparation at every level" to counter terror attacks.

The home minister also said a new plan to launch "a 360-degree assault on organised crime" would be brought in the coming days, and that these databases would form a "core asset of the zero-terror policy".

Inaugurating the two-day Anti-Terrorism Conference-2025 | [More on P6](#)

## Light Snow Likely From Dec 29: MeT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Minimum temperatures improved across most parts of Kashmir on Friday due to overcast conditions, offering residents slight relief from the prevailing cold, officials said.

Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 0.2 degrees Celsius, more than two degrees higher than the minus 2.2 degrees Celsius recorded on Wednesday night.

Sonamarg remained the coldest place in Jammu and Kashmir, registering a low of minus 4.7 degrees Celsius, though this too marked an improvement from minus 7.3 degrees Celsius a day earlier.

Gulmarg followed closely with a minimum temperature of minus 4.5 degrees Celsius.

In south Kashmir, Pahalgam, which also serves as a base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 1.6 degrees Celsius, up from minus 4.4 degrees Celsius on the previous night.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 0.2 degrees Celsius, Kokernag 0.8 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara settled at minus 2.4 degrees Celsius.

According to the Meteorological Department, generally | [More on P6](#)

## Review Power Not Meant To Replace Judicial View: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Friday underlined that the power of review can be exercised only to correct an apparent mistake on record and not to substitute or re-appreciate a judicial view already taken.

A Division Bench of Justice Rajnesh Oswal and Justice Mohd Yousuf Wani rejected the review plea filed by petitioners—Shahjehan Rather and others—who had sought reconsideration of a judgment dated 9 April this year, dismissing their writ petition challenging a 2021 order of the Central Administrative Tribunal, Jammu.

The petitioners contended that their submissions were



not adequately considered and argued that the authorities' failure to specifically deny certain averments amounted to an admission. However, the court observed that the issues raised in the review petition had already been examined and decided in the original judgment.

This Court while rendering the judgment under review in paras (13) | [More on P6](#)

## Horticulture Belt Uneasy Over Planned Railway Stretch

Farmers Warn The 26-Kilometer Line Could Destroy Apple Orchards And Local Ecosystems

Syed Sammar Mehdi

Srinagar: Farmers in Pulwama and Shopian are raising alarm over a proposed railway line that they say threatens their livelihoods and the local environment.

The 26-kilometer stretch, planned between Kakapora in Pulwama and Kunsoo in Shopian, would cut through highly productive apple orchards and other horticulture land, according to local residents and climate activists.

On Thursday, members of the J&K Climate Action Group (JKCAG), led by Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat, visited several affected villages, including Babbar, Keegam, Check Niltrisal, Check Nazneenpora, and Kunsoo. They met with dozens of farmers who described the project as



disastrous.

"Almost seven lakh apple and other trees in this area could be cut down," Dr. Bhat said. "Fully grown apple trees, as well as mulberries, walnuts, chinars, and willows, are in the alignment of the railway. Dozens of irrigation channels would also be blocked. This project would harm both the environment and the livelihoods of local

communities."

Farmers told the group that Kakapora already has a functioning railway station, which sufficiently meets regional connectivity needs. They argued that the 26-kilometer rail line is unnecessary and would come at an enormous ecological cost.

"Laying this line and destroying seven lakh trees is simply | [More on P6](#)

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"Laying this line and destroying seven lakh trees is simply | [More on P6](#)

## 5-Year Term Of J&K DDCs Ends On Feb 24

Tenure To Be Counted From Constitution Date: Law Dept

Agencies

Srinagar: Ending weeks of speculation over the fate of the District Development Councils (DDCs), the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs has opined that the five-year tenure of the councils began on the day of their constitution-- a ruling that sets their dissolution date at February 24, 2026.

Citing Sub-Rule (2) and Sub-Rule (3) of Rule 108ZP of the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Rules, 1996, the Department of Law has clarified that the District Development Councils shall be deemed to be duly constituted from the date of issuance of the notification for their constitution, sources said.

Sub-Rule (2) provides

that, upon receipt of the names of the elected members, Chairpersons, and Vice-Chairpersons, the Government shall, by notification, constitute District Development Council(s) bearing the name of the concerned district. Sub-Rule (3) states that upon issuance of such notification under Sub-Rule (2), the District Development Council shall be deemed to be duly constituted.

The Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj issued notifications for their constitution on February 25, 2021. With the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs opining that their term begins from the date of their constitution, the Councils will cease to exist on February 24, 2026. The Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj had sought clarification from the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs on whether the five-year term should be | [More on P6](#)

## For A Week, Governance Stepped Into Cold In Srinagar

Residents Found Answers, Registrations, And A Rare Sense Of Being Heard During A Week Of On-The-Ground Governance

Syed Sammar Mehdi

Srinagar- Shabir Sultan, a school-teacher from South Qamarwari, walked into the local community hall one cold December morning with a thin folder under his arm. Inside were papers he had carried from one office to another for months, trying to update his ration card.

This time, he hoped things might be different.

From December 19 to 25, South Qamarwari hosted a grievance redressal camp under Prashasan Saptah, a week-long initiative focused on good governance.

Organized by the Block Development Office of Qamarwari, the camp brought government officials directly into the neighbourhood, away



from distant offices and into everyday life.

Inside the lawn, long tables were lined with officials from different departments of District Srinagar. Residents came in steady streams. Some carried written complaints. Others came with questions about welfare schemes they had heard of but never fully understood.

Officials listened carefully,

took notes, and in many cases, offered solutions on the spot.

"The idea is simple," said an official at the camp, requesting not to be named as he was not authorized to speak formally. "People should not have to run from office to office. Administration must reach them, especially in winter when movement becomes difficult."

Farida Mushtaq, a mother of

three, had been struggling to find support for her children's school expenses. "I kept asking where to go, but no one explained it clearly," she said.

At the camp, officials guided her through the process and registered her under a suitable welfare scheme. She left with information she had been seeking for months.

Nearby, Bilal Khan, a local shopkeeper, raised concerns about sanitation delays in his area. "Usually, you file a complaint and hear nothing back," he said. "Here, someone listened."

Such camps are part of a larger push by governments across India to improve last-mile delivery. During Sushasan Saptah, administrations review grievances, speed up approvals, and try to ensure welfare schemes reach eligible citizens.

Officials say thousands of applications and complaints are addressed each year during these outreach efforts, especially in districts with dense populations and high service demand.

In cities like Srinagar, the need is sharp.

Rapid urban growth, rising costs, and limited job opportunities have strained families. Many residents face urban poverty, insecure livelihoods, and poor access to government offices.

For them, even small delays can push households deeper into financial stress.

"These camps matter because they lower the barrier between people and power," said Nighat Dar, a Srinagar-based social activist who works on urban welfare issues.

"When systems are hard to access, the | [More on P6](#)

## Reservation Policy

## Ruhullah Warns Of Joining Protest Tomorrow

Observer News Service

Srinagar: National Conference leader and Member of Parliament Aga Ruhullah Mehdi on Friday said he would join protesting students and unemployed youth on Sunday if the government failed to engage with them on the reservation issue by Saturday.

In a statement, Ruhullah said the administration must communicate the measures taken to resolve concerns related to the reservation policy. He said that in the absence of any outreach, he would sit with the students at the same protest site where a demonstration was held last year on December 23 to ensure their voices were heard.



The statement has revived memories of last year's sit-in outside the official residence of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, where unemployed youth, political leaders and student groups had gathered to demand rationalisation of reservations. The protest had drawn support from several quarters, including the Peoples Democratic | [More on P6](#)



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2

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.**

Ground Water Division Srinagar  
Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E-mail: - hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in/Tel./ Fax No:- 0194-2411285

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS**  
GIST of Detailed e- NIT No: - 70/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26.

For and on behalf of Government of UT - J&K, e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Firms/Companies/drilling agencies/Joint Ventures etc for **"registered experienced Contractors of Machine Drilled Hand pump wells"** as per details given below. The bidding process shall be completed online on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) in two covers viz. Cover 1<sup>st</sup> consisting of Pre Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2<sup>nd</sup> shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

**Table-I**

S. No	S. No of AA	Name of work	Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs	Earnest money (EMD)	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Major Head / Programme	Technical Sanction	Tender Call
1.	3	Construction of (1 No) of 125 mm dia machine drill tube well with motor at SBF Zawoora in District Shopian.	Rs. 5.958 Lacs	Rs.18,000/-	Rs.500/-	10 Days each well (after identification of site)	NLM 'Irrigation Facilities' activity.	JS-PHE/GWDS/Other Deptt/ 13 of 12/2025, Dt: 23-12-2025	1 <sup>st</sup>
2	1	Construction of (1 No) of 125 mm dia machine drill tube well with motor at SBF Daksum in District Anantnag.	Rs. 5.876 Lacs	Rs.18,000/-	Rs.500/-	10 Days each well (after identification of site)	NLM 'Irrigation Facilities' activity.	JS-PHE/GWDS/Other Deptt/ 12 of 12/2025, Dt: 23-12-2025	1 <sup>st</sup>
3		Construction of Bore Well Near Spring at Nagbal Nagress block Kund in District Kulgam.	Rs. 5.708 Lacs	Rs.18,000/-	Rs.500/-	10 Days each well (after identification of site)	District Capex 2025-26 (PRI Grants)	JS-PHE/GWDS/Other Deptt/ 223 of 12/2025, Dt: 23-12-2025	1 <sup>st</sup>
4		Construction of 125 mm dia, Machine Drilled Bore Well along-with Submersible Pumping unit and allied accessories for Solid Waste Management Plant MC Awantipora.	Rs. 4.708 Lacs	Rs.14,200/-	Rs.300/-	10 Days each well (after identification of site)	Hon'ble NGT 606/2018	JS-PHE/GWDS/Other Deptt/ 15 of 12/2025, Dt: 23-12-2025	1 <sup>st</sup>
5		Construction of Borewell at Katridar near land of Imiyaz Ahmad Shah R/o Tubripora, Telwani, Anantnag.	Rs. 4.23 Lacs	Rs.12,700/-	Rs.300/-	10 Days each well (after identification of site)	Distt. Capex Budget 2025-26 (CDF Scheme)	JS-PHE/GWDS/Other Deptt/ 49 of 12/2025, Dt: 23-12-2025	1 <sup>st</sup>
6		Raising and enrichment of Plants and other works" (including 125 mm dia Machine drilled well along with submersible pumping equipment Borewell) at Banderpora Nursery (Work Code: FORSS2526100226) in District Pulwama	Rs. 2.02 Lacs	Rs.6,100/-	Rs.200/-	10 Days each well (after identification of site)	Capex Budget 2025-26	JS-PHE/GWDS/Other Deptt/ 220 of 12/2025, Dt: 23-12-2025	1 <sup>st</sup>
7	1	Installation of Tube Well NHO Sajad Ah. Wani and others at Kuchipora Shahabad.	Rs. 2.00 Lacs	Rs.6,000/-	Rs.200/-	10 Days each well (after identification of site)	CDF Scheme	JS-PHE/GWDS/Other Deptt/ 48 of 12/2025, Dt: 23-12-2025	1 <sup>st</sup>
8	2	Installation of Bore Well At Sadipahluen Hardu Schien NLO Ab Rashid Ganie and others Block Shahabad	Rs. 2.00 Lacs	Rs.6,000/-	Rs.200/-	10 Days each well (after identification of site)	CDF Scheme	JS-PHE/GWDS/Other Deptt/ 49 of 12/2025, Dt: 23-12-2025	1 <sup>st</sup>

**Position of Funds: - Available:**

- (For Sl. No. 01-02): Accord of Administrative Approval issued by Director Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir's Order No:90-DSHK/Plan of 2025 Dated: 10-12-2025 issued vide endorsement NO: DSHK/Plan/2025-26/11856-65 Dated: 10-12-2025
- (For Sl. No. 03): Accord of Administrative Approval issued by the Distt. Development Commissioner Kulgam's Order No: 364-DDCK of 2025 issued vide endorsement NO: DDCK/District-Capex/PRI/2025-26/5096-99 Dated: 05-12-2025.
- (For Sl. No. 04): a. Executive officer Municipal Committee, Awantipora's Letter No: MC/AWP/ Works/2025/2974-76, Dated:11/12/2025  
b. Accord of Administrative Approval issued by the Director Urban Local Bodies, Kmr's Order No: DULB/Plg/980 of 2025 issued vide endorsement NO: DULB/Plg/2025-26/E-7676937/38401-07 Dated: 10-12-2025.
- (For Sl. No. 05): Accord of Administrative Approval issued by the Distt. Development Commissioner Anantnag Order No: 356-DDCA of 2025 issued vide endorsement NO: DDCA/ CDF-44 /2025-26/8176-80 Dated: 13-12-2025.
- (For Sl. No. 06): Accord of Administrative Approval issued by PCCF/Director Social Forestry Department J&K's Order No:77-DSF of 2025 issued vide endorsement NO: DIR/DSF/Plg/2025-26/443-45, Dated:24-11-2025.
- (For Sl. No. 07-08): Accord of Administrative Approval issued by the Distt. Development Commissioner Anantnag's Order No: 322- DDCA of 2025 issued vide endorsement NO: DDCA/CDF -43- Anantnag West/ 2025-26/7319-21, Dated: 24-11-2025.

The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website:

<https://www.jktenders.gov.in>

**From 24.12.2025 (05:00 PM) to 06.01.2026 (03:00 PM)**

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website:

<https://www.jktenders.gov.in>

**As per Critical Dates/Information scheduled given below**

**Table-II**

1.	2.	3.	4.
1.	24-12-2025 (05:00 P.M)	24-12-2025 (05:00 P.M) upto 06-01-2026 (03:00 P.M)	24-12-2025 (05:00 P.M) upto 06-01-2026 (03:00 P.M)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids		
3.	Period of Submission of bids		
4.	Date of opening of Tender.	07-01-2026 (01:00 P.M)	
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Srinagar Kashmir-190011		
6.	Cost of Tender Document : Non-Refundable should be in form of DD /TR/e-challan/ via online deposited to Account Head 0215 or in the below mentioned account Number in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar (at Sadder Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)		
	Name of Bank	Jammu & Kashmir Bank	
	Name of Branch	Residency Road, Lal Chowk - 190001	
	Name of Account	Executive Engineer PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar.	
	Account Type	Current Accounts Government.	
	Account Number	0005 0405 0004 7709	
	IFSC Code	JAKA0CHINAR	
	MICR Code	190051056	
7.	NOTE: In case the firm/agency/contractor submits/uploaded scanned copy of tender document fee in the shape of DD /TR/ e-challan/ via online, the hard copies shall have be submitted in the divisional office before opening of cover 2 <sup>nd</sup> (Financial Cover) of e-NIT		
8.	Bid Validity Period: 180 Days		
	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on <a href="http://www.jktenders.gov.in">www.jktenders.gov.in</a>		

Bids must be accompanied by bid security viz. Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR and (the date of CDR/FDR etc. must not be prior to 03 months from the date of issuance of this e-NIT and Treasury Receipt (mentioning therein the NIT No., S.No. of work and Advertised Cost as per the NIT) as cost of Tender Document under Account Head 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Ground Water Division Srinagar (as specified in the table II) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for 180 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Division Srinagar (H.Q. Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar) on 07-01-2026 (01:00 P.M) If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

Sd/-

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp/16551-573  
DIPK-9343/25  
Dated: - 26-12-2025

Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.  
Ground Water Division, Srinagar

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inf

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I have applied for the issuance of Pesticides, Fertilizer And Seeds license under Name and Style "Dar Agro Chemicals" situated at Ussan Khoie. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

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Mobile: 9103813808

fko

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION BARAMULLA**

e-mail, id, xenmhd.bla@jk.gov.in  
Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender

<b>NIT No:</b>	<b>M&amp;HDB/TS/2025-26/84/3858-63</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>24-12-2025</b>

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, **Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla**, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on percentage wise basis from Authorized service providers of OEMs / Registered / Listed Contractors for the below mentioned works:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion
01.	Repairs to 75 KVA, 415 Volts, 50Hz, 3 Phase, Air Cooled, Servo Stabilizer Installed at CT Scan Lab of GMC Baramulla.	0.38	200.00	760/-	10 days

**Note:-**

- Project Authority:** - Principal Govt. Medical College, Baramulla.
- AAA:** - Administrative Approval accorded by Principal GMC Baramulla vide No. 536-GMGB of 2025 Dated: - 23-12-2025
- Technical Sanction:** - Technical Sanction Accorded by Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital Division Baramulla vide No. M&HDB/TS/54 of 12/2025 Dated: - 24-12-2025.
- Executing Agency:** - Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	24-12-2025
2.	Period of downloading of the bidding document	From 24-12-2025 to 30-12-2025
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	From 24-12-2025 (18:15 HRS)
4.	Bid Submission End Date	30-12-2025 (18:55 HRS)
5.	Date of Opening of Cover 1 <sup>st</sup>	31-12-2025 (13:00 HRS)

The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.

**Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:**

01.	Tender Fee	Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt / online Bank transfer acknowledgement including m-Pay Delight+, to be uploaded with each online bid pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. Tender ID to be written also on the voucher. <b>Bank: J&amp;K Bank.</b> <b>Branch: T.P Baramulla.</b> <b>IFSC Code: JAKAOTEHSIL</b> <b>Account No.: 0213010200000051.</b>
02.	EMD	Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 02% of value of the advertised cost pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. EMD of successful bidder shall be released on receipt of equivalent to / in the range of 03% to 10% Performance Guarantee of the value of the Contract from (L1) and execution of agreement with the Department. EMD of unsuccessful bidders shall be also released as per rules provided in J&K PWD Engineering Manual 2020.
03.	Terms & Conditions	Scanned copy of the Annexure- "A" & "B" duly accepted by the bidder.
04.	Tax Clearance	Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number.
05.	GST	Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
06.	Undertaking	Undertaking as per format at Annexure "C" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Govt./Semi Govt. Department.
07.	Contractor Registration	Scanned copy of valid Contractor Registration on JKPWDOMS of PWD J&K.
08.	Eligibility / Work Experience Certificate	The Bidder Shall submit documentary proof of having successfully executed similar nature of work amounting to 80% of the estimated cost in single contract or 50% of the estimated cost in two contracts each or 40% of the estimated cost in three contracts each in last 07 years in any Govt. /Semi Govt./Autonomous institutions alongwith satisfactory performance certificate issued by a competent authority not below the rank of Assistant Executive Engineer.

**Note:-**

- The successful bidder has to furnish EMD document physically to the Divisional office alongwith fee receipt within three days from the date of opening price bid, without which his bid shall not be accepted for further processing of contract in his favour.
- No EMD exemption shall be given to bidders.
- Bidders / Firms shall refrain from uploading irrelevant documents.
- Contractor/ Firm shall upload the contact / communication details separately on single page.

**A.**

- Cover-II shall contain:
- 01. Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this department. In no case, financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- 02. The bids for the work shall remain valid for 180 days and the contract shall be valid for one complete year, starting from the date of allotment of the said contract.
- 03. The complete bidding process will be online.
- 04. The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer M&HDB Baramulla after evaluation of technical bid and decision thereof.
- 05. Bidder shall be penalized as per tender conditions if they withdraw their bid during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- 06. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the rate below %age inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- 07. The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.
- 08. Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The department reserves the right to debar/blacklist such firm(s).
- 09. Conditional tenders shall not be entertained.
- 10. Unbalanced Bid: In case bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, the successful bidder shall have to produce additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/ Bank Guarantee within 07 days after opening of price bid as per the Circular directives of the J&K U.T Finance Department issued vide No. FD-Code/44/2021-22-158; Dated: - 08.08.2025 and relevant clauses of J&K (PWD) Engineering Manual 2020.
- 11. The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer M&HDB Baramulla.

No: - M&HDB/TS/e-tender-84/3858-63

DIPK-9327/25  
Dated: - 26-12-2025

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical & Hospitals Division  
Baramulla

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is informed to the General public that my name and Parantage in my Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No :-8438 8347 5175 has been wrongly mentioned as Peer Hissam Ud Din S/O. Mohammad Asadullah Peer . instead of Mohd Hissam Ud Din S/O. Pir Assadullah . Now I am applying for its Correction as per School record and Domicile Certificate . if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.



Mohd Hissam Ud Din  
S/O, Pir Assadullah  
R/O :- Guloor, Tehsil :- Langate Distt: Kupwar.  
Pin Code:- 193302 J&kashmir

fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

ajko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Mohd Altaf Chowhan S/O Gh Hassan Chowhan While my correct name is Altaf Hussain Chowhan S/O Ghulam Hassan Chowhan and DOB has been wrongly written as 01-03-1996 instead of 06-10-1997. 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..

Altaf Hussain Chowhan  
S/O Ghulam Hassan Chowhan  
R/O Sedow Tehsil & Distt Shopian

fko

**The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education**

New Campus Bemina Srinagar  
Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-

**Roll No: 216204**

**Class 10th**

**Year & Session 1999**

**Registration: 953237**

**Name : Shamim Ahmad War**

**Father's Name: Gh Mohd War**

**Mother's Name : Hajra Banoo**

**Date of Birth:- 05-12-1983**

**Residence:- Adina Magam Budgam**

According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice. (Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 95323 be treated as "CANCELLED")

No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)/KD/

Dated

mbg

Assistant Secretary  
Certificates, KD.



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his/his adhaar card as Mahrab Ahmad Dar while his correct name is Mehran Abdullah . 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..

Mohd Abdullah Dar F/o Mehran Abdullah  
R/o Tharien T/o Barugh District Shopian

fko

## CRPF Store Rooms Gutted in Late Night Blaze

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A fire broke out late Thursday night at a single-storey barracks and adjoining store rooms of the Central Reserve Police Force deployed near Banquet Hall in Srinagar, officials said.

According to the Fire and Emergency Services, the fire incident occurred at around midnight at the barracks of 246 Battalion CRPF.

Fire tenders from Fire and Emergency Services Headquarters Batamalo and Gawkadal were rushed to the spot. Upon arrival, firefighters found that the single-storey concrete barrack and adjoining store rooms were fully engulfed in flames, prompting immediate firefighting operations.

Officials said that considering the close proximity of the affected structure to a nearby church, extra reinforcement in the form of two water boozers from the Fire and Emergency Services Headquarters was de-

ployed to prevent the fire from spreading to nearby structures.

According to KNT, after sustained firefighting efforts, the blaze was brought under control. However, the CRPF barracks suffered extensive damage.

The firefighting operation was led by DFO Headquarters Muzaffar Ali Bhat under the supervision of Deputy Director Dr Mir Aqib Hussain, with Mobilising Officer Aijaz Ahmad Shah coordinating the overall response.

Preliminary assessment suggests that the fire may have been caused by a short circuit, though officials said the exact cause would be ascertained after a detailed investigation.

Meanwhile, Paul Singh Siwal, Commandant of 75 Battalion CRPF, appreciated the Fire and Emergency Services personnel for their prompt response and professionalism during the operation.

No injuries were reported in the incident, and further investigation is underway.



## Comprehensive Traffic Revamp Underway in Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Friday chaired a meeting of the Multi-Disciplinary Committee (MDC) on the Traffic Management System to review the implementation of various proposals aimed at streamlining vehicular movement in Srinagar city.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo; Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), Fazlul Haseeb; Vice Chairman Srinagar Development Authority (SDA); Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic), Srinagar; and officers from the Public Works Department (PWD), J&K Waqf Board and other concerned departments.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed detailed drawings of proposed traffic interventions, including the construction of a rotary at Exchange Junction, road widening at Sangarmal Junction, and improvement works at Jahangir Chowk to ensure smoother traffic flow on MA Road. After detailed deliberations, the

The Divisional Commissioner reviewed detailed drawings of proposed traffic interventions, including the construction of a rotary at Exchange Junction, road widening at Sangarmal Junction, and improvement works at Jahangir Chowk to ensure smoother traffic flow on MA Road."

committee approved the implementation of these proposals.

The meeting also reviewed the positive outcomes of the introduction of one-way traffic on several interior roads of the city and discussed extending the arrangement to additional areas to further ease congestion.

It was informed that colour coding of mini-buses has been completed in the western zone of the city, while the process in the eastern

zone will be initiated shortly.

To address noise pollution, areas around Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Hospital (JVC), Children's Hospital and Karanagar were declared no-honking zones.

Reviewing traffic accident black spots on the Parimpora-Narbal Highway, the Divisional Commissioner directed the PWD to conduct a joint inspection with BEACON to ascertain the causes of frequent accidents and suggest remedial measures.

On the proposal for developing a multi-level parking facility at Jamia Masjid Srinagar, the Divisional Commissioner instructed the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and CEO SSCL to take up the matter with the Auqaf Committee.

The meeting was informed that tenders for IT-based parking facilities at Harwan, Nehru Park and Makai Park have already been floated.

The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the Action Taken Report on issues related to the realignment of e-bus routes, establishment of e-bus charging stations and the construction of a vehicular underpass at Mominabad Junction.

Once Pure, Now Polluted:

## Historic Water Channel Chokes Under Neglect

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A historic water channel near Sazwari Ground in the Awanta Bhawan area on the outskirts of Srinagar has suffered years of neglect, encroachment and unchecked dumping of waste, turning what was once a pristine water body into a polluted drain and triggering serious concern among the local populace.

Locals recall that decades ago the stream carried crystal clear water, so pure that people not only bathed in it but also caught fish for consumption. According to inhabitants, the channel historically flowed in two directions, with one branch moving towards Bagati Shoor Awanta Bhawan and the other extending towards the Sikh Bagh area of Srinagar.

Locals informed KNT that the stream was connected to a large talaab or pond measuring nearly 10 to 15 feet, which played a crucial role in maintaining the local water system. Over time, both the pond and the channel have suffered extensive damage,

with their natural structure and flow badly disrupted.

According to locals, rampant encroachments along both routes of the channel and continuous dumping of household as well as construction waste have narrowed the stream and blocked its natural course. The water body, once central to daily life in the area, has now turned into a stagnant and polluted drain, posing environmental and health risks to surrounding habitations.

Awanta Bhawan, locals point out, is a historic settlement built by Rani Amrita Prabha, the queen of King Meghwahan. The main road of the area leads towards Vichar Nag, where two ancient Shiva temples and two holy springs have long attracted devotees, underlining the cultural and historical importance of the locality.

Adding to concerns is an ancient bridge-like gate located along the stream, which locals say is now in a dilapidated condition. They fear that without urgent restoration, the structure, believed to hold historical significance, may collapse.

## Man Injured in Hyderpora Accident Succumbs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A man from Budgam who was injured in a road traffic accident at Hyderpora area of Srinagar yesterday, succumbed to his injuries at Hospital on Friday, officials said.

An official told KNO that the victim was a resident of Ompora Budgam.

He was admitted to SMHS Hospital after sustaining critical injuries in the accident at Hyderpora.

The victim has been identified as Abdul Hamid Bhat, son of Late Ab Rehman, a resident of Ompora Budgam.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident.

### رسم چہارم

ہم اپنی پیاری والدہ رقیقہ بانو کی یاد میں یہ اطلاع نہایت رنج و غم اور دلی صدمے کے ساتھ دے رہے ہیں کہ ہماری والدہ رقیقہ بانو زوجہ محمد اسماعیل بڈھو، ساکن ڈاکا پورہ رینا داری، سرینگر، کا 24 دسمبر کو انتقال ہو گیا۔

اللہ تعالیٰ مرحومہ کو جنت الفردوس میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا فرمائے۔

مرحومہ کی رسم چہارم

بروز ہفتہ، 27 دسمبر، صبح 11 بجے

ان کے آبائی قبرستان "ملتیہ" میں ادا کی جائے گی۔

دعاؤں میں یاد رکھیں

از طرف:

شیر احمد بڈھو (فرزند)

سمیر احمد بڈھو (فرزند)

بلال احمد (داماد)

و دیگر اہل خانہ

رابطہ نمبر:

7006315829

9103220092

## KU Holds Programme on Good Governance Day

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On the eve of National Good Governance Day, the University of Kashmir organised an awareness programme on the theme "Transparency, Accountability, Responsiveness and Inclusive Governance" with an aim to sensitise the university fraternity about the core principles that underpin effective

and people-centric governance.

National Good Governance Day is observed annually to promote awareness about good governance practices and is celebrated in the memory of former Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, whose vision and leadership continue to inspire transparent, accountable and responsive public administration.

Addressing the gathering, Vice Chancellor, KU Prof. Nilofer Khan, said that the University remains firmly committed to upholding the values of good governance in its day-to-day functioning. "Our primary accountability is to our students in particular and to society in general. Our governance framework is based on responsiveness, integrity and inclusiveness," she remarked.

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

AIRPORTS SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR	PRAYERS
06 Rajab 1447	FAJR 6: 05
	ZUHR 12:31
	ASR 3: 50
	Magrib 5:32
	ISHA 6: 57

## This Day in History

- 537 - Hagia Sophia inaugurated by the Emperor Justinian I as an Eastern Orthodox cathedral
- 1512 - Spanish Crown issues the Laws of Burgos, governing the conduct of settlers with regards to native Indians in the New World
- 1679 - Dutch troops capture Madurees prince Trunudjojo in Java
- 1703 - England & Portugal sign Methuen-Asiento-trade agreement
- 1741 - Prussian forces took Olmutz, Czechoslovakia
- 1862 - Battle of Chickasaw Bluffs, MS (Chickasaw Bayou)
- 1862 - Battle of Elizabethtown, Kentucky
- 1918 - The Great Poland Uprising against the Germans begins.
- Assassination Attempt
- 1923 - Emperor Hirohito of Japan narrowly evades an assassination attempt by a Korean independence activist, Lee Bong-chang
- 1924 - Albania is declared a dictatorship under Ahmed Beg Zofu
- 1924 - The US signs a treaty with the Dominican Republic, which supersedes that of 1907; in July, the US had withdrawn its Marines and ended its occupation
- 1934 - Shah of Persia Mohammad Reza Pahlavi declares Persia now Iran
- 1939 - Between 20,000 & 40,000 die in magnitude 8 quake in Erzincan Turkey.
- 1941 - Japan bombs Manila even though it was declared an "open city".
- 1943 - France transfers most of her powers in Lebanon to Lebanese government.
- 1945 - International Monetary Fund formally established by 29 member countries.
- 1945 - The World Bank was created with the signing of an agreement by 28 nations.
- 1961 - Belgium & Congo resume diplomatic relations.
- 1968 - Apollo 8 returns to Earth.
- 1975 - Explosion at Chasnala Colliery collapses drowning 350 (Dhanbad India).
- 1978 - Spain becomes a democracy after 40 years of dictatorship.
- 1979 - Soviet troops invade Afghanistan, President Hafizullah Amin overthrown.
- 1981 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalitinisk USSR
- 1982 - Imran Khan 8-60 to bring innings victory v India at Karachi
- 1987 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalitinisk USSR
- 1988 - Bulgaria stops jamming Radio Free Europe after more than 3 decades
- 1995 - Australian cricketer David Boon completes his 21st Test Cricket century (110 v SL, MCG)
- 1996 - Taliban forces retake the strategic Bagram air base which solidifies their buffer zone around Kabul.
- 1997 - Protestant paramilitary leader Billy Wright is assassinated in Northern Ireland.
- 1999 - Joe Sakic records his 1,000th career point, an assist against the St. Louis Blues
- 2001 - The People's Republic of China is granted permanent normal trade relations with the United States.
- 2002 - Kenyan General Election: National Rainbow Coalition headed by Mwai Kibaki wins, overthrowing 39 year rule by the Kenya African National Union
- 2002 - Two truck bombs kill 72 and wound 200 at the pro-Moscow headquarters of the Chechen government in Grozny, Chechnya.
- 2004 - Radiation from an explosion on the magnetar SGR 1806-20 reaches Earth. It is the brightest extrasolar event known to have been witnessed on the planet.
- 2007 - Former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is assassinated by a suicide bomber in Rawalpindi
- 2008 - Israel launches Operation Cast Lead in the Gaza Strip, beginning with an airstrike that hits 100 targets in 220 seconds killing around 250 people
- 2009 - The World Health Organization says 208 countries, territories and communities have reported HINI cases, including at least 12,220 deaths

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir  
Department of Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare  
Lalmandi Srinagar Kashmir

SEALED PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE OF UNUSED IRON CONTAINERS/MACHINERY/ ACCESSORIES AT S.M.FARM HARRAN BUDGAM

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Due to non response of sealed public Auction Notice called vide No. Agri/Pur-Sec/2025-26/3254-61 dated 16.12.2025 on "as is where is" basis in respect of various unused Iron Containers /Machinery/ Accessories at S.M.Farm Harran Budgam is hereby re-auctioned as per details mentioned in Annexure 'A' to this notice uploaded on official website of this Directorate which can be downloaded from www.diagrikmr.jk.gov.in and original copy alongwith bid format can be obtained from Accounts Section, Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir against the G.R as document charges for Rs. 500.00 (Non refundable) by the bidders who wish to participate in the bid process on any working day and must deposit earnest money @ 5% against the value of minimum reserve price bid including GST of Rs.737500.00 lacs (Rupees Seven lacs Thirty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Only) in the shape of CDR pledged to Accounts Officer, Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir which must be appended with bid form duly filled in on the day of auction which is scheduled to be held on 03.01.2026 (Saturday) 12.30 PM at S.M.Farm Harran Budgam.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- That the offered rates must be accompanied with a CDR of 5% of the minimum reserve price pledged to Accounts Officer, DAK.
- That the interested party can inspect the material at S.M.Farm Harran Budgam on any working day during the Office hour's upto 02.01.2026
- That no bidder is allowed to submit the offered rates below the minimum reserve rates.
- That the offered rates shall be opened on same date at 12:30 pm in the office chambers' of Manager S.M.Farm Harran Budgam in presence of bidders who wish to be present.
- That the Auction Committee shall be at liberty to accept or reject the bids without assigning any reasons thereof.
- That the Successful bidders shall have to deposit 100% bid amount immediately after he/she is declared successful bidder and the auctioned material should be removed/lifted from the farm premises within 15 days positively.
- In case the successful bidder fails to make the payment in full within the stipulated time, his/ her earnest money shall be forfeited & award of bid will be given to second highest bidder on the rates offered by 1st highest bidder.
- That in case any dispute arises between the parties, the matter will be referred to Director Agriculture, Kashmir and his decision shall be binding on both the parties.
- The CDR's in respect of unsuccessful bidders will be released after three days duly applied by the bidder to Member Secretary Auction Committee (Accounts Officer).
- The successful bidder shall have to use the area without causing damage to the property / infrastructure of the farm.
- That in case the scheduled day of Auction happens to be a holiday the Auction shall be held on the next working day.

Sd/-  
Accounts Officer  
(Member Secretary (A.C.))  
Directorate of Agriculture  
Kashmir.

DIPK-9347/25  
dated: 26-12-2025

## KASHMIR OBSERVER™

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### KO VIEW

## Delhi Draws Line

Fear had already begun to settle in the valley when the Ministry of Home Affairs finally spoke up. After videos showed a Kashmiri shawl seller and other gig workers being harassed and attacked in different parts of the country, an MHA official reportedly said that such attacks cannot be tolerated.

It was a public message, if not a formal directive. And for families in Kashmir watching those clips on their phones, it mattered. It showed that someone was listening.

That message was followed by action on the ground. One of the accused in a recent attack on a Kashmiri shawl seller was booked. The episode even pushed the Uttarakhand top cop to comment publicly. Together, these moves sent a signal that the violence had crossed a line.

Every winter, thousands of Kashmiri artisans and workers leave home to earn a living. With winter slowing down local markets, they travel by bus and train, carrying shawls, carpets, and handicrafts made over months of careful work. They set up small stalls, go door to door, and spend weeks or months away from their families.

This is not migration driven by choice alone. It is how generations have survived the long winter. The income pays school fees, covers medical bills, and keeps households running until spring.

What feels new this year is the fear. Smartphones have changed everything. A confrontation that might once have stayed local now becomes a viral clip within minutes. Videos spread quickly on WhatsApp and social media, often without context but with full emotional force.

Parents and spouses watch these scenes unfold in real time. They see people they recognize being pushed, abused, or chased away. The anxiety is not imagined. It is lived.

That is why the MHA's response, even in words, carried weight. Saying that such attacks will not be tolerated draws a line. The arrest that followed showed that the line can be enforced. It reminded people that these are not small scuffles or misunderstandings. They are acts that damage public order and social trust.

But this cannot be managed only after videos go viral. These attacks risk setting back years of effort to rebuild trust. Talk of shared spirit and belonging sounds hollow when workers are targeted simply for where they come from. A sense of belonging does not grow from speeches alone. It depends on feeling safe while doing ordinary things, like selling a shawl on a winter street.

The concern goes beyond artisans. Kashmiri students have long faced harassment, especially during moments of national tension such as India Pakistan cricket matches. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has said grievance systems exist for students. That promise should apply just as strongly to workers far from home.

What is needed now is steady coordination instead of emergency firefighting. Local police should know when seasonal workers arrive. Helplines should respond. Complaints should lead to quick action.

When the system moves fast, fear does not get the space to spread. Social media will keep amplifying everything. The choice before the state is simple. Stay ahead of the damage, or keep reacting after harm is done.

Kashmiri artisans are asking for nothing more than the chance to work, earn, and return home safely. That should be a given.

# Kashmir Cannot Live on Tourism Alone

Why the Omar Abdullah government missed an early chance to build Jammu and Kashmir's digital future, and why it must act now.

Faisal Kawoosa

Tourism is our pride. No one in Jammu and Kashmir doubts that. It feeds families, keeps small businesses alive, and gives the region a sense of global connection.

But pride alone cannot carry an economy, especially one as young, educated, and restless as ours.

One year into the Omar Abdullah government, it is fair to ask a simple question: why has the digital sector still not been treated as a serious economic priority?

This is not a verdict on the government's overall performance. That task belongs to voters and governance experts. This is a citizen's argument about a missed opportunity.

Even within today's limited powers and resources, much more could have been done to place Jammu and Kashmir on India's digital map.

Every economy has legacy sectors and sunrise sectors. In J&K, the legacy sectors are obvious: tourism, agriculture, horticulture, and handicrafts. They matter deeply and must continue to receive support. But the sunrise sectors require intention. They do not grow on their own.

Digital is the most obvious sunrise sector of our time, but Jammu and Kashmir has still not named it, framed it, or pushed it as such.

This silence is puzzling because the case for digital is unusually strong here.

Start with capital. Most digital businesses do not need massive investments. Unless you are building deep tech or hardware-heavy platforms, modest capital can go a long way.

An investment of eight to ten crore rupees can support a 100-person IT operation in J&K, especially when land and facilities are available under industrial concession rates.

For investors already cautious about the region, this lower entry barrier matters.

Then there is power. Traditional industries consume enormous energy while employing fewer people due to automation.

A cement plant can burn through power and still employ only a couple hundred workers. A 100-person IT firm consumes far less electricity while creating stable, skilled jobs.

This trade-off should be obvious in a region that struggles with power supply and unemployment at the same time.

Human capital is another overlooked strength. Jammu and Kashmir produces thousands of graduates, postgraduates, and diploma holders every year. Not all are job-ready on day one, but many can be trained within weeks.

Even in the age of artificial intelligence, human judgment still matters. AI assists, but people check, refine, and decide. Content, coding, analytics, quality control, and customer support still need skilled hands.

Add multilingual ability and cultural familiarity with Middle Eastern markets, and the talent pool becomes even more relevant.

Cost works in our favour too. Office space, co-working hubs, and wages remain far more affordable than in Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, or Hyderabad.

After the pandemic, costs in major cities shot



“A full year into the government's tenure, there is still no clear digital policy, no formal recognition of the digital sector as a sunrise industry, and no visible roadmap to show where Jammu and Kashmir is headed or how it plans to get there. There has been no serious attempt to plug Jammu and Kashmir into India's rapidly expanding Global Capability Centre ecosystem.”

up. In J&K, they did not. This matters in a digital economy where companies increasingly split teams between high-cost innovation hubs and lower-cost execution centers.

Jammu and Kashmir fits neatly into that second role without being stuck there forever.

Geography offers another advantage. The Jammu region, better connected to the plains, can support light digital manufacturing and hardware assembly. Kashmir, where manufacturing faces logistical hurdles, can focus on IT services, software, and digital products.

Few regions can offer both within one administrative unit. This balance could have become a signature strength.

There is also a generational reality the government cannot ignore.

Gen Z has entered the workforce. This is the first generation that has never known a world without the internet. Digital work is an expectation for them. If they do not find digitally equipped workplaces at home, they will leave.

Today we talk about unemployment. Tomorrow we may talk about the absence of workers.

And yet, a full year into the government's tenure, there is still no clear digital policy, no formal recognition of the digital sector as a sunrise industry, and no visible roadmap to show where Jammu and Kashmir is headed or how it plans to get there.

There has been no serious attempt to plug Jammu and Kashmir into India's rapidly expanding Global Capability Centre ecosystem.

The government has not carried out structured outreach to digital powerhouses like Karnataka, even though political alignments could have made such collaboration easier and faster. Nor has there been a focused effort to connect small IT and IT-enabled firms in J&K with large companies elsewhere that are actively looking for reliable and cost-effective outsourcing partners.

These were practical, achievable steps that required intent and coordination, rather than sweeping announcements or lofty promises.

This argument is essentially about time. The digital sector moves fast. A year lost here is not like a year lost in road building or irrigation planning.

In digital, a year can mean hundreds of startups launched elsewhere, thousands of jobs created, and entire supply chains formed without you.

What is gone is gone. But the opportunity is still alive. As the government prepares its second budget, it must send a clear signal: digital is a priority. Jammu and Kashmir cannot live on tourism alone.

If it wants stability, jobs, and hope for its young people, it must finally log in to the future.

Faisal Kawoosa is the chief analyst and co-founder of Techarc, and a leading voice on India's technology industry. He advises businesses and policymakers on emerging trends, and serves on the jury of the GLOMO Awards at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona.

## Break the Freeze Frame

Long winters keep schools closed and children indoors, but the season can become a time to build life skills, strengthen family bonds, and rediscover the joy of reading.

Dr. Mushtaq Rather



File photo: Two kids in Kashmir snow (courtesy X).

petency, and memorization to real-world skills.

Winter offers an opportunity to put that vision into practice. Life skills learning encourages children to explore, ask questions, solve problems, and take charge of their own learning. It allows them to grow into thoughtful, confident, and capable individuals, ready to handle the complexities of the 21st century.

Winter can also be a time to strengthen family bonds.

In many homes, family conversations have dwindled. Screens dominate spare time, and each member retreats into their own digital world. Children imitate the adults around them.

When parents fail to value in-person connections, children follow suit.

Winter break offers a chance to bring families back together. Parents can start conversations, share stories, and make room for meaningful interactions.

Phone-free hours in the evening can spark discussions on anything from daily life to science, sports, or culture.

Grandparents, once the heart of the household, can play a vital role. They can share stories, teach lessons, and pass down values of empathy and compassion.

In return, children can engage in simple acts of care, helping grandparents with meals or household tasks.

Winter in Kashmir is often seen as a season to endure, but it can become a season to embrace. It can teach life skills, nurture grit, strengthen families, and spark a love of reading. It can help children grow physically, emotionally, socially, and intellectually. All it requires is a little imagination, some guidance, and the courage to step beyond the routine of indoor comfort.

Winter allows uninterrupted time to enjoy stories and cultivate curiosity. The joy of holding a book, turning its pages, and losing oneself in a narrative cannot be replicated by scrolling on a screen.

Winter in Kashmir is often seen as a season to endure, but it can become a season to embrace.

It can teach life skills, nurture grit, strengthen families, and spark a love of reading. It can help children grow physically, emotionally, socially, and intellectually.

All it requires is a little imagination, some guidance, and the courage to step beyond the routine of indoor comfort.

Such moments of connection leave lasting impressions. They teach children responsibility, kindness, and the joy of giving.

Winter, when time is abundant, can revive the warmth and closeness that screens have eroded.

Another area winter can nurture is reading. The habit of reading has declined as children spend more time on phones and tablets. Reading offline books, newspapers, or magazines has unique benefits. It improves concentration, expands vocabulary, and fuels imagination. It also protects eyesight, which is increasingly important as studies predict that by 2037, over half of Indian children may become myopic.

Winter is an ideal season to reignite a love for reading. Children can explore storybooks, novels, comics, and newspapers. Some publications offer child-friendly weekly editions filled with stories, puzzles, and age-appropriate news that sharpen both knowledge and creativity.

Through reading, children learn about the world. They gain awareness of current affairs, science, sports, the environment, and society. They develop critical thinking skills that prepare them for life.

Winter allows uninterrupted time to enjoy stories and cultivate curiosity. The joy of holding a book, turning its pages, and losing oneself in a narrative cannot be replicated by scrolling on a screen.

Winter in Kashmir is often seen as a season to endure, but it can become a season to embrace.

It can teach life skills, nurture grit, strengthen families, and spark a love of reading. It can help children grow physically, emotionally, socially, and intellectually.

All it requires is a little imagination, some guidance, and the courage to step beyond the routine of indoor comfort.

The author is an educator and columnist based in Mattan, Kashmir. He can be reached at aroshfatimamar15@gmail.com.

# 2025: A Year of Natural Disasters in Jammu and Kashmir

The outgoing year will be remembered not for one disaster, but for many. Rain after rain, slope after slope, the year kept returning with new reminders of how uncertain life is in the Himalayas.

Mohammad Hanief

The year began silently enough. Then the rain came. And it kept coming.

2025 unfolded as an unrelenting season of warning bells for Jammu and Kashmir. Torrential downpours, sudden cloudbursts, flash floods and landslides followed each other with unsettling ease.

The year was marked by raging recurrence.

Rivers overflowed into unfamiliar places. Roads gave way moments after repairs. And families had to leave their homes again and again.

The region has always lived with risk. Steep slopes, restless rivers and loose soil are part of everyday geography here.

But what made 2025 different was the speed and scale of change.

Long dry stretches gave way to intense rainfall with little pause. Rivers swelled faster than memory allowed. Drainage systems failed because they were built for a climate that no longer exists.

The monsoon months carried the heaviest weight.

The Jhelum and its tributaries rose steadily in the valley, spilling into low-lying neighbourhoods and



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**THE CALAMITIES OF 2025 CAME AS A PATTERN.** Rain followed by repair, followed by rain again. The lesson was not subtle. Jammu and Kashmir is entering a new climate reality, one that demands humility, foresight and care.

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**THE MOUNTAINS WILL NOT STOP MOVING.** The rivers will not wait. What remains is the choice of how to listen, and how to live with what we hear.

farmlands. Water stayed for days, soaking homes and orchards alike. Wetlands that once absorbed excess rain could no longer cope, narrowed over years by encroachment and neglect.

In towns, drains overflowed. In villages, fields turned into shallow lakes.

Apple growers felt the blow sharply. Trees suffered as water-logged soil and eroded ground took their toll during a key growing window. For many, the loss went beyond a single season's income. It

was the undoing of years of careful care.

The danger arrived faster in Jammu.

Cloudbursts in hilly districts sent walls of water rushing down seasonal streams. Vehicles were swept away. Footbridges vanished in minutes. Landslides followed, sealing off villages and forcing long detours around mountains that seemed to be slipping under their own weight.

National Highway 44, the region's main artery, shut repeatedly. Each closure carried the same

message: connection here is always provisional.

Cloudbursts became the year's most feared word.

They arrived suddenly, pouring unimaginable volumes of rain into narrow valleys.

In remote hamlets, people barely had time to react. Mud and stones surged through homes, leaving behind silence and the slow work of counting losses.

The cost went far beyond the headlines. Agriculture, horticulture and livestock suffered deeply. Tourism slowed as roads closed and uncertainty spread. Schools, health centres, power lines and water systems took damage that would take months to undo.

For households already stretched by rising prices and uncertain work, recovery felt distant.

The disasters also exposed gaps

that communities had long sensed. Weather alerts came, but often too broadly to capture local danger. Communication failed at crucial moments.

In many places, neighbours and volunteers were the first to respond, pulling people to safety before official help arrived.

It was a sign of both the strength of community bonds and the limits of systems built for milder times.

Rescue and relief followed as best they could. Emergency forces, local officials and civil groups worked through flooded streets and blocked roads. Shelters opened. Medical teams moved in. Slowly, debris cleared and services returned.

But the scale of damage made one thing clear: responding after the fact was no longer enough.

After hit by multiple disasters, the language began to change in the

region. The focus shifted from relief to resilience. Authorities spoke more openly about climate risk and long-term planning. Early warning systems, better forecasting and real-time communication became priorities.

Rebuilding started with new questions: can this road survive heavier rain, can this slope hold, can this river breathe?

Urban planning came under fresh scrutiny. Floodplains and wetlands were re-examined. Drainage systems were redesigned. Building rules tightened, at least on paper.

Environmental repair moved closer to the centre, with renewed attention to forests, watersheds and soil conservation.

Perhaps the most important shift was silent.

Communities began to prepare themselves. Training in first aid,

evacuation and local response spread through schools and villages. Farmers explored ways to adapt crops and water use.

The idea took hold that strength is not only built by engineers and officials, but by people who live with risk every day.

The calamities of 2025 came as a pattern. Rain followed by repair, followed by rain again. The lesson was not subtle.

Jammu and Kashmir is entering a new climate reality, one that demands humility, foresight and care.

The mountains will not stop moving. The rivers will not wait.

What remains is the choice of how to listen, and how to live with what we hear.

— The author is a senior analyst based in Srinagar. He can be reached at [m.hanief@gmail.com](mailto:m.hanief@gmail.com).

## Life Over Marks

Marks may get you a degree, but life skills help you survive, adapt, and lead once you leave the classroom.

Irfan Jaffer

By conventional academic standards, my journey should have ended early.

I failed my 12th-class examination three times.

In a system obsessed with marks, ranks, and first attempts, repeated failure is often treated as a final judgment on a student's intelligence, worth, and future.

When you fail, expectations collapse: sometimes your own, often everyone else's.

You are silently written off.

What saved me was something often absent in our classrooms: the steady support of my parents and the structured training I received in life skills workshops.

Schools had taught me science, mathematics, and theory. They had not taught me how to cope with failure, manage fear or disappointment, rebuild confidence, or think clearly under pressure.

After failing repeatedly, textbooks could not rescue me. I needed tools to understand myself first.

Life skills filled that void.

Through these workshops, I learned how to regulate my emotions, solve problems, communicate effectively, think critically, and cultivate courage.

I understood that failure is an event. I learned to pause and reflect instead of panic, to plan instead of withdraw, and to persist instead of surrender.

That shift inside me changed everything.

Learning became possible again, and eventually, I reached university: a milestone I had once believed permanently out of reach.

Today, I work in the social sector, helping communities, facilitating workshops, and supporting young people facing challenges similar to



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**MARKSHEETS MAY OPEN DOORS,** but life skills decide whether we survive, grow, and lead once we step outside the classroom.

those I faced.

None of this would have been possible without life skills stepping in where formal schooling fell short.

This gap is particularly glaring in our homeland.

Our education system is excellent at teaching subjects but struggles to teach students. Children are drilled to

solve equations but not conflicts. They are trained to memorize answers but rarely to question, reflect, or manage stress.

Emotional intelligence, social development, decision-making, adaptability, and critical thinking are often treated as optional extras rather than essential competencies.

The consequences are visible everywhere.

Students collapse under academic pressure. Anxiety, fear of failure, and burnout are rising. Many excel on paper but feel lost in life, unprepared for rejection, uncertainty, and interpersonal challenges.

When they struggle, the blame is

pinned on their "capability," rarely on a system that has not equipped them to cope.

Life skills are the foundation for learning itself. A student who can manage emotions concentrates better. A student trained in critical thinking understands concepts more deeply. A student with social skills collaborates, communicates, and leads more effectively.

Ignoring these dimensions produces graduates who are qualified but not prepared.

Integrating life skills into education does not require dismantling curricula. It requires intention and commitment.

Classroom discussions, group projects, reflective writing, debates, role plays, community engagement, and experiential learning can all serve this purpose.

Teachers need institutional support, training, and space to nurture the whole child.

Education must move beyond producing high scorers. Its deeper purpose is to cultivate thoughtful, socially responsible human beings. Knowledge without emotional intelligence is weak. And intelligence without empathy is incomplete.

If a student who failed the 12th class three times can reach university and contribute meaningfully to society, the lesson is clear: failure is not the end.

The real failure lies in an education system that prepares children for examinations but not for life.

I often think of the countless children in Kashmir who sit in classrooms where life feels like a series of tests. Many are brilliant, creative, and curious, but they crumble under stress, judged solely by their marks.

How many potential thinkers, artists, leaders, or changemakers are si-

lently written off because we refused to teach them how to face challenges beyond the syllabus?

That question haunts me every day.

It is time to give education a human face, one that values growth over grades, resilience over ranks, and life

skills alongside textbooks.

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**IT IS TIME TO GIVE EDUCATION A HUMAN FACE,** one that values growth over grades, resilience over ranks, and life skills alongside textbooks.

skills alongside textbooks. Marksheets may open doors, but life skills decide whether we survive, grow, and lead once we step outside the classroom.

— The author holds an M.A. in Gender Studies from the University of Kashmir. He is a social sector practitioner and writer, and can be reached at [jaffarirfan77@gmail.com](mailto:jaffarirfan77@gmail.com).

## File Property Details In Time Or Face action: Centre To IAS officers

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Centre has asked all Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers to file their property details in time or face action including disciplinary proceedings and denial of promotion, according to an official communique.

All IAS officers are required to submit the annual Immovable Property Return (IPR) by January 31 of the next year.

"Failure on part of the members of the service to comply with the requirements of the aforesaid provisions constitutes good and sufficient reason for, inter alia, institution of disciplinary proceedings against them," said the communique issued by the Ministry of Personnel.

Further, rules have been amended to make the timely filing of IPR mandatory for being considered for appointment to the next level of pay matrix, it said.

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) had introduced online filing of IPR in respect of IAS officers with effect from January, 2017 through the SPARROW module.

"It is indeed a matter of immense satisfaction that the officers are submitting their IPR either electronically or uploading a scanned copy of the manually filled-in IPR, over the years," said the communique dated December 23, sent to secretaries of central government departments and chief secretaries of all states.

This online module will close automatically after the prescribed timeline i.e. January 31, 2026 in respect of the calendar year 2025, it said.

All secretaries and chief secretaries have been asked to issue necessary instructions to all IAS officers working under them to file their property details in time, according to the communique.

Ease New Year Rush

## Railway To Run Special Trains Between Delhi & Katra

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu railway division will operate special reserved train services for six days from Saturday between New Delhi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to facilitate passengers amid heavy rush during the New Year celebrations, officials said.

The special trains will run from December 27 to January 1 to manage increased passenger traffic during the holiday season, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu Division, Uchit Singhal said.

The special reserved train 04081 will run from New Delhi to Katra for five trips between December 27 and December 31. It will depart New Delhi at 11:45 pm and arrive at Katra at 12 noon the following day.

During the journey, the train will halt at Panipat,

Kurukshetra, Ambala Cantt, Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt, Pathankot Cantt, Jammu and Shaheed Captain Tushar Mahajan station at Udhampur.

Similarly, the return special reserved train 04082 will operate from Katra to New Delhi for five trips between December 28 and January 1. The train will depart Katra at 9:20 pm and reach New Delhi at 10:00 am the next day.

On the return journey, the train will stop at Shaheed Captain Tushar Mahajan (Udhampur), Jammu, Pathankot Cantt, Jalandhar Cantt, Ludhiana, Ambala Cantt, Kurukshetra and Panipat.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu Division, Uchit Singhal, said the special train has been introduced to cater to the rising number of tourists visiting the region and to meet the travel

requirements of local residents during the festive period.

He said the service would help passengers travel conveniently to celebrate the New Year with family and friends, while also assisting the Railways in managing crowd movement during peak travel days.

Officials said the special train will operate with 16 coaches. Tickets can be booked through the official Indian Railways website, mobile application, or authorised ticketing agents.

Passengers have been advised to check train timings and operational details before starting their journey, as schedules may be subject to operational requirements.

Northern Railway said it continues to operate special trains across the Jammu Division to ensure smoother travel and passenger convenience during periods of high demand.

## HC Orders Deletion Of 'Shocking' Shilpa Shetty Photos

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Friday termed as "extremely disturbing and shocking" the AI (artificial intelligence)-generated and morphed photos of actor Shilpa Shetty, and directed several social media platforms to forthwith delete and remove all such links and websites.

The actor had moved the HC seeking protection of her personality rights and also an order against websites and AI-generated content that allegedly carried morphed and manipulated images and videos of her.

A vacation bench of Justice Advait Sethna noted in its order that the material uploaded on the websites was "prima facie extremely disturbing" and "no personality, much less a person and or a woman can be portrayed in a fashion which affects her fundamental right to privacy and that too, without her knowledge and or consent". In her suit, Shetty had alleged

that AI tools were used to clone her voice and mannerisms to create morphed images, books and other merchandise without her authorisation.

The actor sought an injunction to all the websites to take down the content and to also restrain them from using her name, voice or image without permission.

The high court said in its order that Shetty has tendered photos from such social media platforms which depict her in an inappropriate and unacceptable fashion.

"These pictures prima facie appear shocking," Justice Sethna said.

She is a well-known film personality and also active on various social media platforms. Portrayal of such images through URLs would tarnish her image and reputation and this cannot be countenanced, the court added.

"In the interest of justice," the high court directed all the defendants to forthwith delete the URLs from their respective platforms.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Justice Ensured

the lives and teachings of the Sikh Gurus were a source of inspiration for all citizens.

"The supreme sacrifice of our Sikh Gurus inspires all of us to uphold the unity and integrity of the nation. It should be our sincere endeavour to build a prosperous country which is united and strong in its diversity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Highlighting the Sikh tradition of devotion and valour, Sinha said it symbolises the true spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat. He added that the path of righteousness laid down by the Sikh Gurus forms a strong foundation for modern India's inclusive development and continues to empower those engaged in nation-building.

Sinha praised the Sikh community for its historic role in nation-building and its consistent efforts to eliminate social discrimination. He urged citizens to honour the sacrifices of the Sikh Gurus by fostering a society rooted in unity, progress and mutual respect.

"There has been a new dynamism in the country. Let us resolve to stand together and stand firm in our determination to build a Viksit Bharat of our dreams," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also remembered the martyrdom of Baba Moti Ram Mehra and his family, describing their sacrifice as a testament to human spirit and unwavering loyalty.

Members of the All Jammu Kashmir Sikh Coordination Committee expressed gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor for fulfilling long-pending demands of the Sikh community. Ajit Singh, Chairman of the committee, urged that Veer Baal Diwas be renamed as Sahibzade Shahadat Diwas. The Lieutenant Governor assured that the memorandum would be forwarded to the Government of India.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated a newly married Sikh couple whose marriage was registered under the Anand Marriage Act in the Union Territory.

Senior officials, elected representatives, and eminent members of the Sikh community were present at the programme.

### Pahalgam Terror

not ordinary policing but outstanding examples of watertight investigation," he said.

Highlighting evolving security challenges, Shah said the global landscape of terrorism was changing due to increasing use of technology by terror outfits. He stressed the need to anticipate invisible future threats and prepare to counter them proactively.

Calling it a national responsibility, Shah urged all central agencies and state police forces to function as a 'Team India' to strengthen national security and prevent emerging terror challenges.

### 'Databases Would

organised by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Shah launched two databases -- the Organised Crime Network Database and

the Weapons Database for lost, looted and recovered arms -- hosted by the NIA which will be used by the law enforcement agencies across the country.

Addressing the conference, which was attended by Union Ministers of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai and Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union home secretary, R&AW secretary, director general of NIA, and senior officers from state police forces and central agencies, Shah highlighted the links between organised criminals and terrorists.

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of zero-tolerance against terrorism, the annual conference has become a platform to deal with the emerging threats, Shah said.

Actionable points emerge from this conference and the NIA, along with all related agencies from the states, works throughout the year to implement them, Shah said, according to an official statement.

"Organised crime networks initially operate for the purpose of ransom and extortion, but when their leaders flee abroad and settle there, they automatically come into contact with terrorist organisations and then use the proceeds from ransom and extortion to spread terrorism within the country," Shah said.

Under the guidance of the NIA and CBI and with the cooperation of the Intelligence Bureau and by utilising this database, every state must eliminate these threats within their jurisdiction, Shah said.

The home minister also said the database of terrorists and criminals should be made a core asset of the zero-terror policy, the statement said.

A new standard of coordination, cooperation and communication among the DGP Conference, Security Strategy Conference, N-CORD meetings, and the Anti-Terror Conference has been developed, he said.

These four pillars cannot be seen in isolation, and running through them as a common thread is the Anti-Terrorism Conference, the statement quoted Shah as saying.

"When we establish a common ATS structure across the entire country, it provides us with an opportunity for uniform preparation at every level," Shah said.

"A common ATS structure for the police forces across the country is extremely important, and the DGPs from all the states should implement it as soon as possible," he added.

The home minister also said the ATS units of all the states should get into the habit of using intelligence sharing platforms -- NIDAAN and NATGRID -- to ensure that cases are not investigated in isolation, and the invisible links among them are brought to light.

Shah said the use of NATGRID should be made mandatory in certain investigations, and the use of NIDAAN should be made mandatory in certain cases, the statement said.

The home minister also emphasised ensuring active participation in the Multi Agency Centre and the National Memory Bank.

"The common ATS structure and operational uniformity give us an advantage in prosecuting terrorists. Unless we achieve operational uniformity, we cannot make an accurate assessment of threats, make proper use of intelligence sharing, or carry out coordinated counter-actions," Shah said.

He also emphasised ensuring uniformity -- from investigation to prosecution.

Asserting that as India's economic prowess grows, threats will also increase, Shah said the preparations to ensure the country's internal security do not begin on the borders; rather, they must start many miles away.

Shah also gave a call to develop a national grid -- vigilant and capable of swift, result-oriented action -- to counter cyber and information warfare, the misuse of economic networks, and the hybrid format of terrorism.

He said that building a multi-layer security model and working with a ruthless approach against terrorism can keep us secure in the coming days, the statement said.

Everyone should move forward with the principle of 'Duty to Share' instead of 'Need to Know', the home minister said.

The central agencies and state police have made good use of technology at their levels, but technology developed in silos and data collected in silos are like a gun without bullets, the statement quoted Shah as saying.

He said it is better if all data can communicate with each other and are created using the same technology.

Shah also asked the Ministry of Home Affairs, the NIA and the IB to hold discussions to develop a seamless national-level framework for technology and data.

The database of terrorists and criminals should be made a core asset of the zero-terror policy, he said.

Shah also said he expects the director generals of police to implement the database framework in letter and spirit.

"In coming days, the country would bring a plan to launch a 360-degree assault on organised crime," Shah said. (PTI)

### Light Snow Likely

dry weather is expected to prevail across Kashmir till December 28. However, spells of wet weather are likely around New Year's Eve.

The weather office said light snowfall is likely at isolated higher reaches on December 29, while there is a possibility of light rain in the plains and light snow over higher areas from December 30 to January 1.

### 5-Year Term

counted from the date of their constitution (February 25, 2021) or from the oath-taking (December 28, 2020).

As per the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, the term of a District Development Council shall be five years, except in cases where common elections are held to all tiers of the Panchayats simultaneously so that all tiers

have coextensive terms in the district.

On October 16, 2020, the Union Government amended the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 to provide for the setting up of District Development Councils. The law was amended through an executive order by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), invoking the powers vested in it under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

Each DDC comprises 14 elected members. With J&K having 20 districts, the total strength of elected DDC members is 280. In the first-ever DDC elections held in November-December 2020, the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) won 110 seats, while the BJP emerged as the single largest party with 75 seats. (KNO)

### Horticulture Belt

suicidal," said Farooq Ahmad Dar, a farmer from Kunsoo. "We want a social impact assessment and consultations with local bodies like Halqa Majlis and Gram Sabhas. Authorities are ignoring land acquisition laws, and nobody is asking what we want."

Senior members of JKCCAG, including Ajaz Sofi, Raja Aamir Khan, and Dr. Bilal Nabi, also urged authorities to intervene.

Dr. Bhat appealed directly to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to raise the matter with the Union Railway Minister, suggesting that instead of building a new line, the existing road between Srinagar, Pulwama, and Shopian be widened to ease traffic.

The dispute highlights the growing tension between development projects and environmental conservation in the Kashmir region, where horticulture is a key source of income for local communities.

### Review Power Not

and (15), the Bench said, considered the contentions of the petitioners regarding the casual assignees.

The Court also noted that the affidavit filed by the authorities in compliance with the order dated October 1, 2024, disclosed details of 18 persons working pursuant to court orders, which matched the information placed on record by the petitioners through the Right to Information Act.

The Court held that a review cannot be used to re-agitate settled issues or to correct what a party perceives as an erroneous interpretation.

"The issue as to whether this Court has correctly interpreted the stand of either of the parties cannot be a subject matter of review," the Bench said. The scope of review, the Bench said, is very limited in nature, and cannot be extended to the extent of rehearing the issues, already considered and decided by the Court.

"Even if it is assumed that the view taken by this Court is not correct, still it cannot be a ground for review. A mere repetition of old and overruled arguments are insufficient for exercising jurisdiction of review," the court said, adding, "The power of review can be exercised

for the correction of a mistake but not to substitute a view. Such power can be exercised within the limits specified in the statute governing the exercise of such power."

### Ruhullah Warns

Party, whose MLA Waheed Para had joined the sit-in, while Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq had publicly backed the demand.

Following the formation of the National Conference government in late 2024, a cabinet sub-committee was constituted to examine the reservation framework. After months of deliberations, the panel's recommendations were finalised and forwarded to the Lieutenant Governor's office.

Reacting to Ruhullah's remarks, National Conference MLA from Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq said the proposal had already been cleared by the cabinet and appealed to the Lieutenant Governor's administration to expedite approval so that pending recruitment processes could resume.

Ruhullah has been a prominent critic of the existing reservation structure, arguing that quotas exceeding 60 per cent have sharply curtailed Open Merit opportunities. He has consistently called for aligning reservations with population proportions and Supreme Court guidelines that generally cap quotas at 50 per cent.

In December 2025, the cabinet approved a revised reservation framework, including reductions in certain categories such as Economically Weaker Sections and Reserved Backward Areas, with the aim of increasing Open Merit seats. The proposal is awaiting final approval from Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Sakina Itoo accused Ruhullah of creating confusion among educated unemployed youth. She said the cabinet decision could not be made public before the Lieutenant Governor's assent and cautioned that public statements on the issue were adding to the stress faced by job aspirants. She suggested that Ruhullah should seek clarity directly from the LG's office on the pending approval.

### For A Week

poorest suffer the most. Bringing officials into neighbourhoods restores some balance."

As the days passed, the mood at the camp changed.

What began with hesitation slowly turned into conversation. Neighbours exchanged advice. Officials stepped out from behind tables to explain procedures and clear doubts.

For a brief moment, the distance between citizens and administration narrowed.

When Shabir's turn finally came, he placed his folder on the table and explained his problem.

The official checked the records and assured him the issue would be resolved within days.

"That's all I wanted," Shabir said softly. "Someone to listen."

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# 'Everything Went Wrong At Once': Growers on 2025 Fruit Crisis

Rs 2,000 Crore Loss Pushes J&K Fruit Sector To Breaking Point

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** For thousands of fruit growers across Jammu and Kashmir, the 2025 apple season unfolded as a slow-moving disaster. What should have been months of harvest, transport and sales instead turned into a chain of setbacks, leaving orchards stocked with unsold produce, markets flooded at the wrong time and growers staring at mounting losses.

From prolonged highway closures during the peak harvest to erratic weather, soaring freight costs and the absence of any compensation, the season exposed the fragile underpinnings of the Valley's fruit economy and pushed it closer to collapse. Growers and traders estimate losses at nearly Rs 2,000 crore, calling 2025 the worst year the sector has witnessed in recent memory.

**August rains trigger cascading crisis**

The crisis began in the last week of August when continuous and heavy rainfall triggered landslides at several locations along the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, the Valley's primary all-weather surface link with the rest of the country. The highway remained shut for nearly a month, right at the peak of the apple harvesting season.

Orchards were full and produce was ready for dispatch,



but transport came to a standstill. Thousands of trucks carrying fresh fruit were stranded for days and weeks. By the time many consignments reached markets outside Kashmir, a significant portion of the produce had already deteriorated.

Repeated closures and repair work further choked supply lines, causing irregular market arrivals and a sharp crash in prices. Apples continued to pile up in orchards and mandis as growers struggled to move their produce out of the Valley.

"Farmers who invested their life savings, took loans and worked the entire year were left with no option but to sell at throwaway prices," said Bashir Ahmad Basheer, President of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union. "Many could not even recover the cost of harvesting and packaging."

**Mughal Road fails as an alternative.**

With the national highway closed, the Mughal Road was pressed into service as an alternative route. However, growers said it proved grossly inadequate for large-scale fruit transportation.

"Only small vehicles were allowed, and even those were cleared after long delays," Basheer said. "Large trucks could not pass, making bulk transportation impossible."

Freight charges on the Mughal Road shot up three to four times higher than normal, further squeezing already thin margins. In desperation, some growers transported fruit in small load carriers up to Rajouri, where it was reloaded onto trucks for onward movement. The process increased costs, delayed deliveries and damaged fruit quality.

**Structural weaknesses laid bare**

Growers say that while the sector has endured disruptions in the past, 2025 was different in scale and intensity.

"Even during earlier political turmoil or disruptions, the losses were never this severe," they said. "This year, everything failed at once – weather, roads, markets and policy support."

The crisis also highlighted deeper structural problems. Growers pointed to the rise of orchard diseases, the unchecked sale of fake pesticides and sub-standard fertilisers, and consistently low apple prices as long-standing issues that worsened the situation.

"Instead of protecting crops, poor-quality inputs are damaging them," growers said, adding that the lack of effective regulation has further weakened confidence in the system.

**Cold storages offer relief, but remain insufficient**

Controlled atmosphere and cold storage facilities emerged as one of the few safeguards during the crisis, allowing some growers to store produce and avoid distress sales. However, growers said existing capacity is far below the Valley's production needs.

"Cold storages are a boon, but they are too few," growers said. "Many units operate on their own terms rather than following

guidelines."

They demanded strict regulation of storage facilities and the establishment of 200 to 300 additional CA and cold storage units across the Valley. Growers also urged authorities to ensure that storage operators adhere to the decision allowing farmers to use their own packaging material if they choose.

**Expansion continues amid growing risk**

Despite the crisis, horticulture continues to expand in Jammu and Kashmir. Officials say around 1,000 hectares have already been brought under high-density orchards, with plans to add another 5,500 hectares in the coming years.

Growers, however, warn that without strong infrastructure, insurance cover and reliable market support, this expansion could expose farmers to even greater risks.

The fruit economy employs lakhs of people directly and indirectly and forms the backbone of rural livelihoods in the region. Growers say it is now at a breaking point.

"If urgent corrective measures are not taken now, the damage will not be limited to one season," they warned. "It could permanently weaken the horticulture sector and the lives dependent on it." (inputs from KNO)

## Overloading Major Cause of Accidents: Lavasa

Terming overloading as a major cause of accidents, Transport Secretary Avny Lavasa on Friday said that weighbridges play a vital role in ensuring road safety.

Lavasa, according to KNO visited Sonamarg to review the functioning and facilities at the Weighbridge, with a focus on road safety and effective traffic management.

While addressing the officers, she said, "We are assessing the condition of weighbridges and exploring ways to upgrade infrastructure wherever required."

She said, "Traffic management in Sonamarg is a joint effort of district police, traffic police and the Motor Vehicles Department. While traffic flow varies depending on demand, there is coordination among all agencies. Our focus remains on providing a smooth and safe experience to tourists and locals alike."

The Secretary said that staff-related facilities and technological upgradation of weighbridges will be addressed. "Whenever improvements are needed, these will be taken up in the next financial year," she added.

During the visit, the Secretary was accompanied by RTO Kashmir, ARTO Ganderbal Arif Parvaiz, officers of the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) and SHO Sonamarg.

The inspection covered the operational status of the weighbridge, availability of manpower and the overall infrastructure.

Officials were directed to ensure strict enforcement of axle load norms, prevent overloading and regulate traffic smoothly to protect road infrastructure and reduce the risk of accidents. Emphasis was also laid on maintaining transparency in operations, strengthening coordination among departments and ensuring round-the-clock functioning of the weighbridge, especially during peak tourist and traffic seasons.

The visit aimed at strengthening transport enforcement mechanisms and improving public service delivery in the Sonamarg area. (Observer News Service)

## Cyber Police Station Gbl Recovers 46 Mobile Phones

During the last four months, Cyber Police Station Ganderbal has recovered 46 missing mobile phones worth lakhs of rupees, officials told KNO on Friday.

They said that Cyber Cell Ganderbal received multiple complaints from the general public through the CEIR Portal and other police units regarding missing and lost mobile phones. "Acting on these complaints and under the directions of SSP Ganderbal Khalil Ahmad Poswal-JKPS, special teams were constituted to trace the devices," the officials added.

"After sustained technical analysis and field efforts, the teams successfully recovered the missing phones from various locations. The recovered mobile phones were formally handed over to their rightful owners by the SSP Ganderbal, in the presence of DySP Headquarters Ganderbal, after completing all legal formalities," they said.

Locals who received their phones expressed gratitude to the police. "We had almost lost hope of getting our devices back, but the Cyber Police worked tirelessly and recovered them. We are thankful to Ganderbal Police for this effort," said one of the beneficiaries.

Adil Ahmad said the initiative has boosted public confidence. "This shows that police are serious about addressing public grievances. Recovering so many mobile phones in a short time is commendable," he said.

Meanwhile, a Police spokesman said the recovery reflects the commitment of Ganderbal Police to redress public grievances and tackle cyber-enabled crimes through effective use of technology and coordinated policing.

The Cyber Police Station Ganderbal advised the public to remain cautious while using mobile phones and electronic gadgets to protect themselves from cyber frauds. "Citizens should immediately report any cybercrime on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal and also approach Cyber Police Station Ganderbal without delay," it added.

Ganderbal Police reiterated its commitment to ensuring cyber safety and protecting the digital interests of the public. (Observer News Service)

## Attacks On Kashmiris

# Mehbooba Urges CM To Rush Ministers For Help



KO Web Desk

**SRINAGAR:** PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Friday said there was a growing intolerance in the country and urged the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister to send a ministerial team to different states to ensure the safety of Kashmiris there in the wake of the harassment incidents.

"The intolerance in the entire country has increased. Lynchings are taking place. What is happening in Bangladesh pains us, but those who criticise it watch as mute spectators when lynchings take place here," Mehbooba told reporters here.

Referring to the assault on a Kashmiri trader in Uttarakhand, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief said she immediately put out a tweet and tagged the Uttarakhand DGP, seeking his intervention on the issue.

"That is why the accused was arrested. There are still some officers in the police

## Speaks Kashmiri, Cites Tamil Leader In Language Row

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti on Friday snapped at a journalist here for asking her to speak in Urdu at a press conference.

As soon as Mehbooba began her presser at the party headquarters in the Kashmiri language, a journalist asked her to speak in Urdu.

The former chief minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir snapped at the journalist, questioning

why the media doesn't ask Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin to speak either in English or Urdu.

"Why? Translate it. Why don't you ask Stalin to speak in English or Urdu?" she said.

The PDP president said Kashmiri journalists should show some respect for the Kashmiri language. "This is the only thing that is left now, so respect the Kashmiri language a little," she added and continued speaking in Kashmiri.

who respond. But three incidents took place in 72 hours? In Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana. What is happening is distressing," she added.

She further urged the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to constitute a ministerial team and send it to the states to ensure the safety of the Kashmiris there.

"Our government should send a ministerial team to every state and especially to Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana, where most of such incidents take place," she said.

On Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq removing the designation of 'chairman of Hurriyat Con-

ference' from his X profile, Mehbooba said that while it was a personal choice, the government should address the idea behind the Hurriyat.

"It is his (Mirwaiz's) personal decision. But, I want to say the whole Hurriyat leadership is in jail, so there should not be new camps being put up, or new arrests made and surveillance on ideas," she said.

"Hurriyat is an idea, it is not a person who can be thrown in jail. It is the alienation that the people feel between the country and themselves.

"You can jail people, you can remove names from a platform, but there is a need to address the alienation," the PDP chief added.

## ACB Nabs RDD Clerk While Taking Bribe

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday trapped and arrested a clerk of the Rural Engineering Wing (RDD) in Anantnag, for demanding and accepting a bribe from a complainant in exchange for releasing payment against an irrigation work bill.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, the Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau received a written complaint alleging therein that the complainant's father had constructed an irrigation Ladh and after completion

of work he had submitted bill which was forwarded through concerned quarters to the office of Rural Engineering Wing (RDD) Anantnag, where concerned clerk namely Manzoor Ahmad Ahanger demanded bribe openly from him for releasing the payment in his favour.

The statement reads, the complainant chose not to pay bribe and instead approached Anti-Corruption Bureau for taking legal action against the said clerk as provided under law.

"On receipt of the complaint, a discreet verification was conducted which

confirmed the demand by the said Govt. employee and accordingly Case FIR No. 06/2025 u/s 7 of P/C Act 1988 was registered in PS ACB Anantnag and investigation was taken up," reads the statement.

It reads as, during the course of investigation a trap team was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and caught the said Govt. employee red handed while demanding and accepting bribe. He was arrested on spot and bribe amount was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team.

## Police Handover Sculpture Recovered from Jhelum

Observer News Service

**BARAMULLA:** Baramulla Police on Friday facilitated the safe handover of a stone sculpture—identified as Goddess Durga—recovered from the River Jhelum to the Archaeology Wing of the Directorate of Archives, Archaeology & Museums for its preservation and conservation, police officials said.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a police spokesperson said, "On 25 December 2025, a fisherman identified as Nazir Ahmad Latoo S/o Ghulam Mohammad Latoo, R/o Shaltang/Zoggyar, reported to Police Station Sheeri, Baramulla, that he had recovered a stone sculpture while fishing in River Jhelum. The sculpture was immediately brought to the notice of police authorities and kept in safe custody at Police Station Sheri."

The spokesperson said, on 26 December 2025, following due procedure and official directions from the Directorate of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, J&K, the said stone sculpture—identified as Goddess Durga—was formally handed over by Baramulla Police to officials of the Archaeology Wing, Srinagar through a proper handover/takeover process.

Baramulla Police reiterated its commitment to the protection of cultural heritage and urges citizens to promptly inform authorities about any such discoveries of historical or archaeological importance.

## J&K Bank Disburses 1,263 Cases in Special Mission YUVA Drive

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Reinforcing its commitment to the Jammu and Kashmir Government's flagship Mission YUVA programme, J&K Bank on Friday conducted a Special Disbursal Day across the Union Territory, fast-tracking credit delivery to approved beneficiaries in a mission mode.

The single-day drive, observed as "Mission YUVA Disbursal Day", culminated with the disbursement of 1,263 cases—surpassing the target of 1,111—marking a significant step towards empowering youth through self-employment and entrepreneurship. The successful conclusion of the drive was symbolically marked by the



pressing of a button by the Bank's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Amitava Chatterjee.

The event was attended virtually by Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, Chief General Manager Imtiaz Ahmad, General Managers, Divisional Heads, Zonal Heads and other senior officers. Teams from all zones participated actively to

ensure smooth and timely execution of the initiative.

Congratulating the operational heads and front-line staff for exceeding the target, Chatterjee lauded their coordinated efforts in translating sanctions into prompt disbursements. He said the successful rollout of Mission YUVA reflected the collective commitment of all stakeholders

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1)	Khimber	Mr. Umar Bashir Pandow S/O Bashir Ahmad Pandow R/O Tangbagh, Nowpora, Srinagar	Maruti Swift Dzire VXI (Tour), ICV, Class C.IA CC1500 Carry 5	JK01AV-8614	05.62
2)	S.R. Gunj	Mr. Imran Bashir Punjabi, S/O Bashir Ahmad Punjabi, Dabtal, Zainakadal, Srinagar.	Renault India Pvt. Ltd. Triber RXT, Petrol MT 1.0 Wheel Base	JK01AL-5078	03.83

\*GST applicable on the sale of the vehicle shall be borne by and be recoverable from the purchaser.

The Vehicles will be available for inspection on any working day between 11:00 a.m to 04:00 p.m upto 12.01.2026 at the premises of J & K Bank Zonal Office, Srinagar. Sealed quotations in the prescribed format are invited from the interested parties for the purchase of said Vehicle to be accompanied by EMD amount in the form of Demand Draft for Rs. 10,000/-, drawn on any nationalized/scheduled Bank in favour of the concerned branch of J&K Bank, shown against the respective vehicles in the above table, payable at Srinagar, which is to be deposited with the undersigned on or before 13.01.2026 during working hours at Zonal Office Srinagar. The sealed tenders will be opened on 15.01.2026 at 02.30 P.M. at the office of the undersigned in presence of the Bidders who choose to remain present on the given day and time. The Tender document containing the terms and conditions can be obtained, along with the prescribed Bid Form, from the office of the undersigned on any working day between 11:00 a.m. to 04:00 p.m. upto 08.01.2026.

(Altaf Ahmad Ringshawl)  
In-charge, IAPM Department,  
J&K Bank Ltd.  
Zonal Office Srinagar

Date: - 26.12.2026

# 20 Wickets Fall On A Record-Breaking Day 1 Of The Fourth Ashes Test

AP

**MELBOURNE:** Australia collapsed for 152 yet still claimed a 42-run lead over England on the first innings in a remarkable opening day of the fourth Ashes test Friday in which 20 wickets fell.

The day's play unfolded before a world-record crowd for a day of cricket at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The attendance figure of 94,199 beat the 93,013 for the 2015 World Cup final between Australia and New Zealand at the MCG.

Australia was 4-0 in its second innings at stumps, an overall lead of 46 runs, after having to bat through one nervous over before stumps.

Josh Tongue claimed a career-best 5-45 as England bowled Australia out after winning the toss and bowling. In reply, England made 110 in 29.5 overs as



Michael Neser grabbed 4-45.

Tongue, in his eighth test, took three early wickets as Australia stumbled to 72-4 at lunch.

Travis Head (12) and Jake Weatherald (10) fell cheaply as Australia reached 31-2 in the 10th over. Capitalizing on a pitch

offering sideways movement, Tongue deceived Marnus Labuschagne (6) who edged to first slip at 34-3.

In a key breakthrough, captain Steve Smith lost his middle stump while attempting to drive Tongue with the total on 51.

Australia aimed to rebuild through veteran Usman Khawaja, but the 39-year-old was caught behind to Gus Atkinson's bowling for 29 at 89-5. Alex Carey clipped a catch to leg gully two runs later.

Neser (35) and Cameron Green (17) shared a 52-run partnership before Green hesitated and was run out at 143-7.

Tongue was cheered off the field at tea after dismissing Neser and Scott Boland (0) with the first two deliveries of his 12th over, giving England's spirits a boost after losing each of the first three tests.

England was 8-3 in 4.2 overs as Zak Crawley (5), Jacob Bethell (2) and Ben Duckett (2) all departed in an action-packed opening to the innings.

When Joe Root was caught behind for a duck off the bowling of Neser at 16-4 at the end of the eighth over, Harry Brook

charged the next delivery from Mitchell Starc and clubbed it over mid-off for six.

Brook bravely belted 41 off 34 balls including two fours and two sixes, adding 50 for the fifth wicket with Stokes.

Boland (3-30) dismissed Brook, Jamie Smith (2) and Will Jacks (5) in three consecutive overs as England slumped to 77-7.

Neser struck a key blow in the following over when skipper Ben Stokes (16) was caught at slip.

England's innings closed with just enough time for Australia to face the one over before stumps.

"It's not easy because the ball is nipping around," Neser said. "We saw when we batted, it was tough."

England named its team on Wednesday with the big news the loss of star bowler Jofra Archer for the rest of the series, including the fifth and final test starting Jan. 4 in Sydney.

## Ahead Of Key Meeting, ISL Clubs Seek Clarity On League Structure From AIFF



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Super League (ISL) clubs on Thursday (December 25, 2025) shot off a letter to the All India Football Federation (AIFF), seeking clarity from the apex body on its immediate as well as long-term plans for the country's top domestic competition.

The 2025-26 ISL season was put on hold in July due to disagreements over renewing the Master Rights Agreement (MRA) between the league's former organisers, Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), and the AIFF, with the existing deal expiring in December 2025, creating a contractual impasse that also required Supreme Court intervention.

Under the supervision of a Supreme Court-appointed committee, a tender was floated for ISL's commercial rights but there was no taker for it.

"We would find it very helpful if the meeting could begin with a comprehensive briefing on this long-term roadmap.

"Following that, it would be useful for the clubs to be taken through the short-term plan, after which all ISL clubs can share their thoughts and feedback in a constructive manner," the clubs said in the letter. The letter was addressed to the AIFF on behalf of the ISL clubs through Mohun Bagan Super Giant CEO Vinay Chopra.

On December 20, a proposal from 10 ISL clubs for "perpetual" operational and commercial ownership of the country's top-tier competition failed to get the approval of the AIFF's General Body, which formed a committee to look into the matter.

"We would also like to share that we still believe the proposal submitted by us represents a strong and sustainable way forward for Indian football, and we would respectfully request that AIFF consider this while formulating the long-term proposal," the clubs said.

"With respect to the short-term league proposal by AIFF, while the initial discussion was helpful, there are still a few areas where further clarity would support our internal assessment.

"In particular, we would welcome more detailed information on: The proposed revenue model, broadcast arrangements, a clear view of the cost structure for the short term, including clarity on how these costs are to be allocated and who is expected to bear them.

"Once these details are available, we will be better placed to review them and engage in further discussions with the wider ISL club group," the letter added.

## Yuvraj Sandhu Moves To The Top With Sizzling 64

Press Trust of India

**JAMSHEDPUR:** Yuvraj Sandhu fired a sizzling eight-under 64 to move to the top of the leaderboard after round two of the TATA Open, the PGTI's season-finales, here on Friday.

Sandhu (67-64), who played at Beldih on Friday, totalled 11-under 131 at the halfway stage to lead by three shots and move up seven positions from his overnight tied eighth.

Sandhu, a six-time winner on the PGTI this year, has already won the 2025 PGTI Order of Merit crown and thus sealed his spot on the DP World Tour for next year. He is now eyeing a record seventh title on the PGTI.

Twenty-one-year-old Shubham Jaglan (68-66), playing his third event on the PGTI, struck



a four-under 66 at Golmuri in round two to move up four spots into second position at a

total of eight-under 134.

The halfway cut was declared at two-over 144. Fifty-three professionals made the cut.

In round one, one half of the field played its 18 holes at Beldih Golf Club, while the other half of the field played its 18 holes at the Golmuri Golf Club.

In round two, both halves of the field switched venues. In rounds three and four, the leading groups will play their first nine holes at Golmuri before moving to Beldih to play their second nine holes.

Sandhu, who was four off the lead after round one, collected three consecutive birdies on the front-nine. He had a minor blip with a bogey on the 10th before going on a birdie-spree with six straight birdies from the 11th to the 16th.

## Mumbai Batter Rushed to Hospital After On-field Injury

Press Trust of India

**JAIPUR:** Mumbai opener Angkrish Raghuvanshi was rushed to hospital on Friday after a heavy fall while attempting a difficult catch left him with an injury just below the neck and a concussion during his team's Vijay Hazare Trophy match against Uttarakhand here.

The 21-year-old has since been discharged and returned to the team hotel after scans revealed nothing serious.

The incident occurred in the 30th over, bowled by off-spinner Tanush Kotian. Right-handed batter Saurabh Rawat attempted a slog-sweep and Raghuvanshi, stationed at deep mid-wicket, sprinted in towards mid-wicket to get hold of the top edge.

However, his valiant one-handed effort didn't yield the desired result but in the process he had a nasty fall and his head hit the ground, resulting in a concussion.

Raghuvanshi got back on his



haunches for a few seconds but then lay on the ground, prompting Mumbai's physio to rush to the field.

Once they understood that he was unable to get back on his feet, a stretcher was called and the waiting ambulance took him to the nearest SDMH Hospital.

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