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24/7

Department of Information & Public Relations, J&K

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## Rain, Snow In Valley From Dec 30: IMD



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Minimum temperatures declined across Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Saturday, with several places recording sub-zero readings compared to the previous day, officials said.

According to details, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 2.6 degrees Celsius, down from 0.2 degrees Celsius on Friday. Qazigund settled at minus 2.8 degrees Celsius compared to 0.2 degrees Celsius a day earlier, while Pahalgam recorded minus 4.8 degrees Celsius against minus 1.6 degrees Celsius previously.

Kupwara recorded minus 3.8 degrees Celsius, down from minus 2.4 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag settled at minus 0.9 degrees Celsius compared to 0.8 degrees Celsius

on Friday. Gulmarg recorded a minimum of minus 4.2 degrees Celsius, marginally higher than minus 4.5 degrees Celsius recorded a day earlier.

Pampore registered minus 4.5 degrees Celsius, down from minus 1.6 degrees Celsius, while Srinagar Airport recorded minus 3.8 degrees Celsius against minus 1.2 degrees Celsius on Friday. Sonamarg recorded minus 5.8 degrees Celsius compared to minus 4.7 degrees Celsius a day earlier.

In the Jammu region, minimum temperatures also declined at most places. Jammu city recorded 7.1 degrees Celsius, down from 10 degrees Celsius. Banihal recorded 2.8 degrees Celsius compared to 3.8 degrees Celsius, while Batote settled at 4.6 degrees Celsius against 6.1 degrees Celsius on Friday.

Bhaderwah | More on P6

## 'No Winter Lull': Forces Intensify Counter-Terror Ops

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Indian Army has intensified counter-terrorism operations across the Kishtwar and Doda districts of Jammu and Kashmir to track and neutralise Pakistani terrorists attempting to exploit the harsh winter for concealment, defence sources said on Saturday.

Traditionally, the onset of the 40-day Chillai Kalan period, from December 21 to January 31, leads to a temporary lull in terrorist activity due to heavy snowfall and closure of communication routes. However, this winter has marked a decisive shift, with the Army adopting a proactive winter posture to maintain operational momentum.

Sources said the Army

has established temporary bases and surveillance posts deep inside snowbound and high-altitude areas, while patrols are regularly traversing ridgelines, valleys and forested stretches to deny terrorists any sanctuary. Operations are being conducted in sub-zero temperatures and limited visibility.

According to assessments by intelligence agencies, around 30 to | More on P6

## Curriculum Load Must Be Reduced, Adaptable Skills Built: LG

'If Even One Student Is Unemployed, Institutions Have Failed'

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday strongly pitched for a shift away from rote-based education, saying universities must focus on skills, accountability and real-world outcomes.

Addressing the 11th convocation ceremony of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, the Lieutenant Governor said, "Our endeavour should be reduction in curriculum load and development of adaptable skills for future jobs."

He underlined institutional



responsibility in clear terms, stating, "Even if a single

**6 HELIPADS AT KATRA, SHIV KHORI near completion, services likely from next year"**

student of any higher education institution is unemployed or not setting up his or her enterprise, then it clearly means that the educational institution and its teachers have not done their work honestly."

Calling upon students to take initiative, the Lieutenant Governor said they must

"create new paths in life, give new direction to life, explore new aspects and suggest new ways for the prosperity of the nation." He added that achieving the goal of a developed India by 2047 would require collective responsibility. "Every student, every educational institution will have to fulfil its responsibility because the future and its development will be based on the knowledge economy," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor listed five key solutions to keep pace with technological change and the | More on P6

## Foundation Stone Laid For 320 Houses For Flood-Affected In Reasi

Observer News Service

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday laid the foundation stone for the construction of 320 houses that were completely damaged during recent flash floods

and landslides in Reasi district, reiterating the administration's commitment to ensuring dignity and security for disaster-affected families. The housing project, to be executed at an estimated cost of Rs 32 crore, is being fully funded by HRDS India. The initiative will provide 320 affected | More on P6

## NC MP Sees 'Positive Developments' For J&K By 31st Dec Agencies

Srinagar: Hinting at major political and administrative developments, National Conference Rajya Sabha member Choudhary Ramzan on Saturday said the Union Home Ministry has assured positive changes for Jammu and Kashmir before December 31.

Addressing a convention in north Kashmir, Ramzan said the Centre is reviewing its policy on Jammu and Kashmir and that a "powerful and stable government" is in the making. "We have been assured by the Home Minister that | More on P6

## Trial Delay Key Factor For Bail Even In Heinous Cases: HC

Grants Bail To Accused In 13-Year-Old Murder Case

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has granted bail to an accused in a 13-year-old murder case, holding that prolonged incarceration and inordinate delay in the conclusion of trial are crucial factors while deciding such pleas, even in heinous offences like murder.

While granted bail to the

accused—Fahad Maqsood Khan—a bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar observed that the delay in the trial was solely attributable to the prosecution and that there was little likelihood of the trial concluding in the near future.



Fahad had approached the High Court, seeking bail in connection with FIR No. 135/2012 registered at Police Station Saddar Srinagar, for offences under Sections 302, 307, 326, 324, 506, 201, trial are crucial factors while deciding such pleas, even in heinous offences like murder. "It appears | More on P6

## RESERVATION ROW

## If Files Are With LG, Let Ministers Join Protests: Ruhullah

Warns Of Joining Students' Stir Today Over 'Govt Silence'

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Member of Parliament from Srinagar Syed Aga Ruhullah Mehdi on Saturday said he would protest outside the Lieutenant Governor's office if the reservation file concerning students' demands is pending with the LG administration, and invited ministers and MLAs to join the protest.

Ruhullah, who has been



supporting students demanding clarity on the reservation issue, said it is the responsibility of the government to communicate transparently and take students into confidence. He warned that continued silence from the administration would only deepen uncertainty and mistrust. | More on P6

## Dal Discourse Confronts Hesitation on Women's Health In Kashmir

Even in urban Srinagar, awareness sessions are changing how women see their bodies

Sheeba Khan

Srinagar: Generational silence shattered on an unusually bright December morning in the heart of Dal Lake when women spoke openly about their bodies and health.

In a small hall by the water, they asked questions, shared experiences, and learned about menstrual care and sustainable products in a way many had never done before.

"Menstrual health is not just a personal issue," said Saba Riyaz, Ph.D., who led the session. "It affects our health, rights, and even the environment."



Saba is the state lead for Jammu and Kashmir for WeTheChange India, a Delhi-based NGO that has been running menstrual health

awareness programmes in the valley since 2022.

The women of Mir Behri were introduced to a range of menstrual products:

disposable pads, reusable cloth pads, period panties, and menstrual cups.

Organisers explained that many conventional pads contain plastics and chemicals that can harm health and pollute the environment.

"I didn't know that some pads could be harmful," said Nasreen, a woman in her twenties. "Now I want to try something safer for my body and for the environment."

The session focused on organic and biodegradable products. Participants even received 100 organic pads, which are chemical-free, plastic-free, and decompose | More on P6

## Ensure Convictions In NDPS & UAPA Cases: IGP

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone, V K Birdi, on Saturday conducted an annual review of the crime situation in the Valley and directed officers to focus on securing convictions in cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) to dismantle the narco-crime and terror ecosystem.

The IGP chaired the annual crime review meeting at the Police Control Room Kashmir, which was attended by all range | More on P6

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**The Jammu & Kashmir Board Of School Education  
 SUB OFFICE GANDEBAL  
 PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have passed Class 10th under Roll No. 124008082, Session: 2025, Year: 2025, through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. An error has been committed by the Board in recording my father's name as 'Jamal Ud Din Lone' instead of the correct name 'Jamal Ud Din Lone.'  
 Now, I have applied for correction of the said error in the records of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education, Sub Office Ganderbal. If any person has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub Board Office Ganderbal, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.  
 Name: Usama Bin Jamal  
 Father's Name: Jamal Ud Din Lone  
 Mother's Name: Noorani Begum  
 Date of Birth: 12-03-2010  
 R/o: Badugam  
 Kashmir observer

**The Jammu And Kashmir  
 Board Of School Education  
 New Campus Bemina Srinagar**

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No.: 710438, 707331, 6125278 Session: Bi-Annul /Annual Regular / Annual Regular Year 2013/2013/2014 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School against Father's Name Nazeer Ahmad Mir Instead of Nazir Ahmad Mir  
 Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina, Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.  
 Name: Sadiqer Ahmad Mir  
 Father's name: Nazir Ahmad Mir  
 Mother's Name: Haseena Akhter  
 DOB: 05-01-1997  
 Residence: Urichersoo  
 Mobile no: 96221793437

**The Jammu And Kashmir  
 Board Of School Education  
 New Campus Bemina Srinagar**

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No.: 132021072 Session: Annual Regular Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School against Mother's Name Zareena Hassan instead of Zarina Hassan  
 Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina, Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.  
 Name: Mohammad Farman Shah  
 Father's name: Bilal Ahmad Shah  
 Mother's Name: Zarina Hassan  
 DOB: 23-06-2010  
 Residence: Pinglana Pulwama  
 Mobile no: 9596888923

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have lost my passport bearing Number W918446. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the Regional passport Office Srinagar within seven days after that no objection shall be entertained.  
 Ikhtlaq Nazir  
 S/O Nazir Ahmad Ahanger  
 R/O Taper Waripora

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

We have lost our Domicile certificate somewhere Now we have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
 Jawahira Begum W/o Javid Ahmad Lone,  
 Aqib Javid S/O Javid Ahmad Lone,  
 Azhar Javid S/O Javid Ahmad Lone,  
 Rukaya Akhter D/O Javid Ahmad Lone,  
 Adnan Javid Lone S/o Javid Ahmad Lone  
 All residents fo Tujar Pahlhaar

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I Mohammad Aslam Mir want to change my Son's name in his Aadhar card bearing no 3094 6241 3720 from Maasil Mir (old name) to Mohammad Haseeb Mir (new name). If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned centre within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
 JVD

**ASF ENTERPRISES**  
 Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar (J&K), Ph.0194-24 77949, 9419001176, 9419776235  
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 Registered Government order Suppliers.

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
 OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG  
 NIT NO 124 OF R&B/Anantnag/2025-26 /E-TENDERING/ 10506-15, DATED 24-12-2025**

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

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	CO Balance Portion of Lane and drain from Nasrut-ul-Islamiya School to HO Mohd Ibrahim Shah at Ward No. 24 Ashjipora Anantnag	2.00 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 1.69 + (18% GST Amount 0.31)	200	4000/-	20 Days	District Capex Budget 2025-26 (CDF Scheme)	DEE Class & MSME's Only
2.	Raising of Volley Ball Turf at Shri Ravi Ji HSS Khanabal.	3.00 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 2.54 + (18% GST Amount 0.46)	200	6000/-	30 Days	District Capex Budget 2025-26 (CDF Scheme)	DEE Class & MSME's Only
3.	Concreting from HO Mohd Maqbool Baba to Main Road at Bonidar Ashajipora.	3.00 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 2.54 + (18% GST Amount 0.46)	200	6000/-	30 Days	District Capex Budget 2025-26 (CDF Scheme)	DEE Class & MSME's Only
4.	CO Tile Path from HO Gull Mohd Dar to Masjid Sharif at Bonidar Ashajipora.	1.00 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 0.85 + (18% GST Amount 0.15)	200	2000/-	20 Days	District Capex Budget 2025-26 (CDF Scheme)	DEE Class & MSME's Only

Project Authority: District Development Commissioner Anantnag.  
 Position of AAA: Accorded vide Order No. 375 - DDCA of 2025, Dated 19.12.2025.  
 Position of TS: Accorded.  
 1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24-12-2025
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 24-12-2025 (03:00 PM) To 30-12-2025 (04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 24-12-2025 (03:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 30-12-2025 (04:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)	31-12-2025 (11:00 AM)

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender Inviting Authority) (NIT No. Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (Tender receiving Authority). (The Date of EMD (CDR/FDR/BG) should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and validity of EMD at the time of opening of bids shall be a period of 45 Days beyond Bid Validity of 120 Days). The same EMD should not be used in more than one Tender/Bid.
- All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released 60 days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The date of Performance Security (CDR/FDR/BG) should be after the date of issuance of letter/LOI to deliver the performance security. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released 60 Days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.
- The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid.
- Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
  - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
  - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
  - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
  - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
  - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.
  - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.
- Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.
- 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.
- Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be included to include price escalation upto completion of the work. Details on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

DIPK-9382/25  
 DATED: 27-12-2025  
 (Er. Syed Ishfaq Ahmad)  
 Executive Engineer,  
 R&B Division Anantnag

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
 OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TRANS. LINE MAINTT. DIVISION-VII,  
 JKPTCL BEMINA, SRINAGAR-190010  
 Ph. No. 0194-3516481 e-mail: tlmd-vii.sgr@jk.gov.in**

**EXTENSION NOTICE-III**

In order to get healthy competition, the last date for submission of bids in respect of e-NIT No. TLMD-7/10 of 2025-26 dated: 21-11-2025 for "Supply Construction of 1 No. normal raft type tower foundation and Supply, Erection of Tower Material and Supply, Laying and Stringing of 0.2ACSR Conductor with Hardware Fittings at IGC Lassipora of 132 kV D/C Lassipora-Shopian Transmission Line" is hereby extended with revised critical dates as under.

1. Existing e-bids submission end date and time	26-Dec-2025 (14:00 Hrs)
2. Extended e-bids submission end date and time	06-Jan-2026 (14:00 Hrs)
3. Online techno commercial e-bid opening date and time	07-Jan-2026 (12:00 Hrs)

All other terms and conditions of e-NIT will remain unchanged.

DIPK-NB-2853/25  
 DATED: 27-12-2025  
 Sd/-  
 Executive Engineer  
 TLMD-VII, Bemina Srinagar  
 No. TLMD-7/TS/2963-67  
 Dated: 26: 12: 2025

**ROYAL SPRINGS GOLF COURSE  
 CHESHMASHAH SRINAGAR  
 EXTENSION NOTICE**

Sub: - Up gradation of Health (Gym) at RSGC, Srinagar.  
 Ref: - E-NIT No. 50 of 2025-26 dated 19-12-2025  
 Tender Id No:- 2025\_Tourm\_298656\_1  
 Please read the following details mentioned in e-NIT:  
 The bid submission End Date is Extended upto 02-01-2026 upto 3:00 PM.  
 The date and timing of opening of Bid is extended upto 03-01-2026 10:00 AM.  
 Terms and Conditions:  
 1. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per E-NIT.  
 Sd/-  
 Executive Engineer  
 Royal Springs Golf Course  
 Srinagar  
 No: RSGC/EE/2025-26/707-09  
 DIPK-NB-2854/25  
 Dated:- 27/12/2025

**SCHOLARSHIPS THIS WEEK**

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

**Scholarship Name 1: Sensodyne IDA Shining Star Scholarship Programme 2025-26**

Description: Haleon India, makers of Sensodyne, is inviting applications for the 'Sensodyne IDA Shining Star Scholarship Programme 2025-26' to support meritorious and underprivileged BDS students across India.  
 Prizes & Rewards: Free access to training modules, live sessions by Harvard faculty including more benefits.  
 Last Date to Apply: 23-01-2026  
 Application mode: Online applications only  
 Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/ALPS2  
 QR Code: https://dle9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/aspire-leaders-program-20261766464828.png

Eligibility: Open to first-year Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) students across India.  
 Applicants must be enrolled in a government or government-aided college through a government seat quota.  
 A minimum of 60% marks in the previous class/semester is mandatory.  
 Annual family income from all sources must not exceed 8,00,000  
 Students currently receiving any other scholarship are not eligible.  
 Children of employees of Haleon, Give Grants, or Buddy4Study are not eligible to apply.  
 Prizes & Rewards: A scholarship of 50,000 per year for 4 years ( 2,00,000)  
 Last Date to Apply: 20-01-2026  
 Application mode: Online applications only  
 Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SPSP5  
 QR Code: https://dle9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/sensodyne-ida-shining-star-scholarship-programme-2025-261766464934.png

**Scholarship Name 3: Aadhar Kaushal Scholarship Program 2025-26**

Description: It is an initiative of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) to ensure equal educational opportunities for all students, irrespective of their geographical location, physical abilities, or socio-economic condition.  
 Eligibility: Open to students with physical disabilities pursuing any year of general or professional undergraduate courses.  
 Applicable for students across all regions of India.  
 Applicants must have secured a minimum of 60% marks in the previous academic year.  
 Candidates from families with a gross annual income of up to INR 3 lakh are eligible to apply.  
 \*NOTE: Preference will be given to students from Tier 2 and 3 cities.\*  
 Prizes & Rewards: Scholarship between INR 10,000 - INR 50,000  
 Last Date to Apply: 13-01-2026  
 Application mode: Online applications only  
 Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/AKSP2  
 QR Code: https://dle9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/aadhar-kaushal-scholarship-program-2025-261766465030.png

**Scholarship Name 2: Aspire Leaders Program 2026**

Description: The Aspire Leaders Program 2026 is a prestigious, fully funded 14-week online course on leadership designed by the Aspire Institute. It has been crafted to empower students by enhancing their leadership skills and prepare them to become a dynamic professionals.  
 Eligibility: The program is open to students from limited-income households, who

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
 OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA.  
 NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

**NIT No: 147/EEA/R&B of 2025-26/8600-10 Dated: 26-12-2025**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Ad. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1.	Restoration of damaged road near and road surface Trail towna roads.	2.98	200/-	2% of Adv cost	15 days	3054(023-M&R) during the FY 2025-26	DEE	PWD(R&B).
2.	Restoration of Checked culvert at Sofogund Adda	3.49	200/-	2% of Adv cost	18 days	3054(023-M&R) during the FY 2025-26	DEE	PWD(R&B).
3.	Restoration of Road surface by way of clearance of Slips/Checked drain including damaged RS Masonary protection bund at Baqir Sheikh Sahab Sofogund Road.	3.00	200/-	2% of Adv cost	15 days	3054(023-M&R) during the FY 2025-26	DEE	PWD(R&B).
4.	Restoration of road from Midpora to Shahabad i/c High School Link.	4.00	200/-	2% of Adv cost	20 days	3054(023-M&R) during the FY 2025-26	DEE	PWD(R&B).

Position of AAA: Accorded vide order No: ARD/CESK/202526/73 Dated: 22.11.2025.  
 Position of TS: Sanctioned vide: for S.No.1: TS No: 229-SE/PS of 2025-26 Dated: 24.12.2025.  
 For S.No.2: TS No: 228-SE/PS of 2025-26 Dated: 24.12.2025.  
 For S.No.3: TS No:230-SE/PS of 2025-26 Dated: 24.12.2025.  
 For S.No.4: TS No: 227-SE/PS of 2025-26 Dated: 24.12.2025.

Position of funds: Committed.  
 The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q),Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	26-12-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	27-12-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	27-12-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	05-01-2026 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	06-01-2026 12:00 PM

- Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department )  
 (The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure-A of the NIT and submit/upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No., Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender inviting authority).
- All the bidders must upload Earnest Money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, otherwise bids shall be rejected).
- The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority) as per rule-171 (I) of GFR 2017. The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority).
- The earnest money/ Bid security in favour of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of original Treasury Challan.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120-days from the date of opening of Technical bids
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if-
  - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

No: 147/EEA/R&B / 2025-26/8600-10  
 DIPK-9393/25  
 Sd/-  
 Draftsman  
 Dated: 27-12-2025  
 Sd/-  
 Tech. Officer E  
 Sd/-  
 Executive Engineer  
 R&B Division Awantipora.



# Traffic Police Launch Awareness Drive in City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic Srinagar City, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, on Saturday led a special drive here to intensify the awareness and enforcement campaigns. The SSP, along with DSP Traffic and other officers, held the drive at Khanyar Chowk. He said the drives have been continuing over the past several weeks to streamline vehicular movement and ensure compliance with traffic rules across the city.

"We have been carrying out drives continuously for the last three to four weeks in Srinagar. All our officers are working on both awareness and enforcement," Bhat said, as reported by KNO.

The officer said the department's primary focus remains on enforcement, as several vehicles plying in Srinagar lack complete documentation or proper ownership transfer. "We have observed that vehicle documents are often incomplete. Many sellers bring vehicles from outside and fail to transfer ownership, which creates confusion and adds to traffic chaos," he said.

The SSP added that the department's efforts are not limited to penalising violators but also extend to recognising and appreciating law-abiding citizens.

"Today's event is not about acting against violators but about encouraging those who



**We have observed that vehicle documents are often incomplete. Many sellers bring vehicles from outside and fail to transfer ownership, which creates confusion and adds to traffic chaos**

follow traffic rules. We have brought together such motorists to felicitate them and send a message that the Traffic Police not only enforce laws but also appreciate discipline," he said.

During the drive, several motorists with complete vehicle documents and clean records were honoured with medals and appreciation certificates by the Traffic Police and members of the Civil Society Khanyar.

Bhat urged people, particularly the youth, to extend their cooperation in improving Srinagar's traffic system. "Our message is that such initiatives should inspire the rest of the youth. We should help the Traffic Police, because we can't do it alone without the support of the public and the younger generation," he said.



Winter Warmth: A Kashmiri man selling traditional kangris as shikaras glide by. KO Photo Abid Bhat

# Delay Can Be Fatal GMC Sgr Warns of Winter Surge in Heart Emergencies

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Cardiology at Government Medical College Srinagar has issued a public health advisory warning of a spike in heart-related emergencies during the winter season, cautioning that delay in medical intervention can be fatal.

In the advisory titled "Winter Spike in Heart Emergencies," doctors highlighted that cold weather significantly increases the risk of cardiac events, particularly among vulnerable groups. Individuals with a history of heart disease, previous heart attack or stroke, patients suffering from hypertension, diabetes or kidney disease, elderly persons and smokers have been identified as most at risk. The advisory also warned against abrupt increase in physical activity during cold mornings.

The cardiology department advised people to take preventive measures, including dressing warmly with special protection to the chest, head and extremities, and avoiding early-morning exposure to extreme



**Doctors stressed the importance of seeking prompt treatment for respiratory infections, noting that such infections can act as triggers for serious cardiac events during winter months"**

cold. Patients have been urged to continue prescribed heart medications without interruption and to regularly monitor blood pressure, which tends to rise during winter. Moderate exercise was recommended, while sudden strenuous exertion was strongly discouraged.

Doctors further stressed the importance of seeking prompt treatment for respiratory infections, noting that such infections can act as

triggers for serious cardiac events during winter months.

The advisory also listed warning signs that require immediate medical attention. These include chest pain or discomfort, sudden breathlessness, excessive sweating, dizziness or unexplained fatigue, palpitations or fainting, and sudden weakness, slurred speech or facial drooping.

Emphasising the urgency of early response, the advisory stated that timely medical intervention saves lives and waiting for symptoms to subside can have irreversible consequences.

People with known heart disease have been advised to keep emergency contact numbers readily available and seek immediate medical care at the nearest cardiac facility if symptoms arise. The cardiology department said that most winter-related cardiac emergencies are preventable with awareness, medication adherence and early medical attention.

The advisory has been issued in the public interest amid prevailing cold wave conditions across Kashmir.

# EOW Files Chargesheet in Livestock Fraud Case

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Crime Branch Kashmir has filed a chargesheet before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar, in a livestock fraud case involving alleged cheating of lakhs of rupees, officials said on Saturday.

The chargesheet has been filed in FIR No. 17/2023 under Sections 420, 467, 468 and 471 of the Ranbir Penal Code against Muneer Ahmad Kataria, a resident of Uri Salamabad, presently residing at Shutrloo Rohama in Baramulla district.

Officials said the case was registered following a written complaint alleging cheating and misappropriation of money in connection with the supply of livestock under the pretext of a government ST quota scheme.

During investigation, it was found that the complainant, who is engaged in the trade of cattle and sheep, supplied cows

and sheep worth lakhs of rupees to the accused.

They said the accused initially made partial payments to gain the complainant's confidence and later issued multiple cheques amounting to Rs 30 lakh, all of which were dishonoured due to insufficient funds.

Despite repeated assurances, the remaining payment was not made, causing financial loss to the complainant.

The investigation further revealed that the accused allegedly executed misleading agreements and issued dishonoured cheques while falsely claiming that the livestock was being procured under a government welfare scheme, officials said.

They said evidence collected during the probe established offences under the relevant sections of the RPC, following which the chargesheet was presented before the competent court for judicial determination.

# Youm-e-Khawaja Ajmeri Observed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Aab-e-Rawan, in collaboration with the Ehsaas Foundation and the Reroot Foundation of India Saturday organised Youm-e-Khawaja Ajmeri, a spiritually enriching and culturally significant gathering at Bait-ul-Meerat, Aali Kadal.

The programme featured a Mehfil-e-Mushaira and a Mehfil-e-Sama, celebrating the timeless message of love, peace, harmony, and

humanity as preached by the great Sufi saint Hazrat Khawaja Garib Nawaz (RA).

In a statement issued, the event resonated with soulful poetic recitations and devotional performances, reflecting the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of the region.

Mantasha Rashid, KAS, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Speaking on the occasion, she highlighted the enduring relevance of Khawaja Garib Nawaz's teachings, emphasising their role in

promoting communal harmony, compassion, and mutual respect in today's society.

The gathering was attended by renowned scholars, poets, artists and a large number of people from different walks of life. Participants paid rich tributes to the legacy of Khawaja Garib Nawaz (RA).

The organizers said that such programmes aim to strengthen social unity and keep alive the spiritual traditions that inspire harmony and humanity.

# SMC organises AI-Robot-Based Dental Screening Camp

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) organised a comprehensive AI-Robot-based Dental Screening Camp at its Head Office, Karan Nagar, in collaboration with "Safe Hands Dental Center"

Baghat, Srinagar, as part of its continued commitment to employee welfare and preventive healthcare.

The camp was inaugurated by the Commissioner, SMC, Faz Lul Haseeb, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers and staff across various wings of

the Corporation.

The initiative aimed to promote oral hygiene awareness, facilitate early detection of dental ailments, and encourage preventive healthcare practices, with special emphasis on sanitation workers and frontline staff.

**ROYAL SPRINGS GOLF COURSE CHESHMAHAHI SRINAGAR**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**EXTENSION NOTICE**

Sub: - Procurement of Spray Tank System at Royal Springs Golf Course, Srinagar under SASCI-I 2025-26.

Ref: - E-NIT NO. 49 of 2025-26 dated 19-12-2025 of RSGC  
Tender Id No:- 2025\_Tourm\_298650\_1

Please read the following details mentioned in e- Nit:

The bid submission End Date is Extended upto 02-01-2026 upto 3:00 PM.  
The date and timing of opening of Bid is extended upto 03-01-2026 10:00 AM.

Terms and Conditions:  
1. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per E-NIT.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Royal Springs Golf Course  
Srinagar

No: RSGC/EE/2025-26/710-13  
DIPK-NB-2855/25 Dated:- 27/12/2025

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir  
**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL**  
**GOVT. COLLEGE FOR WOMEN M.A ROAD SRINAGAR**  
NAAC Accredited Grade B+

Constituent College of Cluster University, Srinagar Pin 190001  
https://www.gcwmaroad.edu.in principal@gcwmaroad.edu.in 0194 2479432  
No: GCWMAR/2025/4591 dated: 26-12-2025

**NOTICE**

All the concerned who have completed Graduation/Post- graduation from Government College for Women MA Road Srinagar since 2015 and are currently appointed/employed in any Government, Semi-Government, Autonomous, Private Organization, or are Self-Employed, are hereby requested to visit below mentioned college website and submit the required information regarding the employment details needed by the college for official and institutional records. The concerned are also requested to register themselves as Alumni of the college.

For the needful kindly visit the college website: <https://www.gcwmaroad.edu.in>

Principal  
Govt. College for Women  
MA Road, Srinagar. **DIPK-9414/25 dated: 27-12-2025**

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

**AIRPORTS**  
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

**RAILWAYS**  
SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259  
ANANTNAG: 01932-228243  
BARAMULLA: 0194-102029  
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**  
07 Rajab  
1447

**PRAYERS**  
FAJR 6: 06  
ZUHR 12:32  
ASR 3: 51  
Magrib 5:33  
ISHA 6: 58

**This Day In History**

- 418- St Boniface I begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 457- Roman armies proclaim Majorian Emperor of the Western Roman Empire
- 801- Louis the Vrome occupies Barcelona
- 1065- New church devoted to St Peter the Apostle built by Edward the Confessor - later called the 'west minister' consecrated in London (rebuilt mid 13th century)
- 1308 - The reign of Emperor Hanazono, Emperor of Japan, begins
- 1612 - First observation of Neptune - Galileo observes and records a "fixed star" without realising it is a planet
- 1614 Sperm whale beached at Noordwijk
- 1732 - 1st known ad for "Poor Richard's Almanack" (Pennsylvania Gazette)
- 1781 - Comte de Rochambeau and Nicolas Luckner are the last generals to be made Marshal of France by Louis XVI before the Revolution
- 1828 - 6.8 earthquake strikes Echigo Japan, 30,000 killed
- 1832 - John C. Calhoun becomes 1st VP to resign (differences with President Jackson)
- 1877 - John Stevens, applies for a patent for his flour rolling mill.
- 1904 - 1st daily wireless weather forecasts published (London).
- 1908 - Earthquake strikes Messina, Italy, killing nearly 80,000.
- 1914 - Turks are repulsed by the Russians after fighting in Armenia for weeks.
- 1926 - Imperial Airways begins England-India mail & passenger service.
- 1948 - US announced a study to launch an Earth satellite.
- 1950 - Chinese troops cross 38th Parallel, into South Korea.
- 1957 - USSR performs atmospheric nuclear test.
- 1962 - UN troops occupies Elizabethstad Katanga.
- 1968 - Israeli assault on Beirut Airport.
- 1970 - Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) adopts constitution.
- 1973 - US President Nixon signs Endangered Species Act into law.
- 1973 - Comet Kohoutek at perihelion.
- 1974 - 6.3 earthquake strikes Pakistan: 5200 killed.
- 1975 - Earthquake in Pakistan, 4,000 die.
- 1983 - US say they will leave UNESCO on Dec 31, 1984.
- 1985 - Warring Lebanese Muslim & Christian leaders sign peace agreement.
- 2001 - OPEC oil ministers meeting in Cairo agree to reduce their crude oil output quotas by a combined 1.5 million barrels per day.
- 2007 - Nepal declared a federal democratic Republic by interim parliament, abolishing the monarchy.
- 2009 - 43 people die in a suicide bombing in Karachi, Pakistan, where Shia Muslims were observing the Day of Ashura.
- 2013 - Early signs of Ebola epidemic: 2 year old child in Guinea dies of an unidentified haemorrhagic fever; mother, sister and grandmother soon follow.
- 2014 - Indonesia AirAsia Flight QZ8501 crashes in bad weather in the Java Sea, killing all 162 people on board.
- 2015 - Japan and South Korea reach agreement over WWII "comfort women", Japan apologies and pays 1bn yen compensation.
- 2017 - Iranian woman Vida Mohaved arrested for protesting against policy of compulsory hijab, sparking other protests
- 2017- Protests in Mashhad, Iran against price rises and corruption
- 2018- British New Year's honours list include Knights for author Philip Pullman and comedian Michael Palin, a Dame for Twiggy and a Order of the Companions of Honour for Margaret Atwood
- 2018- UFC bantamweight champion Amanda Nunes of Brazil moves up in weight and KO's dominant featherweight Cris "Cyborg" Justino just 51 seconds into the opening round at the Forum, Inglewood, CA; first female to win UFC titles in multiple weight classes
- 2019- Al-Shabaab sets off a truck bomb in Mogadishu, Somalia, killing at least 84 people and wounding over 150

## KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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### KO VIEW

## The Decline of Muslim Science

From Baghdad's House of Wisdom to modern classrooms, the decline was a choice, and it can be reversed.

Tawheed Parvaiz Bhat

There was a time when the Muslim world stood at the centre of global knowledge.

Between the 8th and 14th centuries, cities like Baghdad, Cordoba and Cairo shaped the intellectual direction of humanity. Science, philosophy, medicine, astronomy and mathematics flourished together.

This period, often called the Golden Age of Islam, was the result of a culture that valued reason, inquiry and learning as acts of faith.

At a time when much of Europe struggled with intellectual stagnation, Muslim scholars were translating, testing and expanding knowledge from Greek, Persian, Indian and Roman sources. Institutions like the Bayt al Hikmah, the House of Wisdom in Baghdad, became magnets for thinkers from across the world. Knowledge was questioned, refined and pushed forward.

This spirit produced towering figures. Al Khwarizmi laid the foundations of algebra. Ibn Sina reshaped medicine through Al Qanun, a text that guided doctors for centuries. Al Biruni made major advances in astronomy and geography. Ibn al Haytham pioneered experimental physics and optics by insisting on observation and evidence.

Their methods were strikingly modern. They relied on reason, experimentation and careful study of the natural world.

Religion was a fuel to this work. The Qur'an repeatedly urges people to observe nature and reflect on creation. "Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and the earth and the alternation of night and day are signs for people of understanding."

For early Muslim scholars, studying the universe was a way of understanding divine order. Science was tied to ethics and human welfare.

But this remarkable civilisation did not sustain its momentum. The decline of Muslim scientific leadership was slow and complex, but it was real. One major reason was the weakening of critical thinking.

Independent reasoning, known as ijtehad, gradually gave way to blind imitation or taqlid. Questioning, once celebrated, began to be viewed with suspicion.

Political turmoil deepened the damage. Continuous internal conflicts drained resources and stability.

The Mongol invasion of Baghdad in 1258 was especially devastating. Libraries were destroyed, scholars killed and institutions reduced to ruins. Knowledge transmission was broken, and with it, intellectual confidence.

Another turning point came when science drifted away from everyday religious and social life.

Scientific inquiry began to be seen as secondary to ritual practice. At the same time, Europe absorbed Muslim scientific texts, translated them into Latin and built upon them.

This process helped spark the Renaissance and the Scientific Revolution, while the Muslim world largely stood still.

In losing this balance, Muslims also lost sight of their own scripture's vision.

Early Muslims were not limited to ritual worship alone. They explored the Qur'an as a guide to understanding the world. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) did not offer a rigid, verse by verse explanation of the Qur'an.

This left space for reflection, research and discovery across generations. "Do they not reflect upon the Qur'an?" asks the text itself.

When the Qur'an spoke of the heavens, scholars studied astronomy. When it spoke of life, they advanced medicine and biology. When it spoke of balance, they examined nature and agriculture.

Over time, however, the Qur'an became confined largely to ritual recitation. The deeper practice of reflection, or tadabbur, weakened.

The connection between revelation and reason faded.

The Qur'an repeatedly calls on humanity to explore the world. "Travel throughout the land and see how He originated the creation." It points to stages of human development, the balance of nature and signs spread across the universe.

Today, modern science confirms many of these realities through its own methods. This should not create conflict, but responsibility.

That responsibility lies heavily on Muslim societies today.

Religious schools must engage with modern science. Universities should become centres of research and innovation. Doctors should contribute to medical research. Engineers, environmental scientists and technologists should study nature ethically, guided by moral values. "In this are signs for people who reflect," the Qur'an reminds us.

The lesson of history is simple. Civilisations rise through knowledge and decline through ignorance.

Islam never opposed science. It encouraged curiosity, learning and discovery. Decline began when these principles were abandoned.

In an age of rapid technological change, revisiting this legacy is about survival and relevance. Educational reform, scientific temper and ethical innovation are the need of the hour.

The story of Muslim scientific brilliance is a mirror for the present and a map for the future.

As works like Kitab al Urooj remind us, nations grow through intellect and fall through its neglect.

The Qur'an remains a guiding book, but it guides only those who reflect, explore and apply its wisdom.

Recovering that spirit may yet help rebuild what was once lost.

The author is a teacher and columnist focused on education, ethics, environment and emerging social challenges in the digital age.

# Ruckus Resurfaces

As the CSC report remains under wraps, Aga Ruhullah issues a stern warning to the elected government amid rising student frustration.

Ummar Jamal

The reservation issue in Jammu and Kashmir has moved beyond quotas and categories. It now reflects the growing powerlessness of the political system.

Over the past year and a half, what started as a policy decision has turned into a long and draining public episode.

Students have been pushed through a loop of raised expectations, delays, long silences, and public posturing, with no clear end in sight.

Instead of a careful, data-based debate on social justice and representation, the issue has turned into a lesson in how governance functions in J&K, with power spread thin, responsibility unclear, and transparency missing.

All this began in March 2024, when the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Rules, 2005 were amended. Through a series of notifications, the Lieutenant Governor's administration increased reservation for Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.

This pushed total reservation in jobs and educational institutions to about 70 percent, leaving barely 30 percent seats under open merit.

The change came as a shock in a region where competitive exams are often the only path to upward mobility.

The concern for many general category students was not reservation, but the way it was expanded. Issues of proportionality and fairness were left unanswered, while opportunities shrank almost overnight.

All this happened with little public consultation or transparency.

As dissatisfaction grew, reservation emerged as a major issue in the 2024 Assembly elections.

Nearly every political party spoke about it, but it was the National Conference that connected with many students by promising to rationalise the reservation policy if it came to power.

That word, "rationalisation," mattered. It pointed to balance rather than rollback, and reform rather than confrontation.

When the NC government finally took charge, many students truly believed relief was coming.

There was a feeling that an elected government would listen more closely to the concerns of the youth.

By the end of 2024, with no steps taken to rationalise the reservation policy, students gathered outside the Chief Minister's residence on Gupkar Road in Srinagar to demand action.

What made the protest stand out was the presence of National Conference Member of Parliament Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, who openly stood with the students.

It was a rare moment, an elected representative publicly siding with protesters against his own party's government.

The images from Gupkar sent a clear message. This was not an opposition-led protest, but a movement driven by student anxiety.

Soon after, the government announced the formation of a Cabinet Sub-Committee to review the reservation policy, giving it six months to submit its report.

For a brief moment, the anger on the streets eased. Students waited, protests slowed, and cautious hope set in that the system was finally listening.

But in Jammu and Kashmir, waiting has often meant seeing promises slowly disappear.



“The reservation debate in Jammu and Kashmir does not need more spectacle. It needs clarity. If those in power fail to see this, the cost will not fall on politicians. It will be paid by a generation of students who are slowly losing faith in a system meant to support them.”

Months passed, but no report was made public. There was no summary, no set of recommendations, and no explanation for the delay.

The same students who had been asked to wait now felt ignored. The feeling of betrayal grew, directed not only at the government but at the political process itself.

Later, the government said the Cabinet Sub-Committee had submitted its report and that the cabinet had approved it. It was then clarified that the file had been sent to the Lieutenant Governor for final approval, as required under Jammu and Kashmir's current administrative setup.

Even at this stage, there was no clarity. Those outside the system had no idea what the report contained. Would open merit increase, and by how much? Which categories would change? What data had been used? There were no answers.

This silence may be the most damaging part of the entire episode.

When students' futures are at stake, uncertainty often hurts more than bad news.

Against this backdrop, Aga Ruhullah has again called for protests on December 28, demanding transparency and action from the government.

On the face of it, the demand is fully legitimate. Students are not asking for favours. They simply want to know what decisions are being made about their futures.

At the same time, questions are being raised about the direction of the protest.

Critics ask why the Chief Minister is being targeted when the file is with the Lieutenant Governor, and why pressure is not being applied where the final authority lies.

These are fair questions. They point to a deeper problem in how governance works in Jammu and Kashmir, where accountability is scattered and responsibility is easy to pass on.

For students, however, these institutional details offer little comfort. What they see is a youth issue being pushed back and forth between offices, while careers remain on hold.

Most painful of all is how a genuine student concern has slowly been reduced to a political tool.

There are a few level-headed voices across party lines who accept that reservation is both necessary and sensitive, and that handling it poorly can damage social trust.

Unfortunately, those voices are often lost amid political point-scoring and symbolic moves.

The reservation debate in Jammu and Kashmir does not need more spectacle. It needs clarity.

If those in power fail to see this, the cost will not fall on politicians. It will be paid by a generation of students who are slowly losing faith in a system meant to support them.

That, perhaps, is what this entire episode shows most clearly.

It is not just a policy failure, but a deeper sense of helplessness within the political order we are living under.

The author is a Kashmir-based columnist and the National President of the J&K Students Association. He writes on education, youth issues, and public policy. He can be reached at umarjama1968@gmail.com.

## Time to Fix Academic Titles

Confusion over who can be called Professor or Dr. may seem small, but in Kashmir colleges and universities, it has become a matter of credibility, clarity, and academic honesty.

Dr. Ashraf Zainabi



manent staff, on contract, or even currently unemployed.

Dr. is tied to individual academic achievement, while Professor is tied to institutional appointment.

Confusing the two collapses the basic structure of academia.

Then there are Mr. and Ms., simple and respectful honorifics.

There is nothing diminishing about them. Globally, teachers without doctoral degrees are addressed this way without insult. Academic dignity, in its true spirit, comes from knowledge, teaching, and conduct rather than from suffixes.

This confusion is rarely malicious in the valley. It often begins as habit: students call all teachers Professor as a sign of respect.

Courtesy turns into convention, con-

“Jammu and Kashmir's universities and the Directorate of Higher Education should issue a simple, written guideline. Nothing long or bureaucratic, just a clear rule: Dr. for those with doctoral degrees. Professor only for those formally appointed or promoted. Others may use Mr. or Ms.”

vention turns into entitlement, and institutional silence lets it continue.

No official circulars clarify the rules. In the absence of guidance, everyone follows what everyone else does.

There is also a deeper reason for this mix-up.

Many teachers here work under contractual, uncertain conditions. Promotions are delayed and career paths unclear. In this environment, titles become emotional compensation.

Being called Professor feels like recognition in a system that often withholds it. But emotional comfort cannot replace academic accuracy.

The consequences matter here.

Students come to believe that clearing NET or earning a PhD makes someone a Professor. The distinction between eligibility, qualification, and rank is lost. Genuine Professors, who have worked decades to reach their position, see their role diluted. Institutions lose credibility when titles don't match official records. And academia, which depends on trust, starts to look careless.

This is not about policing everyday language. People will continue to speak informally. But in official, academic, and public contexts, clarity is essential.

Jammu and Kashmir's universities and the Directorate of Higher Education should issue a simple, written guideline. Nothing long or bureaucratic, just a clear rule: Dr. for those with doctoral degrees. Professor only for those formally appointed or promoted. Others may use Mr. or Ms.

Clarity is fairness. Titles should reflect reality. Academia cannot survive on symbolic shortcuts.

Dr. is earned. Professor is appointed. Respecting this difference is professionalism.

The author is a teacher and researcher based in Gowhar Pora, Chadoora, Budgam, J&K.

# Kashmiri Techies Turn Bicycles into Electric Lifelines

With fuel costs rising and power cuts common, a local startup is converting everyday bicycles into electric vehicles that work for milkmen, students, and daily riders.

Aashiq Hussain Andrabi

Electric mobility is often sold through flashy launches and big-city promises. But in Kashmir, it is showing up in a very different way.

Power cuts are common, petrol is expensive, winters are harsh, and roads are tough on both people and machines.

Here, electric transport is about saving money and getting through the day.

That is why Switch Electric matters right now.

Founded by Aqid Farooq Shah, this startup is building electric mobility and energy solutions from Kashmir itself.

While much of India's EV push focuses on premium scooters and urban buyers, this team started with bicycles.

Milkmen, students, daily workers, and shopkeepers depend on them every day.

The thinking is simple: if electric mobility can work for people who cannot afford delays or breakdowns, it can work anywhere.

In this interview, Kashmir Observer speaks with Aamir Riyaz, who leads deployment and design at Switch Electric. He speaks plainly about cold mornings, broken roads, battery costs, and the hard choices people make before spending a single rupee. There is no startup hype here, only real questions of cost, reliability, and trust.

**You're building Switch Electric in Kashmir, where power cuts are normal and jugaad is often the default solution. What made you feel this was the right place to start an electric mobility company? Was there a moment when it all clicked?**

Honestly, it was not some big "startup dream" moment. It just felt practical. Electricity goes off often in the valley, petrol is expensive, roads are rough, but life still goes on. People still have to reach work, school, markets. We grow up learning how to manage with limited resources. That way of thinking shaped us.

Our founder likes experimenting with things. One day, he ordered a small electric kit online and fitted it onto his bicycle. When he rode it around, people kept stopping him. They wanted to know what it was, how much it cost, and whether they could get one.

That reaction said a lot. It showed us there was a real demand for simple, affordable electric cycles.

So we started with bicycles because that's what people here already use. Milkmen, students, daily workers depend on them.

Jugaad gave us the first idea, but our aim was never to make something weak or temporary. We want to build products that are reliable and actually help people.

**Kashmir has its own character: long winters, uneven terrain, and limited infrastructure. How do you design for these realities?**



**BIG CITIES OFFER EASIER SETUPS AND MORE FUNDING, BUT BUILDING HERE FEELS MORE MEANINGFUL.** This is home. Our families are here. We understand these problems deeply. If we can solve them in a place as challenging as Kashmir, we can solve them anywhere. For me, it's about responsibility. Instead of asking what Kashmir can give us, we ask what we can give back. This work is bigger than electric cycles. It's about showing that places like Kashmir can create valuable, practical solutions when people choose to stay and build with care.

**Can your kits survive a Srinagar winter or a steep climb towards Gulmarg?**

Kashmir is not an easy place for machines. Winters are cold, roads have potholes, there's water, mud, sometimes snow. We designed our kits with all of this in mind. The motor is sealed so water doesn't enter. The battery is protected. Components are chosen to handle cold and damp conditions.

We haven't done a full Gulmarg climb yet, but in Srinagar, the kits work daily, even on bad roads and during light snow. For people who carry heavy loads or ride steeper routes, like milkmen, we offer more powerful options.

The idea is simple: whether someone rides short distances in the city or tougher routes with weight, the kit should work safely and consistently.

**You often mention milkmen, students, daily wage workers, farmers. Did you actually speak to them, or was this based on research papers and reports? What did they tell you?**

We spoke directly to people. Reports don't tell you everything. We focused on people who ride cycles

because they have no choice. Milkmen with heavy cans, workers going to job sites, students riding long distances, shopkeepers, farmers.

We spoke to more than a hundred people. Some on the road, some who contacted us after seeing our posts. Almost everyone said the same thing. Ready-made electric cycles are either too expensive or not built for local conditions. Many didn't even know that legal, license-free conversion kits exist.

Price was the biggest concern. At around ₹11,000, our kit is still expensive for many. So we are constantly working on better design and sourcing to bring the cost down.

My own milkman laughed when I told him about it. He said it wouldn't work here. But a shopkeeper who rides every day got excited and said if the price comes down to ₹8,000, he would buy it immediately. Conversations like these keep us grounded.

**Where does your kit sit financially between a normal bicycle and a ready-made electric cycle? Why should someone trust it's worth the money?**

A regular bicycle costs anywhere

between ₹3,000 and ₹10,000. A decent electric cycle usually starts from ₹25,000 and can go up to ₹50,000. Cheaper electric cycles often don't last long, especially the batteries.

Our kit starts at around ₹11,000. You keep your existing cycle, one you already trust, and convert it into an electric one. Performance-wise, it's similar to an entry-level electric cycle.

It also allows flexibility. You can add a carrier, transport groceries, milk cans, or tools. For many users, it can replace a petrol scooter for daily needs.

We keep costs down by making our own batteries, designing specifically for local use, and avoiding unnecessary features. We also provide a one-year warranty on batteries and key components. That reassurance matters here.

**You describe the kit as "plug and play." If I bring you an old Hero cycle, what actually happens? How does the ride change?**

Right now, it's not something you can install yourself in minutes, but we are working towards that. At the moment, you bring your cycle to us or we pick it up. The installation

takes about a week.

We replace the rear wheel with a 250-watt motor, add a throttle, motor-cutoff brakes, lights, a horn, and a pedal-assist sensor. The controller and battery are fitted securely.

You still pedal, but the motor assists you. Riding becomes much easier, especially on slopes or with weight. The typical range is 20 to 35 kilometres, and with a bigger battery, up to 60 kilometres.

Each battery is tested thoroughly and includes a safety system that cuts power if something goes wrong. Our long-term goal is true plug-and-play kits that people can install themselves at home.

**Running a hardware startup in Kashmir isn't easy. What has been the biggest operational challenge so far?**

The hardest part was logistics: delays, transport, and power cuts. Our first model worked, but we kept refining it.

We found a middle path. Some parts come from outside Kashmir, but we try to build and assemble as much as possible locally. We trained local people and planned our work assuming that power or internet might go off anytime.

We don't design for ideal conditions. We design for real Kashmir conditions. That slows things down, but it also makes the product stronger.

**You're now talking about batteries, solar, and a broader energy ecosystem. Why not focus on just one thing and perfect it first?**

We actually started with just one thing: bicycles. But we quickly realised that batteries make up more than 70 percent of the cost of any electric vehicle. Relying on outside suppliers forever didn't make sense.

So we began making our own lithium batteries here. That opened doors to other uses: load carts, scooters, backup power, even drones.

Still, we are careful. Right now, our focus is mainly on cycle kits and batteries. We want to get really good at these before expanding further. The bigger goal is to build strong technical skills in Kashmir.

**Who's behind Switch Electric? What kind of team is building this?**

We're four friends from Kashmir, all studying B.Tech at the University of Kashmir. We work on the startup during evenings and weekends.

Aqid Farooq Shah handles engineering and technical development. Ruman Sajad manages operations, finances, and quality checks. Danish Imtiaz looks after branding and communication. I work on planning, product design, and overall coordination.

There's no strict hierarchy. We test ideas together and decide together. What binds us is the belief that meaningful innovation can come from here.

**E-cycle kits are available online.**

**Why shouldn't someone in Soper just order one of those?**

Online kits often look cheaper, but installing them properly requires good mechanical and electrical knowledge. If done wrong, they can be unsafe or fail quickly.

We provide complete, tested systems. We install them ourselves, adjust them for local roads, and offer real after-sales support. We use our own batteries, and there's accountability if something goes wrong.

We don't just ship a box. We deliver a working solution with local support.

**People in Kashmir are cautious about new technology. How are you building trust?**

Trust takes time here. We focus on reliability and staying accessible. We offer a one-year warranty and quick repair support.

More than 20 people are already using our kits. They tell us it saves fuel money and reduces physical strain. One user, Karim, converted his load cart and now travels daily between Srinagar and Lar with less effort and better earnings.

When people see real results and consistent service, trust spreads naturally.

**Looking ahead, where do you see Switch Electric in two or three years? Do you stay local or expand?**

Kashmir is home, and starting here matters. But if we solve real problems well, growth will come naturally.

For now, our focus is Srinagar and nearby areas. The tough terrain, cold weather, and careful buyers make it the best testing ground. Support for startups is also slowly improving through families, local networks, and schemes.

In a few years, we want strong products and deep trust here. Expansion can come later. We're not chasing fast growth. We're chasing solid work.

We want Kashmir to be seen as a place where serious innovation happens, not just where ideas are consumed.

**You could have built this elsewhere. Why stay and build in Kashmir? What drives you personally?**

Big cities offer easier setups and more funding, but building here feels more meaningful. This is home. Our families are here. We understand these problems deeply.

If we can solve them in a place as challenging as Kashmir, we can solve them anywhere. For me, it's about responsibility. Instead of asking what Kashmir can give us, we ask what we can give back.

This work is bigger than electric cycles. It's about showing that places like Kashmir can create valuable, practical solutions when people choose to stay and build with care.

— The interviewer is a Pulwama-based senior scribe.

# Consent That Hides Control

Families may speak of giving daughters a choice in marriage, while the direction is silently shaped by tradition.

Mir Muntazir

Kashmiri families often speak proudly of allowing daughters to choose their husbands.

Meetings are arranged, conversations are guided, and parents say, "Nothing has been decided without her consent."

On the surface, it appears daughters have a say in their future. But look closer, and the story changes.

Decisions about whom a daughter will marry are often made long before she even meets her future husband. Her meeting is beyond deliberation or choice. It is a performance, a chance to confirm what the family has already decided.

Fathers and other male heads often select husbands based on caste, class, religious background, reputation, and financial stability. The daughter's voice comes last, and her agreement is expected rather than debated.

Patriarchy in Kashmir, as elsewhere, has learned to adapt. It does not need visible force or outright denial of rights. In-

stead, it cloaks control in the language of fairness and choice.

Allowing daughters to meet their future husbands preserves the appearance of freedom while keeping the real power firmly in the hands of the family.

Consent, in these cases, becomes symbolic rather than real.

True consent requires the ability to say yes or no without fear. In many households, a daughter's refusal is seen as stubbornness, immaturity, or lack of understanding.

Parents may remind her of their sacrifices, warn about the difficulty of finding a suitable match, or raise concerns about family honour.

Extended relatives may be called to reinforce that refusing is selfish while accepting is a duty.

In this environment, freedom becomes conditional, shaped by expectations rather than choice.

Decisions never happen in isolation. They are shaped by social structures, norms, and expectations.

Fathers are cast as rational and experienced, daughters as emotional and naive.



By the time the daughter speaks, her ability to choose has already been weakened. Accountability reveals the double standard: if a marriage succeeds, it is credited to the family's foresight. If it fails, blame

falls on the woman.

This arrangement protects patriarchal authority and ensures the system remains intact.

Kashmiri families also face the tension between tradition and modernization. Education,

media exposure, and global conversations about women's rights make outright denial of choice difficult.

To adapt, families redefine what choice means. Daughters may have a say, but only within

limits already approved by the family. Their freedom is carefully circumscribed.

The appearance of choice exists, but real decision-making power does not.

Even when parents act with good intentions, structural inequality persists. Token gestures of consent hide the reality of control while giving the appearance of care and progress.

Marriage continues to regulate women's lives in Kashmir, influencing relationships, property, lineage, and social standing. Even educated and economically active women often find their autonomy curtailed when consent is requested but not respected.

Being told one has a choice while feeling unable to exercise it freely creates doubt, confusion, and inner conflict. Daughters may suppress discomfort, question their own wishes, or convince themselves that agreeing is rational.

Over time, this normalization of silence reinforces the very structures that limit freedom. Sociology helps us understand that such internalization is a

predictable consequence of living within an unequal system.

Daughters should be included in decisions from the very beginning, with their refusals respected without coercion or manipulation. They should be treated as responsible social and moral beings, capable of shaping their own lives.

True choice in marriage has broad social implications, affecting gender equality in society as a whole.

Until families give daughters genuine voice and control, choice in marriage will remain a performance.

Asking a daughter to agree while enforcing a decision is not empowerment.

Words alone cannot create equality. Social frameworks must be established where consent is real, decisions are respected, and freedom is meaningful.

Only then will the promise of choice move beyond a show of progress and become a lived reality.

— The author is a research scholar at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore.

## Steps Underway To Carve Out 5 New Districts In Ladakh

Press Trust Of India

Leh: Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta on Saturday said necessary steps are being taken to put in place the required administrative, infrastructural and human resource frameworks for the smooth implementation of the five new districts in the Union Territory.

He said the long-awaited creation of the new five districts is expected to bring governance closer to the people, improve access to essential services, and address long-standing developmental imbalances in Ladakh's unique and challenging terrain.

On August 25, last year, the Centre had approved five new districts for Ladakh -- Changthang, Zaskar, Nubra, Sham and Drass -- in response to the public demand, taking the total number of districts in the Union Territory to seven.

Interacting with a delegation led by Councillor Cha, Stanzin



Lakpa, who advocated early operationalisation of the new districts, the Gupta said the UT Administration is fully committed to fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Ladakh.

The delegation highlighted that the people of these regions face severe hardships due to vast distances, harsh climatic

conditions and limited administrative outreach.

They emphasised that the establishment of full-fledged districts would strengthen grassroots governance, improve the delivery of public services, enhance disaster response mechanisms, and promote inclusive growth while safeguarding

Ladakh's unique cultural and ecological identity.

"Necessary steps are being taken to put in place the required administrative, infrastructural and human resource frameworks for the smooth implementation of the new districts," Gupta said.

He said the Centre, headed by

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is fully committed to the holistic development of the Union Territory of Ladakh and is sensitive to the aspirations of its people, especially those residing in remote and border areas.

The decision to create five new districts reflects the central government's resolve to strengthen decentralised administration, improve service delivery, and ensure equitable and inclusive development while safeguarding Ladakh's unique cultural, social and ecological identity, he added.

Gupta further reiterated that the creation of new districts is aimed at empowering local communities, ensuring balanced regional development and strengthening border area administration.

He emphasised that stakeholder consultations would continue to ensure that the transition is people-centric and responsive to local needs.

## HC Hears Habeas Corpus Plea Of AAP MLA Mehraj Malik

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Saturday heard a habeas corpus petition of detained Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Mehraj Malik and listed the matter for further hearing on January 29 next year.

Malik, who is president of J&K unit of AAP, was detained under stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) on September 8 and is presently lodged in Kathua jail.

On September 24, Malik filed a habeas corpus petition, challenging his

detention and has claimed Rs 5 crore compensation.

The AAP said in a statement that the habeas corpus petition of Malik was listed before Justice Mohd Yousaf Wani of the high court.

"When the matter was taken up for hearing, senior advocate Rahul Pant, advocates S S Ahmed, M Iqbal Khan, Appu Singh Slathia, M Zulkarnain Chowdhary and Tariq Mughal appeared on behalf of the petitioner," it said.

"The court has heard the matter at length and has listed the matter as item No. 1 on January 29, 2026," the party added.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### Rain, Snow In

recorded a low of 0.2 degrees Celsius, down from 2.6 degrees Celsius, while Rajouri settled at 1.6 degrees Celsius compared to 4.5 degrees Celsius a day earlier.

Ladakh continued to experience intense cold conditions. Leh recorded minus 9.9 degrees Celsius, nearly unchanged from minus 9.8 degrees Celsius, while Kargil recorded minus 9.2 degrees Celsius against minus 9.3 degrees Celsius. Nubra Valley recorded minus 8.8 degrees Celsius compared to minus 6.7 degrees Celsius, while Drass recorded the coldest minimum at minus 18.1 degrees Celsius.

The Meteorological Department said dense to moderate fog was observed at isolated places over the plains of Jammu division, with visibility reducing to 1,200 metres at Jammu and 8,000 metres at Udhampur during morning hours.

The department has forecast a change in weather conditions across Jammu and Kashmir from December 30. Light rain or snowfall is likely at scattered places, while many areas may receive light rain or snow between December 31 and January 1.

A few higher reaches of north and central Kashmir may receive moderate snowfall during this period. On January 2, light rain or snowfall is expected at a few places, followed by generally dry weather from January 3 to January 9, the department said.

#### Curriculum Load

demands of the 21st-century workforce. "Integrate artificial intelligence into teaching, learning and university operations and adopt new technological tools on a priority basis," he said, while also stressing the need to "shift from rote learning to a lifelong, flexible and skill-focused learning model." He called for "strong partnerships with industry and other institutions" and said "the focus must be on experiential learning."

Highlighting the relevance of humanities, he said, "In a world dominated by artificial intelligence, the importance of things that machines cannot provide will increase." He further added that the focus should be on "innovation, research, social service, cutting-edge research and offering solutions to local problems."

Emphasising the role of teachers, the Lieutenant Governor said the teaching community must continuously assess the impact of advances in science, humanities and technology. "Classroom and our teachings must equip students to build better lives, foster inclusive development and create a more enlightened society," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the university for its contribution to higher education and public welfare and congratulated women students for "setting new benchmarks of excellence." He asked the university to provide scientific solutions to challenges faced by Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the context of recent natural calamities. "Research on early warning systems for cloudbursts, landslides and floods must be prioritised," he said, while also calling for studies on sustainable infrastructure and recycling of construction material.

He also directed the university to redesign Dogri and Vedic studies courses to make them more engaging and to prepare a strategy for early completion of the indoor stadium.

Touching upon the role of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, the Lieutenant Governor said it has procured products worth Rs 22 crore from local self-help groups and has been directed to increase procurement from local residents. "All should work together for the common good of the UT of J&K and its people," he said, adding that helipad projects at Katra and Shiv Khori are nearing completion and heli-services may begin by Maha Shivratri.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated a High-End Computing AI and Deep Learning Lab and accommodation for married scholars. A total of 821 degrees were awarded during the convocation, along with medals, prizes and certificates of distinction.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Pragati Kumar presented the university report, while senior officials, academicians, faculty members and students attended the ceremony.

#### Foundation Stone

families in Reasi with modern, prefabricated three-bedroom "Smart Houses" without any burden on the government exchequer.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor had laid foundation stones for 1,869 houses for families affected by Pakistani shelling during Operation

Sindoor and recent natural calamities across eight districts, including Kishtwar, Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur, Ramban, Jammu, Kathua and Samba.

The Lieutenant Governor praised Swami Atma Nambi, President of HRDS India, and the members of the organisation for their selfless contribution. He said that with the support of HRDS India, the administration's vision is to ensure that no family affected by natural calamity remains weak or disadvantaged.

"Houses for affected families are not just walls and roofs but they are the embodiment of dreams and aspirations and the foundation for quality living and personal growth for family members," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Describing the initiative as a replicable development model, he said, "I see this movement as a new revolution and a new model for the country where needy families are being taken care of without involving government money. It gives us a powerful mantra that all should work together for the common good of the UT of J&K and its people."

The project features state-of-the-art, efficient, resilient and technologically advanced Smart Houses, which are scheduled to be completed within six months of the start of construction. Each house will include a dedicated cowshed to support rural livelihoods.

In addition, HRDS India will provide an extensive social security package to beneficiary families, including 15 years of free life insurance and annual health check-ups for all family members. To ensure long-term sustainability, the organisation will also maintain the houses for the next five years.

Reiterating his broader development vision, the Lieutenant Governor said it has been his sincere effort to ensure speedy and all-round development of the entire Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory. "In the past five years, we had integrated physical, social and digital components to create the best infrastructure while prioritizing a people-first approach to provide dynamism to the development of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

LG also highlighted several infrastructure projects initiated in recent years to enhance connectivity and improve the ease of living for people in Reasi district. Addressing long-pending demands, he announced that work on the underground sewerage system for Katra town would commence within the next six months. He said the Master Plan for Katra is in its final stages and efforts are being intensified for the establishment of an inter-modal station.

He lauded the Chief Executive Officer and the entire team of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for their effective response during rescue and relief operations, and outlined several initiatives undertaken by the Board.

The LG said the Board is constructing the Shankaracharya Temple in Katra at a cost of Rs 30 crore to enhance the spiritual landscape and boost local economic opportunities. He said the Board had completed five temples in Reasi last year and is working on another five. Promotion of Sanskrit and Vedic education remains a priority, reflected in a Rs 1.5 crore grant to Kathua's Chudamani Sanskrit Santhan Nyas and continued support to Sanskrit and Ved Pathshalas and Gurukuls.

He added that the Shrine Board has procured products worth Rs 22 crore from local self-help groups in Reasi and surrounding areas and plans to scale this up to Rs 50 crore. The Board has also reconstructed 15 schools damaged in floods and spent Rs 12 crore over the past seven years on the development of villages around the Holy Shrine.

The LG informed that helipads at Katra and Shiv Khori, built at a cost of Rs 27 crore, are in the final stages of construction and will soon be dedicated to pilgrims, along with the re-development of Shiv Khori. An International Museum of the Goddess is also coming up in Katra.

Highlighting pilgrim welfare measures, he said the insurance cover for pilgrims has been increased from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh, while around Rs 4 crore is spent annually on medical treatment of devotees. He also underscored the Shrine Board's commitment to the welfare of Baridar families, noting that assistance has been provided to 777 families for the marriages of their daughters. Under the Kanjak Samridhii Yojana, 565 girls have been given long-term financial security amounting to Rs 9.49 crore, while 154 girls benefited under the Girl Child Adoption Scheme with an outlay of Rs 3.2 crore.

#### Green Nod For

treaty now in abeyance, the Centre has been

pushing ahead with multiple hydropower projects in the Indus basin, including Sawalkote, Ratle, Bursar, Pakal Dul, Kwar, Kiru and Kirthai I and II.

Dulhasti Stage II is an extension of the existing 390 MW Dulhasti Stage I hydroelectric project, which has been operational since 2007 and is run by NHPC.

Under the project plan, water will be diverted from the Stage I power station through a separate tunnel measuring 3,685 metres in length and 8.5 metres in diameter to form a horseshoe-shaped pondage for Stage II. The project includes a surge shaft, a pressure shaft and an underground powerhouse housing two units of 130 MW each, taking the total installed capacity to 260 MW.

The total land requirement for the project has been estimated at 60.3 hectares, including 8.27 hectares of private land from the villages of Benzar and Palmar in Kishtwar district.

Officials said the approval marks a key step toward expanding hydropower capacity in the Chenab basin and strengthening electricity generation infrastructure in the region.

#### If Files Are With

"If the file is with the LG and the government has not spoken to the students, I invite the ministers and MLAs to come join the protest," he said, adding that he himself would protest outside the LG office if the issue remains unaddressed.

He urged the administration to immediately reach out to the students and brief them about the status of the reservation file and the steps taken so far. Ruhullah said there was still time for the government to show empathy by engaging directly with the students.

The MP reiterated that he would not allow students to feel isolated and would stand with them wherever they choose to protest. He said that if officials are unable to reassure students, he is prepared to speak for them and raise the issue at every forum.

Meanwhile, Ruhullah late on Saturday said armed police personnel were deployed outside his residence. "Is this a pre-emptive crackdown to silence a peaceful, pro-student demonstration? If yes, it exposes a disturbing fear of dissent. The authorities owe the public an explanation on what this deployment is for. Our plans for tomorrow stand," he posted on X.

#### Trial Delay Key

that the learned trial court has made tireless efforts to procure attendance of prosecution witnesses to complete the trial for which the trial court deserves appreciation," the Bench said.

According to the prosecution, on July 4, 2012, a complaint was lodged by a woman alleging that her neighbour along with his sons, one of them, Fahad Maqsood Khan, attacked her husband with stones, lathis, bricks and a knife. The injured, G M Shah, later succumbed to his injuries at SKIMS on July 5, 2012. The chargesheet was filed on September 1, 2012.

The Bench noted that Fahad has been in custody for over 13 years, while out of 33 prosecution witnesses, only 29 have been examined so far during the long drawn trial. Despite repeated directions by the trial court and even intervention by the SSP Srinagar to secure the presence of witnesses, the prosecution failed to conclude evidence, the Bench observed.

The remaining witnesses are official and expert witnesses, including police officials, the Court noted.

While courts generally avoid closing prosecution evidence in murder cases to prevent miscarriage of justice, the Bench said, the prosecution cannot use this as a means to indefinitely prolong trials. "In such circumstances, the only course open is to enlarge the under-trial accused on bail," the court held.

Granting bail, the Bench directed that Fahad be released subject to conditions, including furnishing a personal bond with two local sureties of Rs 1 lakh each, surrendering his passport, not leaving J&K without court permission, refraining from tampering with evidence, and appearing before the trial court on every date of hearing.

#### NC MP Sees 'Positive

good things are coming for Jammu and Kashmir before December 31," he said, as per the news agency KNO.

He said an NC delegation raised key issues including restoration of statehood and release of prisoners during its interaction with Amit Shah, after a scheduled meeting with the Prime Minister was postponed. "We have put forward all key concerns, and the response from the

Home Ministry has been positive and assuring," Ramzan said.

Reiterating his party's stand, the NC MP said the demand for restoration of Article 370 remains central to the party's agenda. "Our fight for Article 370 is alive and active. The BJP abrogated it and will not restore it. But governments change and situations change. When a Kashmir-friendly government comes to power at the Centre, the fate of Article 370 will also change," he said.

Ramzan also cautioned against branding Kashmiris as terrorists, saying terrorism is a global phenomenon and not confined to Jammu and Kashmir. "Kashmiris are peace-loving people who have suffered immensely. They should not be stereotyped or targeted in the name of terrorism," he said.

Referring to the public response after the recent Pahalgam attack, he said the atmosphere of unity across the Valley reflected the collective rejection of violence by ordinary citizens. He added that the Home Ministry has already directed chief ministers across the country to ensure that Kashmiris studying or working outside the Valley are not harassed. "It is a welcome move and a sign of positive change," he said.

The NC MP said his party remains committed to safeguarding the dignity and development of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "We will not leave any stone unturned in fulfilling our promises, whether related to governance or larger political issues linked to the identity of our people," he said.

Reacting to Mirwaiz Umar Farooq removing the title of Hurriyat chairman from his social media bio, Ramzan said the Mirwaiz has the right to make personal choices, though those choices may be shaped by prevailing circumstances. "He has a right to live freely, though that right is curtailed in many ways. The decision is his, and he must have considered all aspects before taking it," he said.

Commenting on the current status of the Hurriyat Conference, Ramzan said the organisation has virtually ceased to exist. "Most of its senior leaders are no more, and many who were once associated with it have joined mainstream politics. There is no Hurriyat anywhere now. The change is visible and people are returning to the mainstream," he added.

#### Dal Discourse Confronts

naturally within six months. Mini comic books were also shared, using simple illustrations to explain menstruation, hygiene, nutrition, and self-care.

"The comics are easy to understand," said Farah, a mother of two. "I can read them and explain to my daughters too."

Dr. Rehana Kausar, a gynaecologist at SMHS Hospital in Karan Nagar, spoke to the women and offered guidance on menstrual and reproductive health concerns.

"Many women don't get proper medical advice for issues that can be treated," she said. "Sessions like this give them knowledge and confidence to take care of themselves."

As the day went on, women shared stories of discomfort, lack of access to safe products, and the stigma that often surrounds periods.

Some spoke about using cloth because they were never taught how to manage their periods safely. Others had stopped buying pads because they didn't know which ones were safe.

"This session gave me information and confidence," said Shazia, another participant. "I can now make healthy and safe choices."

Even in Srinagar, the capital of Jammu and Kashmir, many women still lack clear, reliable information about menstrual health.

According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), nearly 60 per cent of women in the region still use cloth during their periods, and only about half of women aged 15 to 24 use sanitary napkins.

Overall, about 74 per cent of women use hygienic methods for menstrual protection, one of the lowest figures in northern India.

Doctors say that lack of awareness and cultural taboos are as big a barrier as access to products.

"Many women feel embarrassment buying pads or do not know how to use them safely, which can lead to infections and other health problems," said Dr. Shazia Shafi, a Srinagar-based gynaecologist.

"In rural areas, girls often miss school during their periods because of these challenges." That itself makes a session like this in the Dal interiors especially important.

#### Ensure Convictions

Deputy Inspectors General of Police,

district Senior Superintendents of Police of the Kashmir Zone, and other senior officers, a police spokesperson said.

At the outset, officers briefed the IGP on the overall crime scenario in their respective jurisdictions and highlighted measures taken to prevent crime and improve the quality of investigations. Detailed discussions were held on cases related to UAPA, terror and terrorism-financing, property attachment in UAPA cases, detentions under the Public Safety Act, NDPS and narco-terror cases, and offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The spokesperson said the meeting also reviewed preventive actions taken by the police, pending inquest proceedings, and efforts to trace and arrest absconders. District SSPs gave detailed presentations on crime prevention measures, registration of FIRs and e-FIRs, the status of investigations, and case disposal in their districts.

IGP Birdi reviewed general crime investigations and appreciated the efforts of district heads in crime prevention. He, however, stressed the need to further strengthen investigation quality and improve conviction rates through better investigation practices, increased use of scientific and forensic tools, and a stronger follow-up system, particularly in narcotics and terror-related cases.

The IGP directed officers to put in place a robust mechanism to ensure timely and effective prosecution in NDPS and UAPA cases to break the narco-criminal and terror ecosystem. Special emphasis was laid on reducing pendency in NDPS cases.

He also reviewed the status of preventive actions and pending inquest proceedings and issued clear directions on crime control, investigation, prosecution, and timely disposal of cases. The directions, the spokesperson said, were aimed at enhancing accountability, improving investigation standards, and ensuring prompt delivery of justice.

Birdi further asked district heads to play a proactive role by personally monitoring crime trends and chairing regular crime review meetings in their respective districts.

#### 'No Winter Lull

35 Pakistani terrorists are currently active in the Jammu region. Sustained counter-terror operations have forced these groups to shift into higher and middle mountain reaches that are largely uninhabited, where they are seeking temporary winter hideouts to evade security forces.

The terrorists are also believed to be attempting to coerce local villagers for shelter and food supplies, though their support among locals and overground workers has significantly declined due to continuous security vigilance in populated belts, sources said.

The Army is leading an integrated counter-terror effort involving Jammu and Kashmir Police, Central Reserve Police Force, Special Operations Group, civil administration, forest guards and village defence guards. Intelligence inputs are being jointly analysed to plan co-ordinated operations and ensure swift action once actionable information is received.

Security forces have launched concurrent operations across valleys, mid-altitude regions and high ridges, followed by sustained surveillance to prevent regrouping or movement. Specially trained winter warfare units have also been deployed, supported by drones, ground sensors and surveillance radars to enhance real-time monitoring and operational precision.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday conducted a mock drill to counter fidayeen or suicide attacks at various police stations and border posts in Kathua district.

The exercise was carried out under the overall supervision of Kathua Senior Superintendent of Police Mohita Sharma at Rajbagh and Hiranagar police stations and seven border police posts along the International Border, a police spokesperson said.

The drill aimed to test operational preparedness, improve agility and sharpen the response of police personnel to any fidayeen attack on police establishments. Personnel were briefed on tactical measures, including the use of dominating heights, effective deployment of heavy firepower and the red alert alarm system installed at police units.

Police personnel were also directed to remain alert with arms and ammunition to ensure quick engagement in case of any hostile attempt. Police said they remain committed to countering cross-border threats and ensuring the safety and security of the people.

# Apple Demand Picks Up as Cold Storage Corridors Open

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Demand for Kashmiri apples has shown a noticeable uptick as fruit stored in the corridors of Controlled Atmosphere (CA) units has started reaching the markets, bringing some relief to growers after a dull main season marked by low prices and weak demand.

Officials from the horticulture and CA storage sector told KNO that at present, mostly the corridor spaces of CA units have been opened.

They said that in normal practice, apples kept in corridors are stored under basic arrangements where fans are installed to circulate air, and the temperature is maintained at a minimum level.

"The main CA chambers, which provide advanced con-



trolled conditions, have not been opened yet," an official said.

He said the opening of the main chambers is expected in the first week of January, which is likely to further increase the supply of apples in the market.

"Once the main chambers are

opened, more produce will be released in a phased manner to avoid market glut," he added.

Growers said that due to poor demand during the peak harvest season, a large number of farmers opted to store their apples in the corridors of CA units instead

of selling at distress prices. "The rates during the main season were very low, and selling then would have meant huge losses. That is why many of us decided to keep our produce in CA corridors where at least basic temperature control is available," said Bashir Ahmad, an apple grower from south Kashmir's Shopian district.

According to traders and growers, the decision has started yielding better results now, with apple prices improving significantly. "Currently, a 15-kg box is fetching around Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,300, depending on the variety and quality. These rates are much better compared to what we were offered during the main season," said a grower from Sopore, adding that the improved demand has given farmers some breathing space.

Growers, however, cautioned that the sustainability of better prices will depend on how smoothly and systematically apples are released from storage units in the coming weeks.

"If the main chambers are opened in a regulated manner, prices may remain stable. But if there is a sudden rush of supply, the market could again season," said Ghulam Nabi, a fruit dealer associated with the fruit Mandi Bijbehara.

With the main CA chambers likely to open in early January, growers are hopeful that demand will remain steady and that they will be able to recover at least part of the losses incurred during the main season. "We are optimistic now, but everything depends on market management and demand outside the Valley," Bashir said.

## Medicines Dumped Near SDH Sopore, Probe Ordered

In a shocking display of negligence, a large quantity of government-supplied medicines was found dumped alongside the road in Sidiq Colony stretch near the Sopore-Kupwara highway, just meters away from the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) here in North Kashmir.

According to the details available, the unexpired medicines were scattered in an area close to residential neighborhoods and coaching institutions.

Block Medical Officer (BMO) Sopore, Dr. Zulfikar told KNO that a probe has been ordered to ascertain the source and responsibility.

He said the dumped medicines match the batch supplied to the hospital, though some do not, prompting scrutiny of the district store keeper and block store keeper. "Investigation has been initiated, action to follow", he added.

The incident sparked widespread outrage on social media after a viral post by local influencer "Junaid Bhat Photographer" showed the dumped medicines, drawing sharp reactions from netizens.

Many labelled it "grave negligence" by health authorities, with several accusing SDH Sopore officials of wasting valuable supplies that could have been distributed to the poor and needy. Others demanded immediate strict action against those responsible, calling for accountability and better oversight in the government's medicine distribution chain. (Observer News Service)

## J&K Police Detains 3 OGWs Under PSA

As part of its sustained efforts to maintain peace and security, J&K Police has detained 3 Over Ground Workers (OGWs) under the provisions of the Public Safety Act (PSA) in Shopian. The detained individuals have been identified as Owais Ahmad Lone resident of Sedow Shopian, Mashooq Ahmad Shah resident of Shahlatoo Shopian, and Subzar Ahmad Gani resident of Check Choland Shopian.

According to a statement issued, the detainees were found repeatedly involved in activities prejudicial to the security of the State. Despite preventive actions and proceedings initiated against them under Sections 170/126 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), they continued to indulge in unlawful activities, thereby posing a serious threat to peace and security in the district.

Considering their continued involvement in such activities, detention orders were obtained from the District Magistrate, Shopian, after completion of all legal formalities. Subsequently, the detainees were taken into custody and lodged at Central Jail Kot Bhalwal, Jammu. (Observer News Service)

## CITU J&K Protests Against 'Anti-Worker' Labour Codes

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), Jammu and Kashmir, on Saturday held a peaceful protest at Sher-i-Kashmir Park here, denouncing the four new labour codes introduced by the Centre as "anti-worker" and "pro-corporate".

Addressing the gathering, CITU J&K Secretary Abdul Rashid Pandit, said that 29 existing labour laws have been merged into four codes, which he alleged have weakened workers' rights and tilted the balance in favour of corporate interests.

"The new codes dilute hard-earned safeguards related to job security, wages, and social protection achieved after decades of struggle," Pandit said. He urged the government to immediately withdraw the laws.

Another CITU leader, Abdul Rashid Najjar, said the new labour regime has curtailed collective bargaining, eased hiring and firing, and undermined trade union rights. "These codes were framed without proper consultation with workers' representatives and are designed to promote informalisation and contract labour," he said. —(KNO)

## Year-End 2025 :

# Over 1.41 Lakh Pilgrims Visited Mata Kheer Bhawani



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A total of 1,41,044 pilgrims paid obeisance at the revered Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple at Tullamulla during January–December 2025, reflecting steady pilgrimage activity throughout the year, official data revealed.

Month-wise figures show that 4,447 pilgrims visited in January, 4,722 in February, 16,094 in March, 22,446 in April, 3,609 in May, 20,678 in June, 30,058 in July, 8,462 in August, 5,031 in September, 7,027 in October, 4,608 in November, and 4,265 pilgrims in December.

The highest footfall was recorded during July, followed by April and June, coinciding with peak pilgrimage and favourable weather conditions.

During the Kheerbawani mela, neces-

sary arrangements related to security, crowd management and basic amenities were ensured during high-density months to facilitate smooth movement of pilgrims and ensure their safety.

Locals lauded the efforts of the administration during major religious events. "During the Mata Kheer Bhawani festival, the District Administration Ganderbal and Ganderbal Police played a commendable role in conducting the mela smoothly and peacefully," Mohammad Naveed, a resident of Tullamulla, told KNO, adding that effective coordination helped devotees perform rituals without inconvenience.

Civil Society Tullamulla has taken the lead in raising these issues in a constructive and responsible manner.

General Secretary Manzoor Wani said the rising pilgrim numbers are a blessing but must be matched with

facilities on the ground. He strongly demanded that Tullamulla be declared a "Tourist Village", saying that would be a key step to ensure planned development, improved infrastructure, and economic opportunities for local residents.

Wani urged the Union and UT governments to speed up road widening and connectivity projects, saying such works would give a big boost to spiritual tourism and benefit the entire region.

The government has already shown positive intent. The construction of a G+2 Yatri Niwas at the shrine site is underway and is expected to accommodate around 1,000 pilgrims at a time. This project is being seen as a major relief and the first step toward addressing accommodation shortages.

Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, Chief Patron of Civil Society Tullamulla, said they remain committed to the values of patriotism, peace, brotherhood and the welfare of pilgrims.

With record pilgrim footfall, active community support, and visible government response, Tullamulla is emerging as a strong example of how faith, development, and cooperation can move forward together, Bhat said.

"The surge of 2025 is now being viewed not as a challenge, but as an opportunity to transform the area into a well-managed and respected spiritual destination of national importance," he added.

## Blanket Distribution Drive Brings Winter Relief to 1,500 Students



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Reaffirming its commitment to humanitarian service, Orphans in Need India on Tuesday organised its annual Winter Blanket Distribution Programme to provide relief to orphaned and underprivileged children during the harsh winter season.

Addressing the media, Chairman of Orphans in Need India, Anish Musa, said that the organisation remains steadfast in its mission to serve orphans and widows and will continue its efforts to support the most vulnerable sections of society. He said such initiatives are aimed at ensuring dignity, care and protection for children facing difficult socio-economic conditions.

The programme was held in the presence of BJP MLA Surinder Kumar, who attended the event as the Chief Guest. During the drive, winter blankets were distributed among 1,500 students, offering much-needed protection against extreme cold.

The event witnessed active participation from so-

cial workers, volunteers and members of Child Welfare Committees from various districts, reflecting strong community involvement in child welfare initiatives.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Surinder Kumar appreciated the tireless efforts of Orphans in Need India, stating that the organisation works round the clock with dedication to bring smiles to the faces of orphaned children and to safeguard their welfare and dignity. He emphasised that such initiatives play a crucial role in strengthening social responsibility and promoting collective compassion.

On the occasion, Orphans in Need India honoured MLA Surinder Kumar in recognition of his support and contribution towards the welfare of orphaned and underprivileged children.

Also present were Khurshid Naqati, Co-Convenor, Health and Medical Education, and Mr. Idrees Lanker, who lauded the initiative and underlined the importance of collective efforts in ensuring the well-being of children.

## Jhelum Stretch in Sopore Buried Under Piles of Waste



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A dried section of the river Jhelum in Sopore has turned into a massive waste pit, with heaps of plastic crates, polythene and mixed garbage dumped into the riverbed. This has triggered severe outrage among residents who accuse the Municipal Council of looking the other way despite clear orders against such dumping.

Locals said the area, falling in Ward 15, has been gradually converted into a dumping ground as fishermen and others toss their waste directly into the dried portion, leaving the Jhelum's lifeline choked with filth and an unbearable stench.

They alleged that a section of fishermen routinely throws discarded crates, packaging material and fish waste into the river after sorting their catch, instead of using designated collection points or bins.

Residents recalled that the Municipal Council had in the past issued directions warning of fines and other action against anyone found dumping waste into Jhelum or along its course,

but said those orders remain largely unimplemented on the ground.

"The council put out notices and spoke about penalties, yet not a single habitual offender is seen being fined here; these orders exist only on paper while our river suffers," said a local truffer's body, demanding visible enforcement drives.

It said the constant stink from the "waste site" is driving customers away and eating into their daily earnings. "Customers barely stand for a few minutes outside our shops; the foul odour from the garbage-filled river stretch forces them to leave without buying anything," said Mohammad Shafi, a shopkeeper facing the site.

Chief Executive Officer, MC Sopore, Wali Mohammad, acknowledged the issue, saying the council would take corrective steps.

"We will look into the matter on priority, identify the violators and launch a special sanitation drive to clear the waste along this stretch of the Jhelum," the CEO told KNO. He assured that directions would be issued to the sanitation wing for immediate action.

## Ladakh-Shot War Drama Rekindles Valor of One of India's Bravest Heroes

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Superstar Salman Khan has set the internet on fire with the release of the much-awaited trailer of his upcoming patriotic film, 'Battle of Galwan.'

The trailer, unveiled on his 60th birthday, features the powerful line 'Maut se kya darna, use hi toh aana hai' delivered by Salman Khan in a pivotal moment, encapsulating the courage and sacrifice of Indian soldiers in the 2020 Galwan Valley clash.

The short but gripping teaser showcases Salman in the role of an Indian Army officer, shot in mountain



terrains and high-altitude battle zones highlights intense action sequences and a stirring background score that mirrors the spirit of the nation's defenders.

The trailer's release will evoke strong emotions across Jammu and Kashmir, where the Galwan Valley stands as a symbol of India's bravery.

Salman Khan then arrived in the region to film key sequences for the war drama directed by Apoorva

Lakhia, while the project was described as a heartfelt tribute to the soldiers who laid down their lives in June 2020.

As per details, in the film, Salman Khan portrays Colonel Bikkumalla Santosh Babu, who led his troops with exemplary valour during the clash and was posthumously awarded the Maha Vir Chakra, India's second-highest wartime gallantry honour.

The film's musical side also carries a strong emotional thread.

It was earlier reported that celebrated lyricist Sameer Anjaan has penned a "new youth anthem" for Galwan, a song that cel-

brates the courage and unity of India's young generation.

Anjaan, while speaking in Kashmiri, said the anthem reflects the same humanistic ideals of bravery and belonging that define the film's spirit.

Moreover, produced under the Salman Khan Films banner, Battle of Galwan also stars Chitragada Singh in a pivotal role and is slated for a theatrical release on April 17, 2026.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**DIRECTORATE OF EMPLOYMENT, J&K.**

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**NOTIFICATION**

Whereas, applications were invited for key contractual roles for Business Helpline under Mission YUVA vide this office Advertisement Notification No. 01 of 2025 dated 25.10.2025; and

Whereas, in response to the said notification, 591 candidates applied for the posts through online mode; and

Whereas, after scrutiny of documents, a provisional merit list along with the list of rejected applications was notified and objections were invited from the candidates vide this office notification no ED/Plan/MISSIONYUVA/3941-44 dated 12.12.2025; and

Whereas, the objections/representations received from the candidates within the stipulated time were examined and disposed of by the Selection Oversight Committee after due scrutiny of records and supporting documents;

Now therefore, after taking into account all valid objections, in partial modification of the earlier notification vide no Diremp/Estt/D-11/2000/II/4188-98 dated 24.12.25, the final list of 31 candidates shortlisted for interview for the contractual positions of Business Helpline under Mission YUVA is hereby notified and placed at Annexure A to this notification.

In addition, a Contingent Merit List (Waiting List) comprising 12 candidates, arranged strictly in order of merit, is notified and placed at Annexure B. The candidates included in Annexure B are hereby informed that they shall remain present at the interview venue on the scheduled date, and shall be permitted to appear for interview only if so directed by the Selection Oversight Committee, in the event of non-reporting of any shortlisted candidate at Annexure A or rejection of candidature of any such candidate due to non-fulfillment of eligibility conditions or deficiency in documents, and only to the extent required.

It is hereby explicitly clarified that mere presence at the interview venue or inclusion in the Contingent Merit List shall not confer any right to be interviewed or appointed, and no claim whatsoever shall lie against the Department in this regard.

The shortlisted candidates are hereby informed that the interview shall be held on 2nd January, 2026 (Friday) at the Directorate of Employment J&K Top Sherkhania, Jammu at 11 am for Jammu based applicants and Directorate of Employment Bemina for Kashmir based applicants.

The candidates shall necessarily attend the interview with all original documents, including but not limited to:

- Educational qualification certificates,
- Experience certificates,
- Proof of date of birth and identity.

It is further notified that experience certificates must be verifiable, and candidates shall be required to produce supporting proof such as pay slips and bank account statements evidencing salary/payment for the claimed period of experience. Failure to produce original and verifiable documents shall render the candidature liable to rejection.

Short-listing or participation in interview shall not confer any right to appointment, and final selection shall remain subject to satisfactory verification of documents and approval of the competent authority.

This notification shall be circulated in the public domain and communicated to the shortlisted candidates through email and SMS.

NO: Diremp/Estt/D-11/2000/II/4199-4209  
Dated: 26.12.2025

DIPK-9412-25  
DT: 27/12/2025  
Sd/-  
Director Employment J&K cum  
Mission Director Mission YUVA J&K

# England End Australia Hoodoo, Win Fourth Ashes Test Thriller

AP

**MELBOURNE:** England ended an 18-match winless streak in Australia and beat the home side by four wickets in the fourth Ashes test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Saturday.

England lost each of the first three tests to allow Australia to retain the Ashes in just 11 days of on-field action at Perth, Brisbane and Adelaide.

But England returned the favour by winning the MCG test Saturday inside two days, similar to Australia's opening win at Perth.

The England winless streak dated to the 2013-14 Ashes series, which Australia won 5-0. Since England convincingly won the 2010-11 Ashes 3-1, England had lost 16 matches and drawn the other two of their 18 tests Down Under over a period of nearly 15 years.



Needing 175 second-innings runs to win and 98 after the tea break, England reached its target at 178-6 to clinch the match and send thousands of its long-suffering but faithful "Barmy Army" fans into frenzied celebration.

England raced to 70-2 off the first 10 overs in its second innings, losing the wickets of Ben

Duckett (34) and Brydon Carse (6). Scott Boland removed Zak Crawley (37) and Jacob Bethell (40), who both made valuable contributions.

Joe Root (15) and captain Ben Stokes (2) fell cheaply before Jamie Smith and Harry Brook guided the visiting side to a morale-boosting win ahead of the

fifth and final test beginning Jan. 4 in Sydney.

Earlier Saturday, England bowled out Australia for 132 in its second innings after lunch on Day 2. On an MCG pitch offering substantial sideways movement for pace bowlers, England successfully chased down a target of 175 to win after 30 wickets had fallen in 4 1-2 sessions.

The dismissal of opener Travis Head (46) was quickly followed by the departures of Usman Khawaja (0) and Alex Carey (4) in the next two overs as Australia slumped from 82-3 to 88-6 in the morning session.

Ben Stokes (3-24) claimed the important wicket of Cameron Green (19) after lunch, caught at second slip, and Brydon Carse sliced through the tail to finish with 4-34.

Australia held an overall lead of 46 Friday after scoring 152, running through England for 110

in a dramatic first day

Josh Tongue claimed a career-best 5-45 to lead England's bowling attack Friday before Michael Neser grabbed 4-45 for Australia.

Cricket Australia chief executive Todd Greenberg said Saturday, "Short tests are bad for business," and said CA would consider a closer role in pitch preparation in the future.

"Historically we have taken a hands-off approach in all of our wicket preparation and allowed the staff and the conditions and those characteristics to be presented," Greenberg told SEN Radio. "But it's hard not to get more involved when you see the impact on the sport, particularly commercially."

The attendance at the MCG on Saturday was 92,045, the second-highest test crowd in Australia, only behind Friday's opening-day crowd of 94,199.

## Who Is Earning What From The Vijay Hazare Trophy



KO Web Desk

**SRINAGAR:** Indian cricket icons Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma are making headlines with their participation in the 2025-26 Vijay Hazare Trophy (VHT). Despite their superstar status, both earn the same match fees as other seasoned domestic players, underlining the egalitarian nature of India's domestic cricket system.

Having featured in over 40 List A matches each, Kohli (Delhi) and Rohit (Mumbai) fall into the highest bracket of the BCCI's domestic pay structure. In the Vijay Hazare Trophy, salaries are determined strictly by experience and matches played—not reputation or market value.

As per BCCI norms, senior players with more than 40 List A appearances earn Rs 60,000 per match day when included in the playing XI, while reserves receive Rs 30,000. Players with 21-40 matches are paid Rs 50,000, and those with up to 20 matches earn Rs 40,000, with lower fees applicable to reserves.

Given the one-day format of the tournament, Kohli and Rohit take home Rs 60,000 per match—a modest sum compared to their Indian Premier League (IPL) earnings or the Rs 6 lakh per ODI they receive from the BCCI. For players of their stature, domestic cricket is more about pride, match practice and staying connected to grassroots cricket than financial reward.

Cricket analysts say the uniform pay structure ensures fairness across domestic competitions and keeps the focus firmly on performance rather than star power. Fans, however, continue to express surprise at how India's biggest names earn the same domestic fees as other veterans—highlighting the unique spirit of Indian domestic cricket.

Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025-26: Salary Structure

Category	Playing XI (per match)	Reserves (per match)
Senior (40+ List A matches)	Rs 60,000	Rs 30,000
Mid-Level (21-40 matches)	Rs 50,000	Rs 25,000
Junior (0-20 matches)	Rs 40,000	Rs 20,000

### Additional Earnings

Apart from match fees, players can supplement their income through:

- **Daily Allowances:** Covering travel, food and accommodation
- **Performance Bonuses:** Man of the Match awards, typically worth Rs 10,000
- **Prize Money:** Shared among teams reaching knockout stages and finals

## Mhatre Named India Captain for U19 WC

Sooryavanshi to lead in preceding SA tour

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** Ayush Mhatre was on Saturday named captain of the 15-member Indian side for the U-19 World Cup to be held in Zimbabwe and Namibia from January 15 to February 6 next year.

However, along with Vihaan Malhotra, Mhatre will miss the preceding assignment to South Africa—a three-match ODI series—due to their respective wrist injuries.

In their absence, batting prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi will captain India on the tour of South Africa where all the three ODIs will be played at Benoni on January 3, 5 and 7. Aaron George will be the vice-captain.

Both Mhatre and Mal-



hotra—who has been named vice captain for the U19 World Cup—will report to the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru for further management of their injuries before joining the Indian team. Sooryavanshi and George have also been

named in the U19 World Cup team.

"Ayush Mhatre and Vihaan Malhotra have sustained wrist injuries and will miss the South Africa tour," the BCCI said in a statement. "The duo will report to the BCCI Centre of Excellence for further management of their injuries and will join the team for the ICC Men's Under-19 World Cup," it added.

The upcoming edition of the ICC Men's U19 World Cup will feature 16 teams divided into four groups, followed by the Super Six stage, semi-finals, and the final in Harare.

Five-time champions India (2000, 2008, 2012, 2018 and 2022) have been placed in Group B alongside New Zealand, USA and Bangladesh.

## Royal Enfield Boosts Grassroots Ice Hockey in Ladakh

Over 800 children across 23 villages to receive structured skating and ice hockey training during the winter season

KO Web Desk

**LEH:** Royal Enfield Social Mission will roll out the 'Learn to Play (LTP) Coaching Programme 2025-26' in Ladakh, continuing its involvement in grassroots ice hockey development in the region. The initiative, part of 'Royal Enfield Ice Hockey Season 3', aims to train more than 800 children aged between 6 and 15 years across 23 villages, expanding from the 10 villages covered last year.

Ice hockey has traditionally been part of Ladakh's winter culture, with frozen lakes and streams serving as natural skating surfaces. The region also hosts one of India's highest skating



rinks, located at an altitude of 3,483 metres. The LTP programme seeks to build on these conditions by providing structured coaching and access to basic training during the winter months.

The season-long pro-

gramme began in November 2025 with a Basic Coaches Training Camp in Dehradun, led by coach Darryl Easson, and is scheduled to conclude in March 2026. During peak winter, eight-day coaching modules will be conducted in participating villages. Training sessions will be led by 24 local coaches who have previously undergone coach development programmes.

The curriculum focuses on skating fundamentals and basic ice hockey skills, with emphasis on balance, coordination and game awareness. Alongside technical training, the programme also aims to promote teamwork and discipline among young participants.

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