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India, Pak Exchange List Of Nuclear Installations

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: In continuing an annual practice that began in 1992, India and Pakistan on Thursday exchanged lists of their nuclear installations that cannot be attacked in the event of hostilities.

The exchange of the details of the nuclear installations covered under a bilateral pact came notwithstanding ties between the two countries remained under deep freeze following the May 7-10 military conflict.

It was done simultaneously through diplomatic channels in New Delhi and Islamabad.

The two sides also exchanged lists of prisoners in each other's custody, with New Delhi urging Islamabad to expedite the release of 167 Indian fishermen and civilian prisoners as they completed their jail-terms. It also sought immediate consular access to the 35 civilian prisoners and fishermen in Pakistan's custody.

The exchange of the list of nuclear installations took place under the provisions of an agreement on the prohibition of attack against nuclear installations and facilities, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

"India and Pakistan today exchanged, through diplomatic channels, simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad, the list of nuclear installations and facilities, covered under the agreement on the prohibition of attack against nuclear installations and facilities between India and Pakistan," the MEA said.

The agreement was signed on December 31, 1988 and came into force on January 27, 1991.

The pact mandates the two countries to inform each other of nuclear | [More on P6](#)

Expedite Release Of Prisoners: India

India on Thursday urged Pakistan to expedite the release and repatriation of 167 Indian fishermen and civilian prisoners in view of completion of their jail terms.

In addition, Pakistan has been asked to provide immediate consular access to the 35 civilian prisoners and fishermen in Pakistan's custody, who are believed to be Indian, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

New Delhi made the request in the context of the exchange of lists of civilian | [More on P6](#)

Snow Delayed, Dry Weather Forecast in Kashmir Till Jan 20

Observer News Service

Srinagar: There is no major Western Disturbance expected to affect the Kashmir region till January 20, although a few feeble systems may bring isolated showers over scattered areas, officials said.

According to the forecast, January 1 is likely to remain generally cloudy, with chances of light rain or snowfall at a few places, mainly over higher reaches of both Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

"From January 2 to January 5, the weather is expected to remain generally dry across the region," he said.

He added that January 6 may see cloudy conditions with the possibility of light snowfall at



isolated places in North and Central Kashmir, while partly cloudy weather is expected from January 7 to January 15. "No major western

disturbance is likely to affect the region till January 20, except for a few weak systems," the MeT official said. The MeT | [More on P6](#)

Mughal Road, Sinthan Top Road Shut

The Mughal Road and Sinthan Top Road connecting Kashmir with the Jammu region were closed for vehicular traffic following snowfall, officials

said. However, the Jammu-Srinagar national highway remained open for vehicular traffic, with commuters advised to prefer travel on the | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir Plains Remain Dry, Snowfall In Higher Reaches

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir ushered in the New Year amid fresh snowfall at popular tourist resorts and higher reaches of the Valley, even as the Meteorological Department forecast a gradual improvement in weather later in the day, officials said on Thursday.

Tourist destinations including Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg received fresh overnight snowfall that continued till Thursday morning, drawing large numbers of visitors. Officials said several higher reaches also witnessed snowfall,

including Tulail Valley in Gurez, Razdan Top in Bandipora, Machil and Sadhna Top in Kupwara, and Zojila Pass.

According to the Jammu and Kashmir Meteorological Department, light to moderate snowfall was recorded over higher reaches during the past 24 to 48 hours, while several low-lying areas received light rain. Sadhna Top and Razdan Top recorded the highest accumulation, with around two feet of snow each. Gurez Valley in Bandipora and Zojila Pass received about one foot of snowfall, | [More on P6](#)

PDD Orders Salary Cuts, Extra Power Curbs In High Loss Areas

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Power Development Department has directed the Jammu and Kashmir power distribution companies to initiate strict action against officials of divisions, sub-divisions and feeders recording high Aggregate Technical and Commercial losses, including salary deductions of up to 50 percent, officials said.

In an official communication, the Power Development Department asked the Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited and the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited to serve show-cause notices to all divisions, sub-divisions and feeders where AT&C losses exceed 40 percent.

The department said action may be initiated for deduction



of up to 50 percent of salary of the concerned officers or officials in such underperforming areas, with due intimation to the administrative department.

Alongside disciplinary measures, the PDD has issued a revised Load Curtailment Plan. Under the new arrangement,

feeders with AT&C losses below 15 percent will face no power cuts. Feeders recording losses between 15 percent and 40 percent will face three hours of power cuts instead of the existing two hours, while those with losses above 40 percent will face six hours of power | [More on P6](#)

Excise Duty On Cigarettes Hiked

New Rates From
Feb 1, 2026

Observer News Service

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry has notified a major revision in excise duty on cigarettes and other tobacco products, with the revised rates set to come into force from February 1, 2026, officials said.

According to a notification issued by the Finance Ministry, an additional excise duty ranging from Rs 2,050 to Rs 8,500 per 1,000 cigarette sticks has been imposed. The revised duty structure varies based on the length and category of cigarettes.

The newly notified excise duty will be levied over and above the existing 40 percent Goods | [More on P6](#)

Centre Releases Rs 944 Cr For Flood-Hit J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Centre has released the first installment of Rs 944 crore for reconstruction and rehabilitation works in flood-affected areas of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Thursday.

The amount has been released against a total sanctioned package of Rs 1,430 crore, approved for rebuilding infrastructure damaged due to floods and cloudburst incidents, including the devastating Kishtwar cloudburst.

Officials said that the sanction for the reconstruction package has been approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs, following assessments of damage in vulnerable and flood-prone areas, particularly in the Jammu region.

The funds will be utilised for the reconstruction of public infrastructure and other

essential facilities in flood-affected localities. Areas prone to recurrent flooding in Jammu will be prioritised to ensure long-term resilience and safety of inhabitants.

The package also covers rehabilitation measures linked to the Kishtwar cloudburst, which had caused extensive damage to roads, buildings and public utilities.

Authorities said the deadline for completion of reconstruction and rehabilitation works under the sanctioned package has been set for August 2026. Implementing agencies have been directed to ensure timely execution and proper utilisation of funds.

Officials added that the release of the first installment will accelerate on-ground works and provide relief to affected communities, while further installments will be released in | [More on P6](#)

JKBOSE Class 10 Results Likely Next Week

Agencies

Srinagar: Education Minister Sakina Itoo Thursday said that the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) will announce the result of annual regular-2025 class 10th examination in the second week of January.

Sakina Itoo said, "Most likely, the results of annual regular exams of 10th standard will be declared in the second week of January."

Itoo further said, "The results of 11th and 12th standard will be declared soon after the class 10th. As of now we have decided to declare the results



of 10th class first followed by other classes."

Pertinently, over 94,000 students had appeared in the annual regular exams of 10th standard

that commenced on November-03 in the Kashmir division.

Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) had set-up 994 examination centers across the Kashmir region.

BOSE had said that 68,804 students enrolled for the annual regular exams of 10th are from ten districts of Kashmir division and 25,224 students are from eight districts of winter zone areas of Jammu division.

Besides, the board had also informed that at least 660 from Kargil and 95 from Leh district were also enrolled for the examinations.

Earlier, | [More on P6](#)

Prof. Makhdoomi Set To Be Chairman JKBOSE

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Prof. Wahid Makhdoomi, Registrar of the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), is set to be appointed Chairman of the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE), sources disclosed.

Sources in the J&K administration said that the cabinet, headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, in its meeting on December 22, 2025, finalized the name of Prof. Wahid Makhdoomi from among three candidates recommended by the search panel constituted by the J&K government.

The cabinet decision was then sent to Lok Bhavan, formerly Raj Bhavan, for approval, which has since given its go-ahead.

According to sources, the government is expected to issue a formal notification



tomorrow regarding the appointment of Makhdoomi as head of BOSE.

A distinguished academician, Makhdoomi has held key academic and administrative positions over the past 35 years. He joined the Higher Education Department in 1991 as an Assistant Professor, then referred to as Lecturer.

He headed the Electronics and Information Technology Department at several prestigious institutions, including Women's | [More on P6](#)

DRDO Weapons Played Decisive Role In Op Sindoor: DM

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The weapon systems developed by the DRDO played a decisive role during Operation Sindoor, serving as a testament to the professionalism and commitment of the organisation towards safeguarding national interests, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday.

During his visit to the DRDO headquarters here on its 68th anniversary, he also said the organisation will play a "crucial role" in the creation of Sudarshan Chakra, and exuded confidence that it will "work wholeheartedly to achieve this goal soon".

Mission Sudarshan Chakra was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in



his Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort in 2025.

"Under this initiative, the DRDO is responsible for equipping our vital installations with an air defence system to ensure complete aerial protection over the next decade. We witnessed the importance of air defence in modern warfare during Operation Sindoor. I am confident | [More on P6](#)

THE RESULTS OF 11TH AND 12TH STANDARD will be declared soon after the class 10th. As of now we have decided to declare the results of 10th class first followed by other classes."

Old Syllabus Scraped For Re-Appear Students

The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education has discontinued the old syllabus that was being followed by failure and re-appear candidates of Classes 10, 11 and 12, officials said.

Under the earlier arrangement, students who had failed or were required to re-appear under the old scheme of studies were granted multiple opportunities to clear their examinations. | [More on P6](#)



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No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Analysis Suggests Common Hair Loss Drug Consumption By Mothers May Pose Risks To Infants

Press Trust Of India

Mothers using minoxidil, a common hair loss drug, could pose a risk of infantile hypertrichosis -- ab-

-- 25 from India. Common symptoms included eyelid oedema (swelling), blurred vision, and central serous chorioretinopathy, in which fluid builds up



normal hair growth over the body, including in areas not typically hairy, a global analysis suggests.

Researchers from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, analysed 2,664 cases of minoxidil-suspected infantile hypertrichosis from around the world, 45 of which involved children aged up to 23 months. Twenty two per cent of the 45 cases were linked to maternal exposure to minoxidil, 44.4 per cent to accidental exposure and 33.3 per cent to unknown causes, according to findings published in the Archives of Dermatological Research journal. Further, 1,669 global cases in the general population involved eye disorders

under the retina and impacts vision. Originally developed as a hypertension medication, minoxidil was later reformulated as treatment for male and female baldness -- it could be directly applied to the affected portion of skin -- due to its hair growth promoting side effect, the researchers said.

However, widespread over-the-counter availability and a lack of regulation raises safety concerns around the use of the hair loss drug, despite proven benefits, they added. Further, despite being recommended against use by pregnant and breastfeeding women, the researchers found cases of infantile hypertrichosis linked to maternal exposure.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed through the medium of this Notice that in the school records of my daughter's Maryam Khan who is presently studying in Class U.K.G. at Little Angels School, Rajbagh, Srinagar, that due to an inadvertent error, the Date of Birth of my daughter was earlier recorded in the school records as 14/08/2017, as per the official and authentic documents (Birth Certificate/other records), the correct Date of Birth of my daughter is 17/08/2019. That I hereby declare that the correct and final Date of Birth of my daughter Maryam Khan is 17/08/2019, and the earlier entry was incorrect. Further, the mother's name of my daughter was earlier recorded as MUSKAN, which was her maiden name after marriage, the correct and legal name of the mother is RUKAYA, and the same is reflected in all official documents. Objections, if any may kindly be conveyed to the concerned authority i.e. Little Angels School, Rajbagh, Srinagar within 07 days from the date of issue of this notice.

jvd

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage (%) Basis from approved and eligible Electric Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/U.T/ Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time and Date of Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1.	Electrification of Prefab Carp Hatchery Unit at Mirzabagh Campus, University of Kashmir.	4.40Lacs	Rs.200/-	8,800/-	02-01-2026 to 22-01-2026 (4:30 PM)	23-01-2026(2:00 PM)	"AAY"

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.kashmiruniversity.net / www.jktenders.gov.in.

Executive Engineer

NIT No: F(E.Tend) (UCD)/KU/39/25
DIPK-NB-2913/25
DATED: 01-01-2026

CAREER HEIGHTS COACHING CLASSES
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FEE STRUCTURE

S.NO	SUBJECT	MEDICAL	NON-MEDICAL
01	PHYSICS	11000	11000
02	CHEMISTRY	11000	11000
03	BIOLOGY	11000	-
04	MATH	-	11000
05	ENGLISH	3000	3000
	TOTAL	36000	36000

FOR 9th & 10th Classes Rs 2000/ Month
FACULTY LIST

NAME	SUBJECT	QUAL	EXP	AADHAR NO
Mr.Hilal Bhat	Physics	MSC.Bed	12	80082139196
Mr.Aalim Wani	Zoology	MSC.Bed	07	508377364078
Mr.Showkat	Botany	Phd Gate Bed	06	30465895216
Mr.Yaqoob	Math	MSC.Bed	15	-
Mr.Hilal Rather	Chemistry	MSC.Bed	10	396278602804

Office of the Executive Engineer, Electric Division- 1st, Srinagar.

Tel No. 0194-2452079 Fax No.0194-2452079

e-TENDER ABREVIATED NOTICE
e-NIT No. 050/EDI, dt: 01.01.2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Electric Division-1st, Srinagar invites online e-bids from registered A-Class Electrical Contractors/firms for as under:

S.No	Particulars	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)
1	3. LT underground cabling in the Premises of Arts Emporium. 4. Feeder panel LT underground cabling in the Premises of Arts Emporium.	12.83

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidder/tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

i)	Date and Time of downloading/ Sale (Start) of Tender Document	01.01.2026; 16:00 Hrs
ii)	Date & Time of Download/ Sale (End) of Tender Document	21.01.2026; 16:00 Hrs
iii)	Date and time of bidding queries/clarifications	01.01.2026; 16:00 Hrs to 03.01.2026; 16:00 Hrs
iv)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	01.01.2026; 16:00 Hrs to 21.01.2026; 16:00 Hrs
v)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	22.01.2026 at 12:00 Hrs
vi)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders
vii)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Electronically on J&K Government e-Procurement System website http://jktenders.gov.in
viii)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs.1000.00 (Rupees One Thousand Only) (Non-refundable) [Treasury Receipt Only]
ix)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (2% of Adv cost)	Rs.25700/= (Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Only)

Sd/-

Executive Engineer
Electric Division 1st, Srinagar

DIPK-NB-2916/25
dated: 01-01-2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT KHAG

Advertisement Notice: No. 03 of 2025
Dated: 30-12-2025

Subject: Advertisement for Recruitment of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project Khag.

Reference: 1-Government order No: 222-JK (SWD) of 2022 dated: 30-11-2022.
2-Government order No: 103-JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28-04-2023.
3-Joint Director Poshan Letter No: MD/POSHAN/47135-46 Dated:- 24-12-2025.
4-District Programme Officer Poshan Budgam Vide No: PO-ICDS / Advt / AWW-H / 01 Dated: 29-12-2025.

Approval has been accorded, vide letter No: 103-JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28.04.2023 for filling up of various vacancies of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centers of POSHAN Project Khag, as per the details given below:

Sr. No.	Name of Project	Name of Post	No. of Post
01	Poshan Project Khag	Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers)	04(Four)
02		Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers)	06(SIX)
Total			10 (Ten)

Applications are invited in the Prescribed Performa in Annexure "A" from the eligible candidates for engagement as Anganwadi Worker and Anganwadi Helper on Honorarium basis for aforementioned posts of Anganwadi Centers. The important dates/details with regard to the posts are as under:

- a) Date of commencement for submission of application 30-12-2025
b) Last date for submission of applications is 18-01-2025

- c) Annexure B- Name of the Post, Location/Ward, Qualification and Criteria for selection
d) Annexure C- Affidavit

ANNEXURE 'A'S.No

FORMAT OF APPLICATION

- Name of POSHAN Project KHAG
- Name of Anganwadi Centre
- Post applied for
- Name of the Candidate
- Father's Name
- Husband's Name
- Residence
- Ward No.
- Address for correspondence,
- Contact No.____
- Date of Birth
- Age as on 01.01.2025,
- Academic Qualification.

Photograph of the applicant duly attested by Gazetted Officer

Sr. No.	Examination passed	Board/University	Year of Passing	Marks Obtained	Total Marks	Percentage

13. Do the candidate belong to Retiring AWW/AWH (YES/NO)
14. Document Attached:

Signature of the Candidate _____
Date: _____

ANNEXURE 'B'

Detail of Vacant Posts (AWW)/(AWH) along with name and location of AWC.

Sr. No.	NAME OF ANGANWADI CENTRE	NAME OF PANCHAYAT/ MUNICIPALITY WARD	NAME OF POST	NO. OF POSTS
1	Badran B Pandaboni	Ward No.11 Badran	Anganwadi Worker	1
2	Kokerbagh F Khatana Mohalla	Ward No. 01 Kokerbagh	Anganwadi Worker	1
3	Habbar Lassipora A	Ward No.01 Habbar Lassipora	Anganwadi Worker	1
4	Trapay A	Ward No. 09 Nagabal	Anganwadi Worker	1
5	Khanpora B	Ward No 04 Khanpora	Anganwadi Helper	1
6	Shugan H Dar Mohalla	Ward No. 01 Sugan B D	Anganwadi Helper	1
7	Khag B Apari Bagh	Ward No. 1 Khag A	Anganwadi Helper	1
8	Sitharan G Doll Mohalla	Ward No 3 Sitharan	Anganwadi Helper	1
9	Sugan A Puchi wala Check	Ward No 2 Sugan B D	Anganwadi Helper	1
10	Habbar Lassipora A	Ward No 1 Habbar Lassipora	Anganwadi Helper	1

Eligibility:

A. For Anganwadi Workers

- The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.
- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible.
- The candidate should be a resident of the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre is situated. Name in the voter list for the ward shall be considered as the proof of residence of the candidate. In case the name of the candidate appears in the voter list along with her parents, then she must provide certificate of being unmarried issued by the concerned Tehsildar. Where ever, there is any dispute

as to residence for any reason, then a residence proof certifying the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered.

c) Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Worker shall be 10+2 and maximum graduation. In case no 10+2 pass candidate is available in the ward, 10+2 pass candidate from the adjoining ward shall be considered which would require prior approval of Mission Director, Mission POSHAN.

ci) In case suitable candidate is not available for adjoining ward, candidate from the nearest ward within the Panchayat can be considered subject to the approval of the Mission Director, Mission POSHAN.

cii) Weightage shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in 10+2 and selection shall be done purely on merit basis and not other criteria to be considered.

ciii) In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.

civ) Candidate with qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered.

d) Anaanwadi Helpers

1. The selection of Helper shall be restricted to the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre is located.

2. Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible.

3. The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.

4. Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Helper shall be matriculation.

5. In case no matriculate candidate available in the ward, candidates with qualification not less than 8th standard shall be considered.

6. The committee shall select the most destitute/needily married woman of the ward as helper from amongst those who fulfil the qualification criteria. In case no married candidate is available, unmarried candidate may be considered.

e) In case eligible candidate is available within the family of retiring AWWs/AWHs, the said candidate shall qualify for additional two percent points.

Document Verification

1) The candidate who is shortlisted for Document verification will be required to appear for Document Verification along with the original documents as well as self-attested Photostat copy of each document as per the Advertisement Notification. The candidate must be in possession of the prescribed academic qualification and other document like Domicile Certificate, on or before the last date of submission of application form.

a) Marks sheet (s)/Diploma/Degree of the qualification prescribed for the post as per Advertisement Notification.

b) Date of Birth/Matriculation Certificate.

c) Domicile Certificate.

d) Unmarried Certificate (where required)

2) Candidates have to bring two passport size recent color photographs and one original Photo ID proof. Photo ID Proof can be:

j) Aadhaar Card

k) Voter ID card.

3) The candidate who are supposed to furnish various certificate issued by or before the prescribed cut-off date, shall be required to produce them at the time of Document Verification or as may be sought by the Committee; in case of failure, the committee shall take necessary decision which shall be final.

ANNEXURE C

All applicants to submit affidavit stating following facts:

7. All Documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law.

8. Maximum qualification is Graduation for vacancy of Anganwadi worker and Class X for and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent.

9. The deponent has read the HR policy no. 222-JK (SWD) of 2022 dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Anganwadi worker/ Anganwadi Helper.

Child Development Project Officer
Poshan Project Khag

No.: CDPO/ICDS/KHG/ POSHAN/Advt./2025/ 749261
DIPK-9549/25
Date: 01-01-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that my name has been wrongly written in the school records as Malik Adnan Fayaz S/o Fayaz Amhad Malik, and my mother's name has been written as Zainab Begum. The correct name is Malik Adnan Fayaz S/o Fayaz Ahmad Malik, and my mother's correct name is Zainab Bano.

The said correction pertains to my records at Spring Dales Public School, Pathhallan. I have applied for correction of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the objection with the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Malik Adnan Fayaz
R/o Pathhallan, Pattan

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my Son's name in his Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No :-5733 5725 4647 has been wrongly mentioned as Mohammad Darahkhzai instead of Mohammad Hasnain S/O.Jaffer Wali Ganie . Now I am applying for its Correction as per Domicile Certificate record . if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period. Jaffer Wali Ganie.



F/O. Mohammad Hasnain fko
R/O:- Khanoo Babagund .Tehsil:-Langate Distt: Kupwar.
Pin Code:- 193302 J&kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my son the name is entered as MAHIR ISLAM while his actual name is MAHIR UL KUMAR. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact DISTRICT HOSPITAL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

REYAZ AHMAD KUMAR
F/o IMAAD AIJAZ KUMAR mcb
R/o MACHIBAGH KARGAM PALACHITHI BUDGAM
CELL. 9906886911

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my son the name is entered as IMAAD UL ISLAM while his actual name is IMAAD AIJAZ KUMAR. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact DISTRICT HOSPITAL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

AIJAZ AHMAD KUMAR
F/o IMAAD AIJAZ KUMAR mcb
R/o MACHIBAGH KARGAM PALACHITHI BUDGAM
CELL. 9906886911

اطلاع عام

برخاس و عام کو بڈ ریڈر اشتہار مطلع کی جاتا ہے کہ مجھے اپنے بچے کی ایک ریورٹ زیر کزن یوسف نے
0206010004772 جو کہ میرے والد کے نام پر یعنی یوسف کو بڈ ریڈر نے اپنے نام پر ہے
۔ اس کو میرے نام پر یعنی غلام کو بڈ ریڈر نے اپنے نام پر کر دیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی
شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر ایک ریورٹ لکھ کر یوسف کو بڈ ریڈر کے دفتر
میں پیش کریں۔ میرا گڈ نئے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
غلام قادر وانی ولد یوسف کو بڈ ریڈر

ساکند بڈ ریڈر کو بڈ ریڈر۔ فون: 8082221633 MCB_

Senior Officials Assess Infrastructure Upgrades at SKIMS

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo along with the Director of Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, Prof. Mohammad Ashraf Ahangar conducted an on-spot review of infrastructure upgradation and developmental requirements of the Institute to further strengthen the healthcare facilities at the major tertiary care hospital of the valley.

Additional Director SKIMS, Zahoor Ahmad Mir, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Intiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B, Medical Superintendent SKIMS, Dr Farooq Jan; Executive Engineer of R&B, Dy SP Traffic, Tehsildar Eidgah, other senior Officers of District Administration and SKIMS were present on the occasion.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner and Director SKIMS held a detailed deliberations with regard to expansion of healthcare

infrastructure of the SKIMS Soura, traffic decongestion measures outside the Institute, demarcation of SKIMS land, enhancing access to SKIMS by way of road widening, land for proposed new OPD block of the institute.

The officers reviewed on the spot various measures aimed at making the Institute campus more patient-friendly. Special focus was laid on expanding the entry and exit points of the main gate to ensure hassle-free movement of patients, attendants and emergency vehicles.

On the occasion, the DC stressed upon the concerned Officers to work out practical and feasible solutions to the issues discussed and directed them to conduct follow-up spot visits within the coming weeks. He assured the SKIMS administration of all possible support from the District Administration to further strengthen healthcare infrastructure and improve patient care and service delivery, with the objective of making SKIMS a patient-friendly campus.



Site Review Conducted at Amira Kadal Heritage Wooden Footbridge

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), Faz Lul Haseeb on Thursday conducted a comprehensive site inspection of the heritage wooden pedestrian footbridge under construction at Amira Kadal to review the progress and quality of works.

The CEO was accompanied by the Chief Engineer, SSCL, Executive Engineers and other senior officers of the Smart City project. During the visit, Haseeb closely examined the pace of execution along with the technical and structural aspects of the project being undertaken on the existing piers of the old bridge.

The inspection covered retrofitting and structural strengthening of the piers, construction of the wooden superstructure, and the progress of all allied components. Emphasis was laid on ensuring that the works conform to approved designs and engineering standards, while retaining the heritage character of the iconic Amira Kadal precinct.

On completion, the footbridge is expected to significantly enhance pedestrian mobility and walkability across the Jhelum River, while preserving the historic essence of the area. The project aims to provide safe and convenient pedestrian access to the Jhelum Riverfront and ensure seamless connectivity with key heritage and commercial hubs, including Goni Khan, Maharaja Bazar and Hari Singh High Street.

pedestrian mobility and walkability across the Jhelum River, while preserving the historic essence of the area. The project aims to provide safe and convenient pedestrian access to the Jhelum Riverfront and ensure seamless connectivity with key heritage and commercial hubs, including Goni Khan, Maharaja Bazar and Hari Singh High Street.

lines, while integrating heritage-sensitive architectural elements in harmony with the historical and cultural landscape of the area.

Officials informed that the project has been envisaged as a strategic urban intervention aimed at promoting pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, revitalising Srinagar's historic core, and enhancing the overall urban environment for residents, traders and visitors.

“The project aims to provide safe and convenient pedestrian access to the Jhelum Riverfront and ensure seamless connectivity with key heritage and commercial hubs, including Goni Khan, Maharaja Bazar and Hari Singh High Street,”

Emphasising quality, safety and timely execution, the CEO directed the Chief Engineer, SSCL, to further accelerate the pace of work and ensure completion of the project within the stipulated timeframe. He also instructed the executing agencies to strictly adhere to approved technical specifications and prescribed time-

environment for residents, traders and visitors.

Expressing satisfaction over the progress achieved so far, the CEO urged all concerned agencies to maintain momentum and ensure the timely delivery of a safe, durable and aesthetically refined public infrastructure asset for the city.

JKPSC Extends Deadline for Gazetted Posts at SKIMS

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission has extended the last date for submission of online application forms for filling up gazetted posts in the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura, under the Health and Medical Education Department.

According to an official notice issued today, the deadline for filing online applications, earlier notified vide Notification No. 14-PSC (DRP) of 2025 dated December 26, 2025, has been extended up to January 15, 2026.

The Commission, however, clarified that the cut-off

date for determination of eligibility conditions shall remain unchanged and will continue to be December 28, 2025.

The notice has been issued for the information of all concerned candidates, enabling those who have not yet applied to submit their applications within the extended time frame.

According to KNT, the recruitment pertains to gazetted posts at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, a premier healthcare and medical education institution in Jammu and Kashmir.

The extension order has been issued by the J&K Public Service Commission under the signature of its Additional Secretary.

Mirwaiz Rasool Shah Remembered

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Prominent social reformer and educationist Mirwaiz Rasool Shah (RA), was remembered here on his 117th death anniversary on Thursday.

Late Mirwaiz is known for his contributions as a scholar,

social reformer and pioneer of modern education in Kashmir.

Mirwaiz Rasool Shah founded Anjuman Nusratul-Islam in 1899, an institution that played a key role in introducing modern education in the Valley during a period marked by widespread illiteracy and social backwardness.

KU's NewGen IEDC Holds Design Thinking Workshop

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The NewGen IEDC, Business Innovation & Incubation Centre, University of Kashmir (KU), organised a two-day immersive workshop on 'Driving Innovation Through Design Thinking' at the Main Campus. It was supported by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, and RUSA 2.0.

The workshop aimed to equip students, innovators, and aspiring entrepreneurs with practical design thinking tools to develop user-centric, scalable, and socially relevant solutions to real-world problems. It followed globally accepted design thinking frameworks, emphasising user empathy, ideation, prototyping, and testing through experiential and collaborative learning.

Addressing the gathering at the valedictory ceremony, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, highlighted the importance of innovation-led learning in higher education and said, "Such initiatives prepare our students to think critically, engage with real-life challenges, and develop solutions that are both creative and responsible. Universities must nurture such spaces where ideas can be tested, refined, and transformed into impact-driven outcomes."

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.

GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR

BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.

E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in Tel./FaxNo:-0194-241285

Extension Notice 2nd.
Of Re-tender Corrigendum 2nd.
(For Sl. 5)

Subject: Construction of Bore Well at Khanday Mohalla/Bhat Mohalla District Anantnag (Block Pahalgam) Panchayat Kullar Bala. Tender ID. 2025_PHE_286326_86

Reference: 1. This office Re-Tender Corrigendum 1st issued vide endorsement No: JS- PHE GWDS/25-26/ Camp./15803-12, dated: 11-12-2025. Bearing Tender ID No. 2025_PHE_286326_86.
2. This office e-NIT No. 40-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./6637-48, dated: 30-08-2025. Bearing Tender ID No. 2025_PHE_286326_5.

Due to "Poor Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 30-12-2025 Up-to 03:00 PM are extended as per the details given below:-

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	12-01-2026 Up-to 03:00 PM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	13-01-2026 01.00 PM

NOTE:
All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt. nos.

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

DIPK-9576/25
dated: 01-01-2026

Kashmir
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EMS- KASHMER/HPVT

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8493800801
8717033301
Kindly cooperate and make it a success!

امبرجنسی طبی سروس
شہر سرینگر (مخصوص علاقوں) کے لیے ایک امبرجنسی صورتحال میں
صفت ایمبولینس کا آغاز

انتہائی تازگی اور فوری طور پر طبی امداد کے مستحق افراد کو خدمت فراہم کی جاتی ہے
امداد کے لیے موصول ہونے والی فون کالز کو ماہرین کے ذریعے جانچنے کے بعد بخیر پور رہنمائی فراہم کی جاتی ہے
بیماری ماہرین کی ٹیم جائے وقوعہ پر پہنچ کر مناسب طبی امداد کی سہولت فراہم کرتے ہیں
مریض کو طبی نگہداشت کے لیے قریبی اسپتال منتقل کیا جاتا ہے

کسی بھی امبرجنسی کے لیے فوری رابطہ کری
8493800801 / 8717033301
براہ کرم اس عوامی خدمت کو کامیاب بنانے کے لیے ہمارا تعاون کیجئے
Kashmiri-American Society for Healthcare, Medical education & Research in collaboration with Help Poor Voluntary Trust

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
PAMPOR: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

PRAYERS

HIJRI
CALENDAR
12 Rajab
1447

FAJR 6: 08
ZUHR 12:34
ASR 3: 53
Magrib 5:35
ISHA 7: 00

This Day In History

- 69 - Roman Lower Rhine army proclaims its commander, Vitellius, Emperor
- 533 - John II begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1235 - Emperor Joseph II orders Jews of Galicia Austria to adopt family names
- Spain
- 1492 - Muhammad XII, the last Emir of Granada, surrenders his city to Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabel I of Castile, ending both the Reconquista and centuries of Muslim rule in the Iberian peninsula
- 1570 Tsar Ivan the Terrible's march to Novgorod begins
- 1585 - Spain & Catholic France sign Saint League of Joinville
- 1602 - Spanish force in Ireland surrender to the English army at Kinsdale
- 1757 - British troops occupy Calcutta India
- 1776 - Austria ends interregation torture
- 1818- The British Institution of Civil Engineers is founded.
- 1839- First photo of the Moon, taken by French photographer Louis Daguerre
- 1863- Battle of Murfreesboro (Stone's River) ends
- 1879- Australian fast bowler Fred Spofforth dismisses 3 English batsmen with consecutive deliveries during the 3rd Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground for Test cricket's first "hat-trick"
- 1879- British battleship Thunder explodes in Gulf of Ismid, 9 die
- 1882- Because of anti-monopoly laws, Standard Oil is organized as a trust
- 1883 - Battle of Boschberg takes place in South Africa as part of the Maphoh War
- 1905 - Elara, a satellite of Jupiter, discovered by Charles Dillon Perrine in San Jose, California
- 1905 - Japanese troops capture Port Arthur from Russia, a blow to national morale and causing further discontent within Russia
- 1905 - American anarcho-syndicalist union known as the Industrial Workers of the World forms
- Invention
- 1913 - Mahatma Gandhi leaves the Tolstoy Farm in Transvaal, South Africa
- 1919 - Lithuania gains independence
- 1941 - World War II: German bombing severely damages the Llandaff Cathedral in Cardiff, Wales
- 1942 - World War II: the 28 nations at war with Axis powers pledge to make no separate peace deals
- 1960 - John Reynolds sets age of solar system at 4,950,000,000 years
- 1979 - Gavaskar gets twin tons for India for the third time (v WI)
- 1984 - Riot in Tunis kills over 100
- 1984 - Major-General Muhammadu Buhari is declared Head of State in Nigeria, following a military coup
- 1985 - Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak reappoints Coptic pope Shenuda III
- 1992 - Test debut of Shane Warne, v India at Sydney
- 1994 - Battles between army & rebellious indians in South Mexico, kill 57

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my passport bearing no H5455024. 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 office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Amin Mir
S/o Ghulam Mohammad Mir FKO
R/o Darul Shadab 374 .Lane no 19 Indra Nagar sonwar srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

The DOB of my daughter, Pakeeza Ayoub, has been wrongly written in her adhaar card as 28-04-2014. While her correct DOB as per Birth records is 28-04-2017. Now I have applied for the correction of the same in School Records as well. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office/School within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohd Ayoub Lone
F/o Pakeeza Ayoub
R/o Kakapora Pulwama RKO

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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KO VIEW

Kashmir's Spoken Past

There was a time when children fell asleep listening to stories about brave kings, clever heroes, and unforgettable characters from the valley's past. These tales filled homes at night and carried young minds far beyond their rooms.

They sparked curiosity, shaped imagination, and passed history from one generation to the next. Through these stories, children learned who they were and where they came from.

Over the years, this habit has slowly vanished. Phones, television, and busy routines have taken over the calm evenings meant for storytelling.

Elders, who hold memories passed down through generations, now rarely find listeners. Young people, in turn, grow up without the stories that once helped shape creative thinking and emotional depth.

This is more than a cultural change. Oral history matters just as much as written history. Many truths live in spoken words that never make it into books. Elders carry memories of events, legends that shaped communities, and stories that reveal the spirit of the valley in ways no document can.

About a decade ago, a small group of scholars in Srinagar tried to respond to this loss. They began recording oral histories, visiting neighbourhoods and villages to collect stories. Their work mattered, but it stayed limited.

Without wider support, these efforts could not grow into something lasting. As a result, many voices remain unheard.

What Kashmir needs now is a shared effort. Families, schools, cultural groups, and institutions must work together to record and protect these stories.

Sitting with elders, listening to them, and saving their words can keep this tradition alive. When these stories enter classrooms, archives, and community spaces, they connect people.

Time matters here. Stories live in people, and people do not stay forever. Each story saved strengthens Kashmir's heritage and gives young people a chance to know their past through living voices.

Oral histories shape identity, keep memory alive, and remind us who we are. All they need is someone willing to listen.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Pension Under Pressure

Years of work can still lead to money worries. Young Kashmiris need to learn from elders to secure their future.

Irshad Mushtaq

Many government employees in Kashmir spend decades serving the public, only to face financial stress when they retire. Even years of dedication can't beat rising expenses and tight savings after retirement.

Expenses have always been high. Children's education, weddings, and helping them start their careers take a big chunk of family income. With fewer government jobs and more competition today, parents support their children for longer. Housing costs and higher education, often pursued outside Kashmir, add even more pressure.

Even those who save often don't invest wisely. Basic savings rarely keep up with inflation. Pensions and gratuities alone can't cover all expenses. Someone may work for thirty years and still worry about money. This should be a warning for younger generations.

The solution is straightforward: plan early. Saving and investing even a portion of your income in ways that grow over time builds a safety net. It reduces stress and prepares you for unexpected costs. Early planning is essential.

Listening to elders also matters. They've faced these challenges and can offer advice you won't find in books. Their experiences teach practical ways to manage money, avoid mistakes, and prepare for the future.

The future is shaped today. For Kashmir's youth, this means understanding changing realities, saving early, investing smartly, and learning from those who've walked the path before.

Doing this can turn retirement into a secure, comfortable phase and lay a strong financial foundation for the next generation.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Why Kashmir Needs Public IVF Now

For many couples in the valley, the desire to have a child comes with fear, debt, and social blame. The state's silence makes the burden heavier.



Dr Fiaz Maqbool Fazili

“The World Health Organization recognises infertility as a disease. Denying affordable care only deepens inequality. The answer is simple: start IVF units in major public hospitals, fund and staff them well, train local teams, ensure transparent pricing, and make infertility care part of routine reproductive health.”

Infertility in Jammu and Kashmir is now a public health problem that scars lives, strains marriages, and damages mental health.

Families drain their savings and carry lasting emotional pain while public health policy looks the other way.

In a society where having children carries deep social meaning, infertility reaches far beyond medicine.

Women bear the heavier share of blame.

Marriages strain, isolation sets in, and anxiety and depression take hold.

Despite this, Jammu and Kashmir still does not have a single government-run IVF or assisted reproductive technology centre.

This absence is striking, especially when private clinics have expanded rapidly in both the valley and Jammu.

The gap shows a clear policy failure.

Public data already signals the scale of the problem. The National Family Health Survey places Jammu and Kashmir's total fertility figure at 1.4, far below replacement level.

Clinicians report that 10 to 15 percent of married couples struggle to conceive, a figure consistent with national trends.

Delayed marriages, environmental exposure, untreated infections, hormonal disorders, obesity, smoking, and prolonged psychosocial stress linked to decades of conflict all play a part.

Still, infertility remains framed as bad luck rather than a medical condition that deserves structured care.

A senior gynaecologist in Srinagar summed up the situation with painful clarity: "With no public facilities, couples sell land, gold, or livestock and travel outside the region for treatment."

Some private centres do good work, but many families cannot afford them.

This is the daily reality in outpatient clinics, even if it never enters policy notes.

The financial burden is severe.

A single IVF cycle in the private sector can cost between eighty thousand and nearly three lakh rupees.

In Srinagar and Jammu, common expenses range from 1.2 to 1.5 lakh per cycle. Procedures such as ICSI push costs higher. Many patients need more than one cycle.

The Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Act of 2021 requires clinic registration but leaves prices untouched. The result is wide fee variation, unclear counselling, inflated promises, and growing public anger.

For families with modest incomes, IVF becomes financially devastating. Treatment stops midway, leaving both debt and heartbreak behind.

What makes this failure harder to defend is the strength of the public system on paper.

Jammu and Kashmir has more than nine government medical colleges and over eighteen hundred government hospitals. Skilled gynaecologists, anaesthetists, pathologists, and laboratory experts graduate each year.

Still, not one public IVF unit exists.

Recently, voices from political and religious spaces have raised the same concern. Leaders from different backgrounds have called infertility a public health issue.

Reproductive care, they say, should not be left entirely to the market. "This shared concern should command attention."

Government-run IVF is not a radical idea. States such as Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu already

run IVF units within public medical colleges.

These centres offer treatment at far lower cost, maintain ethical oversight, and link infertility care with broader maternal health services.

In Jammu and Kashmir, proposals have surfaced before. Plans for IVF units at Lal Ded Hospital and SMGS Hospital were discussed. Training for specialists was proposed. All of it stalled at the implementation stage.

Public IVF would widen access, rein in private pricing, and curb exploitation. It would train local specialists, build reliable data, and restore pride and hope to couples left behind.

But there is still a belief that IVF is an indulgence. That belief is wrong.

The World Health Organization recognises infertility as a disease. Denying affordable care only deepens inequality.

The answer is simple: start IVF units in major public hospitals, fund and staff them well, train local teams, ensure transparent pricing, and make infertility care part of routine reproductive health.

This is about fairness and care.

If the state can build roads and stadiums, it can also help people build families.

The pain is real. The answers are known. What remains is the will to act.

The author is a senior Srinagar-based consultant surgeon and a healthcare policy analyst.

He writes regularly on public health systems, medical ethics, and the need for equitable access to healthcare services.

He can be reached at drfiazfazili@gmail.com.

Letter to Editor

Kashmir Checks the Forecast and Laughs Anyway

Srinagar has stepped into the new year without a single snowflake on the plains, and the joke is clearly on weathermen.

Every year, predictions promise snow, flurries, or something resembling winter. We wait, hope, and check the sky like it owes us an explanation. Most of the time, nothing happens.

The mountains might get a dusting, the hill stations like Gulmarg and Pahalgam might sparkle, but down in the city, the ground remains stubbornly brown.

The funny part is how seriously people used to take forecasts.

In tea shops, on buses, and in WhatsApp groups, the conversation has shifted. Now, forecasts are a source

of jokes, dark laughter, and mockery. "They said ten inches of snow this week," someone says. "I think they meant in their imagination."

Every prediction is an opportunity to laugh at our own disappointment. The forecasters have become accidental comedians in a play that nobody asked for.

Tourists, of course, get a different story. Those heading to the hill stations sometimes find enough snow to Instagram about, while locals in the plains watch through windows, shaking their heads.

The contrast between snow-covered peaks and dry streets makes the situation even more absurd. People talk about it in a mix of disbelief and dark humour. Snow has become a punchline, and fore-

casts the setup.

The language of forecasting is almost performance art. "Snow likely," "Chance of showers," "Possibility of flurries." It is a carefully polite way of admitting failure.

Residents no longer plan their week around the weather. They consult the forecasts to practice sighs, sarcastic chuckles, and mock horror. Some even record the updates and play them to entertain friends.

Climate change might be real, but in Kashmir it adds extra layers to the comedy. Snow that once fell on schedule is now missing in action, while forecasters continue with unwavering confidence.

People no longer expect climate ac-

curacy. They expect comic relief.

The city has developed a shared understanding that weather predictions are mostly a game, and we are the unwilling audience.

In the end, Kashmir's forecasts have turned into a cultural ritual. We may never know when snow will arrive, but we do know that there will always be a story, a laugh, and a gentle despair.

The plains may stay bare, but our ability to mock the weather updates is in full bloom.

Sincerely,

Arshid Mehraj
arshidmehraj90@gmail.com

Lal Chowk, Barfi, and the City of Memory

A stroll through Srinagar's busy streets can carry you far beyond errands. Between shops, spices, and sweets, I found the city of my childhood and the joy my father gave me.

Mushtaq Hurra

I recently stepped into Lal Chowk, Srinagar, with a simple errand, to buy household items, but the streets swallowed me in their energy.

Cars honked, scooters darted past, and people flowed through the narrow lanes like a restless river.

I moved from one shop to another, small stalls and grand stores alike, bargaining, scanning, hunting for the right thing.

Hours passed, but the heritage city's hum kept me moving, alive in its chaos and charm.

By the time I finished, I was tired, hungry, and still half-drained from the cold and lack of rest.

I had skipped lunch, and my stomach reminded me forcefully. I needed a snack, and I needed it quickly.

As I walked, the glitter of shop windows caught my eye. Clothes for children hung neatly on mannequins, soft blankets were rolled against shelves, and expensive outfits shimmered under the light.

I could almost forget my hunger looking at them, and I felt a tug of nostalgia.

Beyond a bustling bazar, Lal Chowk was always a canvas of memory and desire for me, alive with sounds, smells, and motion.

Then I saw Shakti Sweets.

The sight made my mouth water instantly. I entered, and the place was full of people, waiters carrying trays heaped with steaming chhola, puris, and other spicy snacks.

The smell of cardamom, cinnamon, and cumin filled the air.

While I waited for my plate, my eyes fell on the colourful barfi in the display. I was transported back to childhood.

I remembered the first time my father took me to Srinagar. My mother had prepared me carefully the night before, giving me a bath,



oiling my hair, and dressing me in my best clothes. I barely slept.

The next morning, I hurried into my outfit and slipped on my favourite shoes. They were yellow with velcro straps, a Tom and Jerry logo, red laces, and little wiggly patterns

on the sides.

I remember them as clearly as if I had worn them yesterday.

We took a bus into the city. I sat on my father's lap, my head against his chest, as the rickety bus shook over potholes. Dust and smoke

drifted in through the windows. Passengers chatted, laughed, and smoked without concern.

There was warmth radiating from the bus bonnet, and the chatter around me made the journey lively. Even with every jolt, my father's lap



RETURNING TO LAL CHOWK TODAY, THE SIGHTS AND SMELLS BROUGHT THOSE CHILDHOOD

MOMENTS BACK. The bustling streets, the glittering shops, and the aroma of spices and sweets reminded me of the magic of small things. A single square of barfi, a father's hand, and a crowded street are the moments that make a city live in your memory. Lal Chowk is a place where joy, love, and memory meet, and where the spirit of childhood still warms my heart.

felt safe and secure.

We stopped at Batamaloo, not Lal Chowk as I thought. My father smiled when I asked.

We began walking, and he shopped for sweaters, tweed pherans, trousers, plastic shoes, glass bowls, spices, lotus stems, and even sheep trotters.

He bargained skillfully, and each bag felt like a mountain of joy. The shopping wasn't for necessity alone but for delight and happiness. My father had a way of turning ordinary errands into extraordinary memories.

Finally, he led me to Lal Chowk. We entered a confectionery, and I watched as he ordered half a kilogram of white barfi. I grew impatient while he bargained, eager to taste the sweets.

Then he handed me a soft, milky square. It melted on my tongue instantly. The sweetness filled my sens-

es, a taste I had never known before.

That moment, the flavour, the warmth of my father beside me, and the hum of the city became a memory I still carry decades later.

Returning to Lal Chowk today, the sights and smells brought those childhood moments back.

The bustling streets, the glittering shops, and the aroma of spices and sweets reminded me of the magic of small things.

A single square of barfi, a father's hand, and a crowded street are the moments that make a city live in your memory.

Lal Chowk is a place where joy, love, and memory meet, and where the spirit of childhood still warms my heart.

—The author is a teacher and regular columnist from Bandipora. He can be reached at mushtaqhurra143@gmail.com.

Invisible Chains of Valley

Debt, unsafe food, and a broken education system are shaping our lives. The question is simple: who really controls us?

Mahfooz Ahmad Bakshi

I have spent two years studying English literature in college, but the lessons I keep noticing have little to do with books or poems.

The more I look around, the more I feel trapped.

We are living in a world where our choices are controlled by invisible forces: debt, corporations, and systems that decide what we eat and study, and how we work.

I am losing hope fast.

Most of what we buy in stores is packed, seedless, and ready-made. It may seem convenient, but it is a trap.

Seedless and hybrid commercial seeds dominate our food systems, and farmers cannot save or exchange seeds for the next season. They must buy new seeds every year.

Just four multinational corporations, including Bayer, Corteva, Syngenta, and BASF, control more than half of the global proprietary seed market.

Intellectual property laws and patents stop farmers from doing what they have done for thousands of years: saving and replanting seeds.

Hybrid seeds cannot be reused, and the system forces farmers to stay dependent on big corporations.

Meanwhile, food safety is deteriorating.

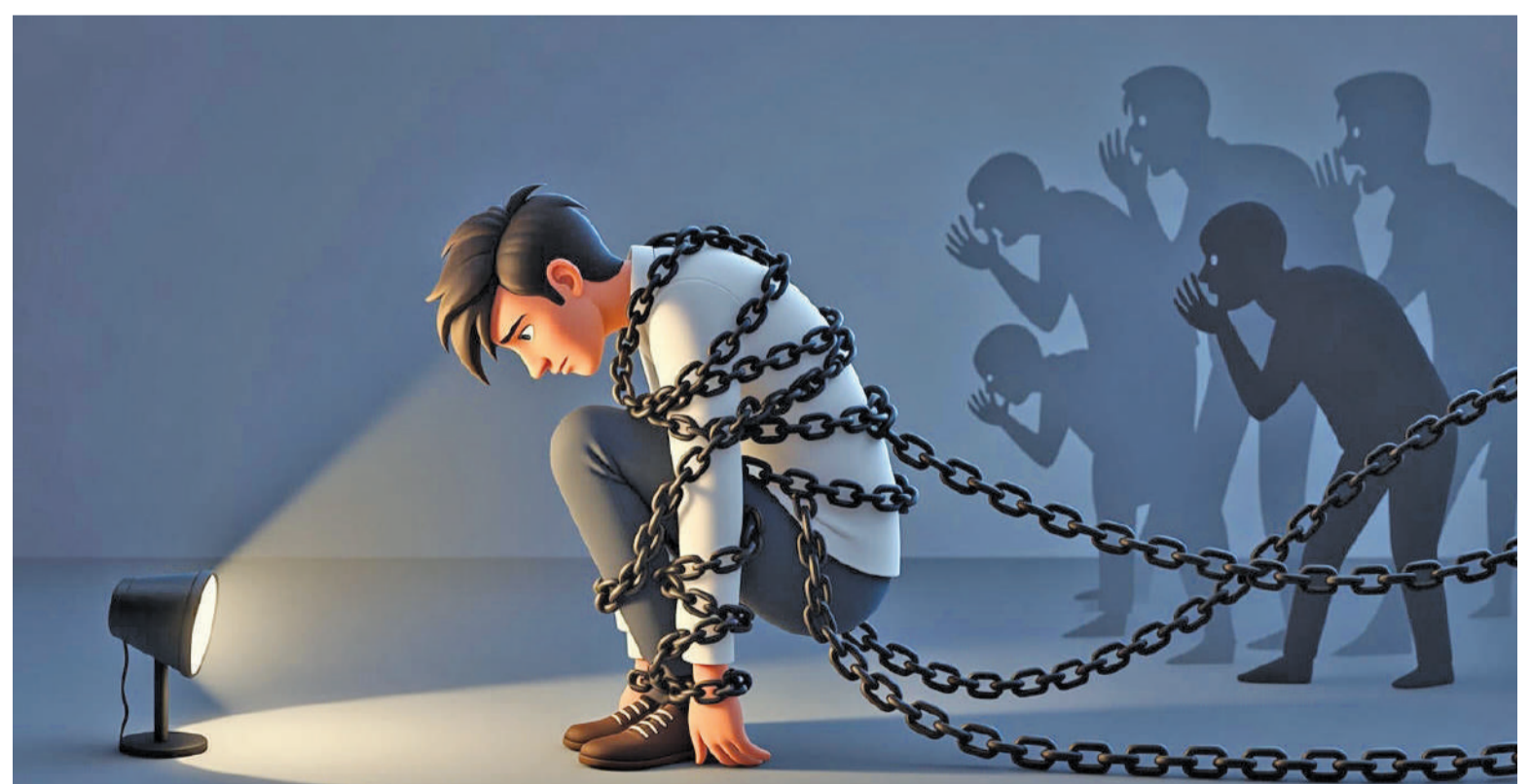
Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir seized more than 12 tonnes of rotten, unlabelled meat in a single crackdown. Between July 31, 2025, and recent months, over 11,600 kilograms of adulterated meat were destroyed.

For years, families may have consumed this unsafe food. And it is not just meat.

Packed, unlabelled, and unsafe food is everywhere. People have stopped growing crops themselves.

Corporate control over food is slowly turning our plates into instruments of dependence. The same grip can be felt on our food for thought.

Ask a student why they study, and most will say it is to get a job in some big company.



They hope for a high salary and stability, but the price is their freedom to think, question, and make their own choices.

I have felt that mindset creeping into my own life.

Many students take education loans just to keep up with expectations. By the time adulthood begins, they are already in debt.

To pay EMIs and bills, they chase jobs, and once they land one, quitting is not an option, even if it costs their time, health, family, and pride.

Employment itself is not the problem, losing independence and identity is.

The Reserve Bank of India reports that outstanding education loans reached ₹123,066 crore by July 2024.

Only about 42.6 percent of graduates are considered employable according to the Graduate Skill Index

2025.

Millions of educated youth are chasing too few jobs. One corporate opening may attract 250 applications. Some listings get thousands in hours.

In one case, a founder reported receiving over 3,000 resumes for a single role in 48 hours, and 12,500 over a month for repeated postings.

Less than three percent of applicants get an interview.

The consequences go beyond unemployment. About seven percent of Indians use illicit narcotics. At a major Hyderabad clinic, drug treatment cases more than doubled from 4,720 in 2023 to 9,832 in 2025.

Corporations benefit from desperate young people willing to work for wages that barely cover basic needs.

Education is no longer a key to success. It is producing workers without

independence, modern slaves in invisible chains.

Meanwhile, we continue to ignore it all.

We celebrate new years, birthdays, festivals, and achievements as if life is only about marking time. The calendar turns, and with it, educated unemployment rises, unsafe food spreads, debt grows, and more young people enter jobs that stifle thought and freedom.

This is part of a larger cycle.

Societies expand, stabilize, decay, collapse, and renew. History shows that civilizations follow recurring spirals. Economies, social structures, and even human behaviour expand until the system becomes unsustainable.

I fear we have reached that point.

The spiral has grown large enough, and the collapse is beginning.

Looking around, I feel ashamed. We are not questioning. Instead, we are distracted, caught in celebrations, social media, and routines while systems grow stronger and our independence weakens.

Debt, food, education, and jobs are shaping us into modern slaves without chains.

This is a call to look closely at the world we live in, to see the invisible chains, and to understand how much of our lives are truly ours.

If the New Year brings anything, let it be awareness.

Let it be a chance to see the systems for what they are before the spiral tightens further.

—The author hails from Ganderbal, and can be reached at bakshimahfooz@gmail.com.



LOOKING AROUND, I FEEL ASHAMED. WE ARE NOT QUESTIONING. Instead, we are distracted, caught in celebrations, social media, and routines while systems grow stronger and our independence weakens. Debt, food, education, and jobs are shaping us into modern slaves without chains. This is a call to look closely at the world we live in, to see the invisible chains, and to understand how much of our lives are truly ours.

ATF Price Cut By 7%; Commercial LPG Rate Up Rs 111 Per Cylinder

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF), or jet fuel, was reduced by 7.3 per cent on Thursday, while commercial LPG rate was raised by Rs 111 per cylinder, as state-owned oil marketing companies implemented their monthly price revisions aligned with global fuel benchmarks.

ATF price in Delhi was cut by Rs 7,353.75 per kilolitre, or 7.3 per cent, to Rs 92,323.02 per kl, according to state-owned fuel retailers.

Commercial LPG rates were hiked by Rs 111 per 19-kg cylinder in line with global benchmarks.

Commenting on the increase in price of commercial LPG cylinders, a statement issued by the Oil Ministry said the price of commercial LPG cylinders is market-determined and linked to international benchmarks.

"Accordingly, revisions in commercial LPG prices reflect movements in global LPG prices and associated costs. The prices of domestic LPG remain unchanged," it added.

India imports about 60 per cent of its LPG requirement, and domestic LPG prices are therefore linked to international prices, with Saudi CP serving as the international benchmark.

While the average Saudi CP rose by about 21 per cent

from USD 385 per tonne in July 2023 to USD 466 per tonne in November 2025, the price of domestic LPG was reduced by about 22 per cent during the same period, from Rs 1,103 in August 2023 to Rs 853 in November 2025," the statement said.

It went on to state that to protect domestic consumers, the effective price of a 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinder, which costs around Rs 950, is available at Rs 853 for non-PMUY domestic consumers in Delhi and Rs 553 for PMUY beneficiaries.

"This reflects a reduction of about 39 per cent in the effective price for PMUY consumers, from Rs 903 in August 2023 to Rs 553 in November 2025, underscoring the Government's focused support to ensure sustained use of clean cooking fuel. There is no change in this pricing," it said.

The number of commercial LPG cylinder users is significantly lower, at around 30 lakh, compared to over 33 crore domestic LPG consumers. Commercial LPG is primarily used by large establishments, such as hotels, restaurants, and other big commercial enterprises, whereas domestic LPG caters to household cooking needs across the country.

The reduction in ATF prices came after three rounds of monthly price hikes. The rate

was last raised by Rs 5,133.75 per kl, or 5.4 per cent, on December 1. Prior to that, prices had risen by about 1 per cent on November 1 and by 3.3 per cent on October 1.

The cut announced on Thursday neutralises more than two-thirds of the price increase that happened since October 1.

The latest reduction is expected to ease pressure on airlines, for which fuel accounts for nearly 40 per cent of operating costs.

No immediate comments could be obtained from the airlines on the impact of the price change.

In Mumbai, the ATF price was revised to Rs 86,352.19 per kl, while prices in Chennai and Kolkata were cut to Rs 95,770 and Rs 95,378.02 per kl, respectively.

Fuel prices vary across cities due to local taxes.

Alongside, the price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder used by hotels and restaurants was hiked by a steep Rs 111 to Rs 1,691.50 in Delhi.

The price increase comes on the back of two rounds of monthly reduction. Prices were last cut by Rs 15.50 per 19-kg cylinder on December 1. Prior to that, the rate was reduced by Rs 5 per cylinder.

Commercial LPG prices are now at their highest level since June last year.

Prices of domestic LPG, used in household kitchens for cooking, remained unchanged at Rs 853 per 14.2-kg cylinder, following a Rs 50 hike in April 2025.

Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum revise ATF and LPG prices on the first day of every month based on international benchmarks and the exchange rate.

While oil prices have moderated over the last one month, winter heating requirements have pushed up LPG rates in global markets.

Petrol and diesel prices continue to remain frozen after a Rs 2 per-litre reduction in March last year; petrol currently costs Rs 94.72 per litre in Delhi and diesel Rs 87.62.

For the financial year 2025-26, the government has approved the continuation of the targeted subsidy of Rs 300 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to nine refills per year for PMUY consumers, with an approved expenditure of Rs 12,000 crore. These measures demonstrate the government's continued focus on ensuring affordable access to clean cooking fuel for households.

"While international LPG prices increased during 2024-25 and continue to remain elevated to shield domestic consumers from global price volatility, the increase in costs was not passed on to

domestic LPG prices, resulting in Rs 40,000 crore losses for Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).

"To address this and ensure uninterrupted supply of domestic LPG at affordable prices, the government has recently approved compensation of Rs 30,000 crore to the OMCs," the statement said.

In addition, at the start of the New Year, there has been positive news for consumers in the clean fuel segment. Prices of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Piped Natural Gas (PNG) have been reduced in select cities with effect from January 1.

This includes downward revisions in PNG prices in parts of the Delhi-NCR region and a reduction of Rs 1 each in CNG and domestic PNG prices announced by gas distribution companies. These reductions follow recent changes in pipeline tariffs and are expected to provide relief to households and vehicle users, while further promoting the adoption of cleaner fuels.

"Overall, while commercial LPG prices reflect international market conditions, the Government has taken consistent and targeted measures to insulate domestic LPG consumers from global price fluctuations, ensure affordability, and promote the use of clean cooking and transport fuels across the country," the statement added.

Zohran Mamdani Sworn-in As New York City's 112th Mayor

Press Trust Of India

New York: Zohran Mamdani was formally sworn in as New York City's 112th Mayor in a private ceremony held just moments into the New Year in an old subway station here.

The 34-year-old Indian-descent Queens state assemblyman became the first South Asian and Muslim elected to helm the largest city in the US.

Mamdani was sworn in at the old City Hall subway station at a private ceremony attended only by his family and close advisers, held around the stroke of midnight as the city ushered in the New Year.

He was sworn in on a Quran as the city's 112th mayor — and its second-youngest — by state Attorney General Letitia James on Thursday morning below City Hall Park in a grand, abandoned old subway stop with his wife, artist Rama Duwaji, by his side.

Hours later, a ceremonial inauguration for Mamdani will be held outside City Hall, the seat of New York City government, on Thursday afternoon where Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont will administer the oath of office to the new Mayor.

Indian-descent Mamdani is the son of renowned filmmaker Mira Nair and Columbia University professor Mahmood Mamdani. He was born and raised in Kampala, Uganda and moved to New York City with his family when he was 7. Mamdani became a naturalised US citizen only recently in 2018. Mamdani had earlier said

that his swearing-in marks the "beginning of a new era for the city that puts working New Yorkers front and centre."

On the choice of the old subway station as the venue for his historic swearing-in, the New York Times quoted Mamdani as saying that when the Old City Hall Station first opened in 1904 — one of New York's 28 original subway stations — "it was a physical monument to a city that dared to be both beautiful and build great things that would transform working people's lives."

"That ambition need not be a memory confined only to our past, nor must it be isolated only to the tunnels beneath City Hall: it will be the purpose of the administration fortunate enough to serve New Yorkers from the building above."

The New York Public Library announced on Wednesday that Mamdani will use a Quran from the collections of the Schomburg Centre for Research in Black Culture to take the oath of office at the midnight swearing-in ceremony on New Year's Eve.

"This marks a significant moment in our city's history, and we are deeply honoured that Mayor-elect Mamdani has chosen to take the oath of office using one of the Library's Qurans," said Anthony W. Marx, President and CEO of The New York Public Library.

"This specific Quran, which Arturo Schomburg preserved for the knowledge and enjoyment of all New Yorkers, symbolises a greater story of inclusion, representation, and civic-mindedness."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Snow Delayed

department advised travellers and transporters to follow traffic and administrative advisories, especially in snowbound areas.

A Weather official said that the absence of strong Western Disturbances means that the prevailing dry and cold conditions are likely to continue. "Night temperatures may remain low, particularly in higher reaches, while daytime temperatures could stay below normal in many areas due to limited solar heating during winter."

"Moderate fog is likely over the plains of Jammu division, with dense fog at isolated places during the next three days, which may affect visibility and road travel," the official warned.

People have been urged to remain cautious and keep track of official weather and traffic updates.

Kashmir Plains

while Sonamarg recorded eight to ten inches. Gulmarg and Chandanwari in Pahalgam received three to four inches and two to three inches of snow respectively, officials said.

A Kashmir Weather official said most parts of the Valley remained generally cloudy, with light rain or snow reported at scattered locations, mainly across hilly areas such as Tulail Valley, Razdan Top, Machil, Sadhna Top and the Sonamarg Drass axis. He said light rain or snow showers may continue in a few areas over the next 12 hours as the trailing part of the prevailing Western Disturbance moves away by evening, leading to gradual improvement in weather conditions.

Officials said a brief spell of light rain or snow may occur at isolated places on Friday. They added that there are no indications of any major Western Disturbance affecting Jammu and Kashmir until at least January 20, though a few weak systems may bring isolated showers over scattered areas.

Despite the fresh snowfall, the Valley continues to experience an unusually warm winter. Night temperatures remained higher than the seasonal average due to cloud cover and stayed above the freezing point at most places. Temperatures across Kashmir have been hovering between 1.2 and 6.3 degrees Celsius above normal, officials said.

On Wednesday night, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 2.2 degrees Celsius, which was 4.6 degrees above the normal for this time of year. Gulmarg remained the coldest place with the mercury settling at minus 5.5 degrees Celsius, while south Kashmir's Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 0.4 degrees Celsius. Qazigund, the gateway town of the Valley, recorded a minimum temperature of 2 degrees Celsius.

Kashmir is currently observing Chilla-e-Kalan, the 40 day period of harsh winter when snowfall is usually most frequent. However, officials noted that the plains of the Valley have not received any snowfall so far this season, marking a departure from normal winter patterns.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Disaster Management Authority said an avalanche with a low danger level is likely above 2,300 metres in Bandipora district over the next 24 hours. Residents and travellers have been advised to avoid avalanche prone areas and strictly follow safety advisories. In case of emergencies, people have been urged to dial 112.

Officials said that despite snowfall in popular tourist destinations, road connectivity has largely remained operational, though travellers have been advised to check weather conditions

and exercise caution while visiting higher altitude regions.

Mughal Road,

highway during daytime in view of the inclement weather.

"The Mughal Road and Sinthan Road are closed due to snow accumulation. People are advised not to travel on these roads till they are fully restored," according to a traffic police advisory.

The twin routes connecting Kashmir Valley's Shopian and Anantnag districts with the Jammu region's Poonch and Kishtwar districts were shut following snowfall at Peer Ki Gali and other areas, including the Sinthan Top belt.

The Jammu-Srinagar highway was open for vehicular traffic, but slow movement was observed due to single-lane traffic at Banihal Nallah, Dewal, Nashri-Dalwas and between Marog and Kishtwari Pather, the advisory said. "Passengers and light motor vehicle operators are advised to prefer travel on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway during daytime. Please avoid night travel as the movement of heavy motor vehicles between the Nashri tunnel and Navyug tunnel may cause inconvenience to commuters," it said.

The Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumari road connecting Kashmir with Ladakh's Kargil district was also closed for vehicular movement due to fresh snow accumulation, officials said.

Police Act

platforms, including encrypted applications. Police said enforcement action will continue and urged the public to strictly comply with the orders in force.

Centre Releases

phases based on progress and compliance with guidelines.

The Centre reiterated its commitment to supporting Jammu and Kashmir in disaster recovery and strengthening infrastructure to mitigate future risks.

Excise Duty

and Services Tax applicable to cigarettes, tobacco and related products. This move is expected to significantly increase the overall tax burden on tobacco consumption.

Officials said the revision aims to strengthen revenue mobilisation while also discouraging the use of tobacco products, citing their serious public health implications. Cigarettes falling under higher length categories are likely to see a sharper increase in retail prices due to steeper excise slabs.

The revised excise duty rates will apply uniformly across the country once implemented from February 1, 2026, as per the notification.

PDD Orders Salary

curtailment instead of four hours, applicable to both Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

The department said the measures aim to improve billing and collection efficiency and reduce overall AT&C losses. It directed the discoms to take steps to raise billing efficiency to 90 per cent and ensure 100 percent bill distribution among both metered and non-metered consumers.

On prepaid smart meters, the PDD asked JPDCL and KPDCCL to maintain proper accounts of energy billed through such meters and ensure installation of prepaid smart meters for all high-load consumers by January 31, 2026. Dedicated teams have also been directed to verify feeder-wise AT&C losses in comparison to input energy and submit detailed reports of high-loss areas.

The department further asked the discoms to constitute teams to verify load agreements in non-metered areas through phone calls and video recordings. In cases where excess load usage is detected, officials have been instructed to revise load agreements on the spot instead of seizing electrical equipment.

The PDD also directed the Jammu and Kashmir Power Corporation Limited to explore additional power banking arrangements with other states for the period from January to March 2026 to help reduce the power purchase bill.

Officials said the steps are part of a broader effort to enforce accountability, rationalise power supply and curb losses across the distribution network.

India, Pak Exchange

installations and facilities to be covered under the agreement on the first of January of every calendar year.

"This is the 35th consecutive exchange of such lists between the two countries, the first one having taken place on January 1, 1992," the MEA said in a brief statement.

The ties between India and Pakistan hit rock bottom after India carried out Operation Sindoor in response to the horrific Pahalgam terror attack.

Though the military confrontation ended on May 10, the relations remained under deep freeze.

The two sides exchange lists of prisoners and fishermen twice a year, on January 1 and July 1, under the provisions of the 2008 Agreement on Consular Access.

India has shared names with details of 391 civil prisoners and 33 fishermen in its custody, who are Pakistani or believed-to-be-Pakistani. Similarly, Pakistan has shared details of 58 civil prisoners and 199 fishermen in its custody, who are Indian or believed-to-be-Indian, according to the MEA.

"The government of India has called for early release and repatriation of civil prisoners, fishermen along with their boats, and missing Indian defence personnel from Pakistan's custody," it said in a statement.

"Pakistan has also been urged to expedite the release and repatriation of 167 Indian fishermen and civil prisoners, who have completed their sentence."

New Delhi has specifically asked Pakistan to ensure the safety, security and welfare of all Indian and believed-to-be-Indian civil prisoners and fishermen, pending their release and repatriation.

"As a result of the sustained efforts by the government of India, 2,661 Indian fishermen and 71 Indian civil prisoners have been repatriated from Pakistan since 2014," the MEA said.

"This includes 500 Indian fishermen and 13 Indian civilian prisoners who have been repatriated from Pakistan since 2023 till date," it added.

Expedite Release

prisoners and fishermen by both the countries as part of a practice to do so on January 1 and July 1 every calendar year under the framework of a 2008 pact.

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JKBOSE Class 10

BOSE Secretary had said that nearly 95,000 students were enrolled to appear for 10th class exams and the board has made 994 exam centers for them. (KNO)

Old Syllabus

However, the Board said that the syllabus has now outlived its validity under existing regulations and no further chances will be provided to appear under the old course.

In a notification issued by the Board, candidates have been advised to prepare according to the new syllabus for the upcoming annual private and bi-annual examinations. These examinations will be held later this year after the conclusion of the summer zone examinations and the declaration of annual results.

The notification, issued well in advance, is aimed at enabling students enrolled under the old scheme to timely switch over to the revised syllabus for appearing in annual private and bi-annual examinations from 2026 onwards.

Board officials noted that the number of students who have still not cleared their examinations under the old scheme of studies is insignificant, and the transition is expected to have a limited impact. —ONS

Prof. Makhdoomi

College M.A. Road, S.P. College, Bemina College, and GDC Baramulla. He also served as Principal of GDC Hadipora (Baramulla) and Gandhi Memorial College, Srinagar.

Makhdoomi further worked at the Central University and also served as Joint Secretary and Director Academics at JKBOSE before joining IUST as Registrar in 2024.

DRDO Weapons

that DRDO will work wholeheartedly to achieve this goal soon," Singh said during a meeting.

The DRDO was set up in 1958 from the amalgamation of the then already functioning Technical Development Establishments (TDEs) of the Indian Army and the Directorate of Technical Development & Production (DTDP) with the Defence Science Organisation (DSO).

It was then a small organisation with 10 establishments or laboratories. Over the years, it has grown multi-directionally in terms of the variety of subject disciplines, number of laboratories, achievements and stature, according to the defence ministry.

Singh called upon the DRDO to continue marching ahead "in sync with the rapidly-evolving technological ecosystem", and keep coming out with products that are relevant to the changing times.

He urged the organisation to continue focusing on innovation and identify more areas

which can enhance the participation of the private sector.

"The weapon systems developed by the DRDO played a decisive role during Operation Sindoor, which serves as a testament to the professionalism and commitment of the organisation towards safeguarding national interests," the defence minister said.

Operation Sindoor was carried out last year in the early hours of May 7 eliminating at least 100 terrorists in response to the horrific Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 innocent civilians.

Commending the DRDO for bolstering India's indigenous capabilities by equipping the armed forces with state-of-the-art technologies and equipment, Singh said its equipment "worked seamlessly" during the operation, boosting the morale of the soldiers.

He praised the DRDO for becoming trust builders along with technology creators, saying it makes people look towards it with hope, certainty, and belief.

Acknowledging the DRDO's collaboration with the private sector, he said the increased engagement with the industry, academia and start-ups has resulted in creation of a synergistic defence ecosystem.

"The DRDO has consistently improved its systems, processes, and working methods. From procurement to project management, from industry engagement to collaborating with start-ups and MSMEs, there is a visible effort to make the work easier, faster, and more reliable," he said.

Appreciating the efforts being made by the DRDO towards developing "deep tech and next-generation technologies", he said, headway in this endeavour will not only increase the nation's capabilities, but also strengthen the defence ecosystem.

Emphasising that the present era is not just of science, but of continuous development and constant learning, Singh said technology scanning, capability assessment, and future readiness are "no longer just words in this changing world".

"The world is changing every day. Technology, innovation, and new warfare domains are rapidly advancing, making yesterday's knowledge obsolete. We must never assume that the learning process has ended. We must continue learning and challenge ourselves, paving the way for the new generation," he said.

During the meeting held on his visit to the DRDO headquarters, Singh was briefed by Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO, Samir V Kamat about the ongoing R&D activities, achievements of the organisation in 2025, various initiatives in promoting industry, start-ups and academia and the roadmap for 2026.

Singh was apprised of the major targets set for 2026 and various reforms that the DRDO is taking for the betterment of the organisation.

"On DRDO Day, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all @DRDO India scientists, personnel and their families. Their unwavering commitment, scientific excellence and sense of national duty are vital to strengthening India's defence preparedness and advancing Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence," he also posted on X.

"By developing indigenous, future-ready technologies, DRDO is reinforcing our strategic autonomy and the confidence of our armed forces. I wish the entire DRDO family a year of meaningful breakthroughs and continued service to the nation," the defence minister said.

Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, various senior DRDO scientists and other senior officials were also present on the occasion.

Tourist Hotspots Buzz As Kashmir Rings In New Year

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: Kashmir welcomed the New Year with celebrations across the Valley, as large numbers of tourists and local residents gathered to mark the beginning of 2026 amid tight security arrangements.

Popular tourist resorts including Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg witnessed a heavy rush of visitors, drawn by fresh snowfall and favourable weather conditions.

Officials said tourists from different parts of the country arrived in large numbers, leading to most hotels and guest houses at these destinations being fully booked.

Celebrations were also held in Srinagar city, with people gathering near the historic Clock Tower area at Lal Chowk to usher in the New Year.

Tourists expressed satisfaction over the overall experience. A visitor from Haryana said they had been in the Valley for three days to celebrate the New Year



and described the snowfall as a blessing. Another tourist termed the celebrations peaceful and memorable, saying the atmosphere exceeded expectations. Authorities had put in place

AUTHORITIES HAD PUT IN PLACE MULTI-TIER SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS across tourist hubs and key locations in the Valley. Security forces intensified checking and surveillance, while additional checkpoints were established at vital points,"

multi-tier security arrangements across tourist hubs and key locations in the Valley. Security forces intensified checking and surveillance, while additional checkpoints were established at vital points.

Officials said increased patrolling, area domination exercises and surprise inspections were conducted along major roadways and crowded areas to ensure peaceful celebrations and to prevent any untoward incident.

Good Neighbourly Ties Key to Overcoming Challenges: Dr Farooq

Srinagar: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Thursday said that maintaining good relations with neighbours and living in brotherhood is key to overcoming the challenges ahead. He also cautioned that those targeting Kashmiri shawl dealers across India are trying to bring back Hitler's ideology.

Speaking with reporters in Srinagar, Farooq Abdullah, as per KNO said there will be many shortcomings and many successes, but they will keep moving forward. He said that "our relationship with our neighbours should be good".

He also expressed satisfaction over India's gesture of sending the External Affairs Minister to Bangladesh to attend the funeral of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. "It is good. Bangladesh is our old friend and we have to strengthen our friendship," he said.

Condemning the recent attacks on Kashmiri shawl traders in different parts of the country, he said such incidents reflect a dangerous mindset inspired by Hitler's ideology.

"There are some people whose aim is something else. They are following Hitler's path and want Hitler's regime to start here. But Hitler disappeared-he shot himself. God willing, Nazism ended there, and the time will come when it will end here too," he said.

On the recent reports about the Constitution being translated into Kashmiri for the first time, he said it has already been translated many years ago. (Observer News Service)

Sajad Lone Calls 2025 'Year of Lies' Under NC Govt

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference (PC) president and Handwara MLA Sajad Gani Lone on Thursday accused the National Conference-led government of betraying public trust, alleging that its tenure so far has been marked by unfulfilled promises and weak governance.

Addressing a press conference, Lone, according to KNO said the year 2025 had "exposed the government's claims," asserting that key electoral assurances had not been implemented.

He alleged that the promise of providing 200 units of free electricity had not materialised and claimed that residents in non-metered areas were instead facing increased power tariffs.

Lone alleged that the assurance of providing 12 free gas cylinders annually had been dropped, while the promise of generating one lakh jobs had resulted in what he termed an "outsourcing model" for government posts.

He also claimed this had adversely affected employment prospects for local youth.

The PC president also criticised frequent transfers in the administration, alleging that governance had been reduced to a system focused on postings rather than service delivery.

Referring to Government Medical College (GMC) Handwara, Lone alleged discrimination against the institution, claiming it was being denied facilities available to other medical colleges in the Union Territory.

He said that while other institutions had received MRI machines, GMC Handwara had not.

Lone said he would explore corporate social responsibility (CSR) funding to procure diagnostic facilities if the government did not act.

Lone also raised concerns over the reservation policy, alleging regional imbalance in selections under reserved categories and called for the restoration of district and divisional cadres.

He criticised Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for what he described as a lack of response to alleged incidents involving Kashmiris outside the Union Territory, saying the government should intervene in such matters. (Observer News Service)

Illegal Mining Enforcement Brings in ₹57 Lakh in Kulgam

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kulgam district recorded an unprecedented surge in revenue and enforcement outcomes following a sustained crackdown on illegal mining activities in the month of December.

The District Mineral Office, with consistent backing from the District Administration, realized revenue exceeding Rs 57 lakh in a single month. Officials described the figure as the highest monthly realization recorded in the last five years.

According to official details, more than Rs 18 lakh of the total amount was collected through compounding fees and penalties imposed on habitual offenders involved in unauthorized extraction and transportation of minor minerals. The enforcement action was aimed at reinforcing legal compliance and curbing long standing violations that have caused environmental and revenue losses in the district.

The month-long drive saw the seizure of over 52 vehicles, including heavy earthmoving machinery such as JCB excavators. Officials said several seizures were carried out during late night hours, reflecting heightened vigilance and



round-the-clock enforcement by field teams. The operations were conducted across multiple vulnerable locations identified as hotspots of illegal mining.

Officials within the administration noted that the enforcement campaign was marked by strict adherence to law and operational resolve, with teams acting without fear or favor. The role of inter-departmental coordination was highlighted as a key factor in enabling sustained night operations and prompt legal action against violators.

According to KNT, the District Mineral Officer, Kulgam, Khurshid Ahmad while acknowledging the proactive support of the District Administration, told the news agency Kashmir News Trust that administrative backing was crucial in maintaining momentum during enforce-

ment drives and ensuring the safety and effectiveness of field personnel.

Beyond revenue generation, he said the campaign underscored a firm commitment towards environmental protection and sustainable mineral management. The district administration reiterated that enforcement efforts against illegal mining would continue until violators discontinue unlawful practices and shift to legally sanctioned operations.

It was further disclosed that out of a total of 19 identified minor mineral blocks in District Kulgam, only four are currently operational. The remaining 15 blocks are non-functional due to deficiencies in documentation, with their cases pending before the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority for final environmental clearances.

CM Will Meet Home Minister Soon: Chaudhary Ramzan

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Asserting that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will be meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah soon, senior National Conference leader and Rajya Sabha MP Chaudhary Ramzan on Thursday said that there is no rift between the National Conference (NC) leadership and party Member Parliament Aga Ruhullah.

Talking to reporters here after attending a felicitation ceremony held to honour him for assuming the charge of NC Additional General Secretary, Ramzan, according to KNO said, "Differences within the party are only in approach and not in intent. There is no rift in the party. There is only a difference in approach. Aga Ruhullah is young and wants things to happen quickly, but such matters take time to fall into place."

Ramzan said he met Aga Ruhullah during the recent Parliament session and found him fully aligned with



the party and its leadership. "I did not find him against the party or its leadership. He has a different approach, but his goals are the same as those of the National Conference," Ramzan added.

The NC leader said a memorandum outlining the party's demands has already been submitted to Union Home Minister Amit Shah. "The Home Minister has assured us that all our demands will be fulfilled soon. The Chief Minister will also meet Amit Shah to discuss other related issues," he said.

Dismissing suggestions that the Centre is resorting to delay tactics, Ramzan said it has been only a short time since his meeting with the Home Minister. "It has been just ten days since I met him (Shah). These

things take time, and there is no question of deliberate delay," he maintained.

He also informed that a meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs is scheduled to be held in Port Blair, where he will be participating as a committee member. "Important issues will be discussed during the meeting," he said.

On party organisation, Ramzan said NC workers are active across Jammu and Kashmir but stressed the need for greater outreach. "We must reach out to our workers, meet them and understand their problems. I intend to visit even far-flung areas to connect with party workers on the ground," he said.

Chaudhary Ramzan also expressed gratitude to the party leadership for appointing him as the Additional General Secretary of the National Conference and reiterated his commitment to strengthen the party at all levels.

JERC Shelves JKPDD's 20% Peak Hour Surcharge Proposal

Observer news Service

SRINAGAR: Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has decided to shelve the proposal of JKPDD seeking nod to charge an extra 20 percent charge on electricity consumption during morning and evening hours in the UT.

JERC said that the peti-

tions (JPDCL and KPDCCL) had proposed to modify the existing Time of Day (TOD) tariff with certain modifications.

According to KNO, JERC in an official communique has said it has reviewed the tariff proposal submitted by JPDCL and KPDCCL.

"The Commission noticed that a letter was issued by the Director Finance JKPDD,

about the Government's decision to continue the present tariff that is for FY 2024-25 approved tariff is also applicable for FY 2025-26, however for the HT Power Intensive Units category should not be given subsidy on power tariff as their substantial power requirement often necessitates procurement of power on higher rates," it reads.

Heart Clinic on Wheels:

J&K Bank Dedicates Cardiac-Care Unit for the People

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Marking the first day of the New Year with a meaningful public welfare initiative, J&K Bank dedicated a 'Heart Clinic on Wheels' for the people of Jammu & Kashmir under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program.

Today, the Bank's Executive Director Sudhir Gupta handed over the keys of fully-equipped mobile cardiac-care unit to the Regional Head of Ummeed Foundation Dr Zubair Saleem in presence of Chief General Manager Imtiyaz Ahmad, General Manager (CSR) Mohammad Muzaffar Wani, DGM Hafeeza Rahim, senior cardiologist and Project Advisor Dr Khurshid Aslam Khan and other senior functionaries here at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters.

Implemented by a not-for-profit organization Ummeed Foundation with nation wide presence, which has over a decade of experience in community healthcare and cardiac interventions, the project also includes training of community health workers, public awareness programmes on cardiac-health and the cre-



ation of a digital health registry to ensure follow-up and continuity of care.

While extending New Year greetings to the people on the occasion, Executive Director Sudhir Gupta said that the Bank remains steadfast in its mission of serving-to-empower through its meaningful people-centric interventions.

He further said, "We are happy to have begun this year by making a tangible difference in people's lives as every CSR initiative is guided by our commitment to the progress and well-being of people. Access to timely cardiac care can make the difference between life and loss, particularly in the geographically challenging regions of Jammu & Kashmir. Through the 'Heart Clinic on Wheels', the Bank has facilitated the access of critical healthcare services to the doorsteps of those who need them the most."

Executive Director further noted that the initiative goes beyond treatment and focuses equally on prevention and awareness. "By combining screening, counselling, referrals and community awareness, this project addresses a critical healthcare gap while aligning with our CSR vision of inclusive and sustainable development," he added.

Speaking about the mobile cardiac-care unit, Dr Khurshid Aslam Khan said, "The Heart Clinic on Wheels is equipped with advanced AI-enabled diagnostic systems that enable on-the-spot evaluation and real-time clinical decision-making, ensuring timely and evidence-based treatment. The mobile unit is fully equipped with life-saving emergency facilities, including a ventilator, defibrillator, and essential cardiac support systems, enabling immediate stabilization of patients."

Kashmiri Engineer Develops App to Prevent Electrocutions

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Moved by repeated incidents of electrocution claiming lives, particularly Power Development Department employees in the Valley, a young engineer from south Kashmir's Anantnag district has developed a life-saving safety device aimed at preventing fatal electrocutions.

Zahid Bashir, a resident of Kralpora hamlet in Anantnag and a B.Tech graduate in Computer Science from the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), has designed a safety device intended to enhance electrical safety and reduce the risk of deadly electric shocks.

Speaking to KNO, Zahid said the system comprises two main components – a hardware device and a mobile application that controls it. "The application has multiple modules and a public reporting or grievance section," he said.

A MESSAGE OF HOPE AND RENEWAL FOR THE NEW YEAR

On behalf of the Zamin Foundation and our entire team, Chairman Sheikh Idrees Ahmed extends warmest greetings and best wishes for a peaceful, prosperous, and healthy New Year.

As we step into 2026, we reflect with gratitude on the past year's collective efforts towards sustainable development and empowering communities. The challenges we overcame have only strengthened our resolve, and the successes we shared have illuminated the path forward.

The coming year represents a renewed commitment to our foundational mission. We look ahead with optimism, ready to forge new partnerships, innovate our approaches, and deepen our impact in the lives of those we serve. Our focus remains steadfast on creating lasting change and fostering resilience.

We extend our sincere thanks to our partners, volunteers, beneficiaries, and well-wishers for their unwavering trust and support. It is this spirit of collaboration that fuels our journey. May the New Year bring fresh hope, renewed strength, and abundant joy to you, your families, and our nation.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION SRINAGAR
(ERSTWHILE MECHANICAL HOSPITAL & CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR)
Contact No: 0194-2496089, Email Id: exen-mechospssgr@jk.gov.in

GIST of e-tender
e-NIT No: M&HDS/TS/2025-26/126/e-tendering, Dated: 31-12-2025 (Short Term)
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited in two cover system on percentage basis from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Est. Cost (In rupees)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion (in days)	AA Accorded Vide No:	TS No	Earnest Money	Position of Funds
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Additional works in Boiler House(Upgradation of Central Heating System) in Govt Dental College and Hospital Srinagar	1,95,476	200	15 days	73 GDC of 2025, Dated:- 25-02-2025 and GDC/Plan/2025/9546-47, Dated: 21-11-2025	M&HDS/TS/85, Dated:-12/2025	2% of the estimated cost	Available with intending Department

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

1	Publish date	31-12-2025 (17:00 hrs)
2	Period of downloading of bidding document	31-12-2025 (17:00 hrs)
3	Bid submission start date	31-12-2025 (18:00 hrs)
4	Bid submission end date	07-01-2026 (13:00 hrs)
4	Date and time of opening of bids	07-01-2026 (15:00 hrs)

No: M&HDS/TS/7527-31
Dated: 31.12.2025

DIPK-9561-25
DT: 01/01/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
M&H, Srinagar

National Sports Governance Act Comes Into Effect

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The National Sports Governance Act partially came into effect on Thursday with provisions that will set the ball rolling for the institution of an all-powerful National Sports Board (NSB) and a Tribunal to handle sporting disputes notified as enforced by the central government.

The Act was notified on August 18 last year and has been described as the single biggest sporting reform in the country by Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

The provisions being brought into effect relate to the establishment and governance framework of National Sports Bodies, including the National Olympic Committee, National Paralympic Committee, National Sports Federations (NSFs) and Regional Sports Federations.

"...the provisions of sections 1 to 3, sub-sections (1), (2) and (4)



of section 4, sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 5, sub-section (5) of section 8, sub-section (1) of section 11, sections 14 and 15, sub-sections (1) to (7) and (10) of section 17, sections 30 and 31, and sections 33 to 38 of the said Act shall come into force," stated a late night press release from the Sports Ministry on Wednesday.

After elections under the provisions of the Act, all these bodies will be required to have

Executive Committees of no more than 15 members with at least two Sportspersons of Merit (SOMs) in them.

The constitution of the National Sports Board (NSB) and the National Sports Tribunal (NST) will also get underway with the partial implementation.

The NSB will feature a Chairperson and members appointed by the Central Government from among "persons of ability, integ-

riety and standing who possesses special knowledge or practical experience in the field of public administration, sports law and other related fields."

The appointments will be done on the basis of the recommendations of a search-cum-selection committee, which is yet to be finalised.

"The phased commencement of the Act is aimed at ensuring a smooth transition to the statutory sports governance framework," the ministry said.

The ministry has already allowed NSFs, which have elections due in the next few months, to postpone the process till December for the full-scale implementation of the Act. This means that elections of the All India Football Federation will be held quite late in the year.

"With effect from 1st January, 2026, the institutional mechanisms envisaged under the notified provisions of the Act shall

become operational," it stated.

The NSB, which is proposed to be a three-member body, will have the power to not just grant affiliation to the National Sports Federations (NSFs) but also monitor their financial operations and penalise them for any wrongdoing once the Act becomes fully operational.

It would be mandatory for the NSFs to take NSB affiliation to be eligible for government funding. The age cap for all members of the NSB has been fixed at 65 and all members will be eligible for re-appointment for one more term subject to the age limit.

The members of the National Sports Tribunal will hold office for four years with an age cap of 67 years as per the rules of implementation that the ministry posted for public feedback in October.

A National Sports Election Panel (NSEP) is also due to be constituted to manage elections of NSFs and other sports bodies.

Clubs Seek No Participation Fee for ISL Restart

NEW DELHI: Thirteen of the 14 Indian Super League (ISL) clubs on Thursday told All India Football Federation (AIFF) that they "may be ready and willing" to take part in the delayed 2025-26 season if there is no participation fee and the national body takes financial responsibility for the organisational and operational costs of running the truncated competition.

Putting conditions on their participation in the ISL, the clubs also requested the national federation to furnish "a clear, time-bound roadmap for execution of the long-term plan, including defined timelines for appointment of a commercial partner and/or broadcaster, finalisation of the league's revenue, governance, and risk-sharing framework, and transition to a financially self-sustaining competition model consistent with statutory governance norms".

The ISL clubs also urged the AIFF to actively seek commercial or institutional support from the Government of India to minimise costs and help make the 2025-26 season sustainable.

"Upon receipt of the above confirmations, the undersigned clubs shall be in a position to formally confirm participation and cooperate fully with the AIFF to ensure the orderly, compliant, and successful conduct of the 2025-26 season," a letter from the 13 clubs to the AIFF said.

The letter was in response to the AIFF's missive on Wednesday, asking the clubs to confirm within a day their participation in the delayed ISL and the proposed format. Thursday's letter was written by Sporting Club Delhi CEO Dhruv Sood on behalf of 13 ISL clubs.

The clubs are Mohun Bagan Super Giant, East Bengal, Kerala Blasters, FC Goa, Sporting Club Delhi, Bengaluru FC, Mumbai City FC, Chennaiyin FC, Mohammedan Sporting, Punjab FC, Inter Kashi, North East United FC and Odisha FC. Jamshedpur FC were not represented.

"... subject to the confirmations set out below, they (the clubs) may be ready and willing to participate in the 2025-26 season, in a manner consistent with the principles of transparency, financial prudence, proportionality, and long-term sustainability as contemplated under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 ("NSGA") and also as per the discussions with the AIFF coordination committee and the clubs," the letter said.

"That, having regard to the proposed truncated format, the absence of a settled commercial revenue model, and the requirement under the NSGA to avoid disproportionate or arbitrary financial burdens on regulated entities, there shall be no participation fee payable by clubs for the 2025-26 season."

To enable "informed, responsible, and compliant participation", the clubs sought written confirmation from the AIFF on financial responsibility in the absence of a commercial partner.

"That, in the absence of an appointed commercial partner and/or broadcaster, and until such time as commercial rights are formally transferred or monetised, the AIFF, being the rights holder and operator of the league, shall assume financial responsibility for league-level organisational and operational costs for the 2025-26 season."

This, the clubs said, would be "in accordance with principles of sound financial governance and risk allocation envisaged under the NSGA and the minimum standards of the ISL product as discussed in the joint budgeting exercise". (PTI)

Australia Names Spin-Heavy 15-Member Squad For T20 World Cup

AP

MELBOURNE: Australian selectors have named a spin-heavy squad for the defending champions for the forthcoming Twenty20 World Cup in Sri Lanka and India.

The 2021 tournament winners decided Thursday not to pick a left-arm paceman in the absence of the T20-retired Mitchell Starc. Cooper Connolly, who has not played in any of the Australians' past 12 T20 Internationals, was the surprise inclusion.

Starc has missed just one of the past six ICC's T20 events but retired from the format at the international level late last year.

Australia opens the tournament on Feb. 11 against Ireland in Colombo then plays Zimbabwe in Colombo on



Feb. 13, followed by matches in Kandy against Sri Lanka on Feb. 16 and Oman on Feb. 20.

A scan on Pat Cummins' back later this month will determine whether he will play in the tournament. Josh Hazlewood and Tim David are both on the comeback trail from hamstring injuries.

ICC rules permit squad changes until Jan. 31.

Australia will play a three-match T20 series against Pakistan beginning later this

month. Australia's group-stage matches are all being played in Sri Lanka but the team will travel to India for at least some of their Super Eights games if they qualify.

Australia squad: Mitchell Marsh (captain), Xavier Bartlett, Cooper Connolly, Pat Cummins, Tim David, Cameron Green, Nathan Ellis, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Matthew Kuhnemann, Glenn Maxwell, Matthew Short, Marcus Stoinis, Adam Zampa.

Worried About Future of ODIs After 2027 World Cup: Ashwin

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Skeptical about the future of ODIs after the 2027 World Cup, former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin says that the format has lost its space to mushrooming T20 leagues and an "overkill" of cricket caused by ICC's push for a marquee event every year.

Ashwin believes ODIs have become all but redundant due to T20 leagues and the pride of place that Test cricket continues to enjoy.

"I am not sure about the future of ODIs after the 2027 World Cup. I am a little worried about it. Of course, I am following Vijay Hazare Trophy but the manner in which I followed SMAT (Syed Mush-



taq Ali T20 Trophy), I am finding it slightly difficult to follow (Vijay Hazare)," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel 'Ash Ki Baat'.

"Also, we need to know what audience wants to watch it. I feel Test cricket still has space but ODI doesn't have the space,"

said Ashwin in a no-holds-barred assessment.

India's second highest wicket-taker across formats with 765 scalps, Ashwin said for a game to connect with fans, stars are needed, and cited the more than decent crowd turnout for Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli's recent Vijay Hazare appearances to drive home the point.

The bonafide greats of the game have a combined total of 86 ODI tons.

"Look, Rohit and Virat came back to Vijay Hazare Trophy and people started watching it. We have known that sport is always bigger than individuals but at times these players (Rohit and Kohli) need to come back to make the game relevant," he observed.

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