

KO Classifieds

PLACE YOUR
AD TODAY!

*You can
do it all
here*

- PUBLIC NOTICES • NAME CHANGE • SALE/ PURCHASE • BIRTHDAY WISHES • OBITUARIES

Dry Spell For 3 Days; Feeble WD On Jan 5-6

No Major Weather Activity Till Jan 15: MeT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness generally dry weather over the next few days, with the Meteorological Department forecasting no major weather activity till mid-January, officials said on Friday.

According to the forecast, weather is expected to remain dry from January 3 to 5, while January 6 may bring generally cloudy conditions with the possibility of light snowfall over isolated higher reaches of north and central Kashmir due to a feeble western disturbance. Partly cloudy skies are likely to prevail from January 7 to 15.

Amid the dry spell, minimum temperatures dropped across Kashmir due to clear skies following recent snowfall

over higher reaches and tourist resorts, including Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg.

Srinagar witnessed a sunny morning and recorded a minimum temperature of 0.1 degrees Celsius, down from 2.2 degrees Celsius the previous night, though it remained above the seasonal average.

Gulmarg remained the coldest place at minus 7.0 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded minus 6.2 degrees Celsius. Qazigund settled at minus 1.2 degrees Celsius, Kokernag at minus 0.5 degrees Celsius and Kupwara at 0.8 degrees Celsius.

The Meteorological Department said daytime maximum temperatures across Kashmir remained below normal, while night temperatures hovered close to seasonal averages. In the | [More on P10](#)



Sunny skies over the Jhelum in Srinagar after a cold night, as clear weather tightens winter's grip across the Kashmir Valley. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

Hiking, Camping Banned In Kokernag Areas

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district on Friday imposed a ban on trekking, hiking, camping and other outdoor activities in high-altitude and forest areas of Kokernag, citing security concerns.

The decision followed inputs from police and security agencies indicating heightened threats in certain high-altitude and forested areas falling under the jurisdiction of the Kokernag sub-division.

In an order, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Prince Kumar said recent incidents involving attempts by unidentified persons to cross police checkpoints during late-night hours had raised serious concerns about public safety.

The order said unrestricted movement of individuals in these areas could adversely affect public safety and security.

Invoking powers under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, the SDM prohibited trekking, camping, hiking and similar activities in the areas of Margan Top, Chauhar Nag and Sinthan with immediate effect. The station house officer of Lamoo | [More on P10](#)

Seasonal Rainfall In J&K 39% Below Normal

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday said that Jammu and Kashmir recorded a significant deficit in seasonal rainfall from October 1 to December 31, 2025. According to the IMD data, the overall rainfall for the region was 77.5 mm, 39 per cent below the long-term normal of 127.7 mm. South Kashmir's Shopian district recorded the largest shortfall, with 21.8 mm | [More on P10](#)

No Power Tariff Hike In J&K This Year: CM

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said there will be no general increase in electricity tariffs across the Union Territory during the current financial year.

The announcement comes amid concerns over a possible additional 20 percent charge on electricity consumption during morning and evening hours.

"For 2025-26, there is no general increase in electricity tariffs across J&K and the Time of Day (ToD) tariff remains unchanged," the Chief Minister's Office said in a post on X.

The chief minister said the government remains committed to prioritising public welfare and ensuring electricity remains affordable for consumers.

The clarification followed a petition filed by the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited before the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission, seeking an increase in the existing 20 percent surcharge levied during peak morning and evening hours.

Alarming Trend Of White-Collar Terrorism Emerging: DM

Says Doctors Who Write Rx Had RDX In Their Hands

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday warned that an alarming trend of "white-collar terrorism" is emerging in the country, with highly educated individuals engaging in anti-social and anti-national activities.

Addressing the 104th foundation day of Bhopal Nobles' University, Singh referred to the November 10 car bomb blast near the Red Fort in Delhi, where the accused were found to be doctors.

"Today, an alarming trend of white-collar terrorism is emerging in the country. Highly educated people are working against society and



the country," the defence minister said. "The perpetrators of the Delhi bomb blast were doctors, those who write 'Rx' on prescriptions, yet had RDX in their hands. This highlights the need for knowledge to be accompanied by values and character," he added.

An explosives-laden Hyundai i20 car detonated

outside the Red Fort on November 10, killing 15 people. Investigations later revealed a white-collar terrorism module, leading to the arrest of several accused, including doctors Muzammil Ganai, Adeel Rather and Shaheena Saeed. The vehicle used in the blast was allegedly driven by Dr Umar-un-Nabi, officials have said.

Singh stressed that the purpose of education should extend beyond professional success. "The aim of education is not only to build careers but also to develop morality, ethics and human character," he said. Knowledge, he added, leads to competence, competence to prosperity and prosperity to righteousness. | [More on P10](#)

NIA Conducts Searches In South Kashmir

The National Investigation Agency on Friday carried out searches at multiple locations in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian and Pulwama districts in connection with its investigation into the November 10 blast near the Red Fort, officials said. They said NIA teams, assisted | [More on P10](#)

Stray Dog Menace

J&K Govt Nominates Nodal Officer



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has issued a formal order nominating a nodal officer for the management of stray dogs at the administrative department level, marking an institutional step toward coordinated handling of the growing

stray dog issue.

According to Government Order, the Jal Shakti Department has accorded sanction to the nomination of Suheel Ahmad Lone, JKAS, Deputy Secretary to the Government, Jal Shakti Department, as the Nodal Officer for management of stray dogs. | [More on P10](#)

Court Rejects Bail In 910g Heroin Seizure Case

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A Special Judge (NDPS Cases) here has turned down the bail plea of an accused in a narcotics case involving the recovery of 910 grams of heroin-like substance, observing that the prosecution has established a strong prima facie case and holding that a strong prima facie case exists and the statutory embargo under Section 37 of the NDPS Act bars grant of bail.

"...the recovery of 910 grams of heroin-like substance—far exceeding the commercial quantity threshold of 250 grams for heroin under the NDPS Act—coupled with the applicant's prima facie involvement through vehicle ownership, financial transactions, and corroborative disclosures, precludes any such satisfaction," the Special Judge (NDPS Cases) Srinagar Vinod Kumar while rejecting the plea filed by Ghulam Nabi Dar of Sheeri Baramulla, one of the two accused in FIR No. 16/2025, registered at Police Station Shalteng | [More on P10](#)



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday unveiled the Panchang Calendar 2026 and the official diary of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at Lok Bhavan. The 2026 Panchang has been prepared under the guidance of eminent scholars and priests and is intended to serve as a comprehensive spiritual guide for devotees. It contains detailed information on auspicious dates, festivals and major religious observances for the coming year. The Lieutenant Governor appreciated the efforts of the Shrine Board in preserving spiritual traditions while adapting to contemporary needs of pilgrims. He said such initiatives help strengthen the spiritual connect of devotees across the country and abroad, and reflect the Shrine Board's commitment to service.

'Illegal Appointments, Fund Diversion' 37 PDD Officials, 25 Bank Staff Among 108 Booked

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: In one of the biggest corruption cases unearthed in Jammu and Kashmir in recent years, the Economic Offences Wing of the Crime Branch has filed a comprehensive charge sheet against 108 accused persons for their alleged involvement in large scale embezzlement of government funds and illegal appointments in the Electric Division Sumbal.

The charge sheet has been filed in FIR No. 25 of 2018



before the Special Judge Anti-Corruption Court under Sections 409, 420, 467, 468, 471, 201 and 120-B of the Ranbir Penal Code, read with Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

According to officials, the

accused include 37 officers and employees of the Electric Division Sumbal. These include 15 Executive Engineers, six Assistant Accounts Officers, one Accounts Assistant, six Head Assistants, four Senior Assistants, four Junior Assistants and one Orderly. The charge sheet also names 25 officers and officials of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank, Branch Sumbal Sonawari, along with 46 individuals who were allegedly appointed illegally as fake employees.

Investigators | [More on P10](#)



To place an advertisement
CALL +91-194 2502327
 Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)
 No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

از نیابت پهلپان با جلاس نائب تحصیلدار پهلپان
 درخواست از جانب عنوان:- شینہ اختر دختر محمد اکبر وانی ساکنہ یڈی پورہ پهلپان تحصیل پشن
 براد اجرائی یوم پیدائش

اشتہار برآمد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان میں ساکنہ نے ایک درخواست برآمد حصول امدان کرنے کے لیے
 پیدائش بحق شینہ اختر اشخاص جن کی یوم پیدائش مندرجہ ذیل ہیں۔
 نام تاریخ پیدائش سکونت
 شینہ اختر 01-04-1991 صدرمل
 لہذا اس بارے میں ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو مطلوبہ سرند قیامت
 اجراء کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ چاروں کے اندر اندر دفتر ہڈی میں پیش کریں۔
 نائب تحصیلدار پهلپان fko

از نیابت یومی
 عنوان:- درخواست شہزادہ غلام محمد وادرا ساکنہ لگاری پورہ تحصیل زنگیہ
 براد اجرائی EWS سرٹیفکیٹ بحق اولاد ناصرحسن، عادل حسن، شاہد حسن

اشتہار ہر خاص و عام
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان میں ساکنہ نے ایک درخواست EWS سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے
 جو کہ برکاد وانی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں
 ہے کہ ساکنہ 7 افراد پر مشتمل ہے اور سکونہ کی سالانہ
 آمدنی زرعی غیر زرعی مبلغ 433176 روپیہ تک ہے ساکنہ کے پاس 15 ایکڑ سے
 کم رقبہ ہے ساکنہ کا مکان رقبہ 200 SQ Ground ہے ساکنہ سے قبل شہزادہ
 موجود ہے ساکنہ کا رہائشی فلیٹ 1000 sq فٹ ہے ساکنہ کا مکان رہائشی از بیرون
 میونسپل حدود میں واقع نہیں ہے ساکنہ کے کمرے کی سالانہ آمدنی 8 لاکھ سے کم ہے ساکنہ RBA
 OBC، ST، میں نہیں آتا ہے۔
 سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کوئی شخص کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ
 مشہر اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض وادعات حد کو دفتر ہی وقت کے دوران پیش
 کریں۔ بعد گزرے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
 نائب تحصیلدار FKO

از نیابت پهلپان با جلاس نائب تحصیلدار پهلپان
 درخواست از جانب عنوان:- عبدالعزیز ملہ ولد محمد سلطان ملہ ساکنہ پهلپان تحصیل پشن براد
 اجرائی یوم پیدائش بحق دختر غومیہ عزیز

اشتہار برآمد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان میں ساکنہ نے ایک درخواست برآمد حصول امدان کرنے کے لیے
 پیدائش بحق غومیہ عزیز اشخاص جن کی یوم پیدائش مندرجہ ذیل ہیں۔
 نام تاریخ پیدائش سکونت
 غومیہ عزیز 08-01-2011 پهلپان
 لہذا اس بارے میں ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو مطلوبہ سرند قیامت
 اجراء کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ چاروں کے اندر اندر دفتر ہڈی میں پیش کریں۔
 نائب تحصیلدار پهلپان fko

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Razeen Tour And Travel situated at Budran Near Bus Stop

PUBLIC NOTICE
 Whereas I, Mr. Sajad Anwar S/O Mohammad Anwar Parryar R/o Palpora Tehsil Khag, District Budgam intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of M/S Razeen Tour And Travel situated at Budran Near Bus Stop under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12.
 Whereas I will submit state subject / Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, pan card / Experience Certificate (Minimum 5 years), Police character certificate, Bank statement (minimum balance 10000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by sub Registrar, printing material (Letter head / Visiting card) Photograph of the unit (indoor and outdoor) and Two passport size photographs to the department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist I Prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.
 / Adventure Tour Operator Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12) before my case is processed for my registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ Financial institutions/Bank/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration(email id: dtregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in a leading newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.
 fko

Swearing May Boost Confidence, Reduce Inhibitions: New Study

Press Trust Of India



Swearing could boost physical performance by helping one overcome inhibitions, feel focussed and push harder on tests of strength and endurance, according to a study. While cursing is socially frowned upon, cathartic effects of expletives have been previously studied to boost physical performance, reduce anxiety and stress, and enhance memory, with an overall lowering their power. "But the question is -- how is swearing helping us? What's the psychological mechanism?" study author Richard Stephens, senior lecturer in psychology at Keele University in the UK, said. The study, published in the journal American Psychologist, examined 192 people, who were asked to do chair push-ups and repeat a curse word of personal choice -- or a neutral word -- every two seconds. The participants later responded to questions about their mental state while performing the push-up task, involving those related to disinhibition, positive emotions felt and humour of the situation. Questions to measure psychological "flow" -- a mental state in which people feel immersed in an activity in a pleasant and focussed manner -- were also asked. The participants who swore while doing push-ups were found to support their body weight significantly longer, compared to those who repeated a neutral word. "These findings help explain why swearing is so commonplace. Swearing is literally a calorie neutral, drug free, low cost, readily available tool at our disposal for when we need a boost in performance.

"In many situations, people hold themselves back -- consciously or unconsciously -- from using their full strength. Swearing is an easily available way to help yourself feel focused, confident and less distracted, and 'go for it' a little more," Stephens explained. In a previous study, Stephens' team found that when people swear, they perform better on many physical challenges, including how long they can keep their hand in ice water and how long they can support their body weight during a chair push-up exercise. The researchers suggested that swearing may be helpful because it places people in a disinhibited state of mind. After combining the findings of the

recent study and those from the previous one, the team confirmed that the benefits of swearing could be explained by increased levels in participants' reports of psychological flow and self-confidence -- all key aspects of disinhibition. "By swearing, we throw off social constraint and allow ourselves to push harder in different situations," Stephens said. The authors wrote, "These findings suggest that swearing promotes psychological states conducive to maximizing effort and overcoming internal constraints. These effects have potential implications for athletic performance, rehabilitation, and contexts requiring courage or assertiveness."

Government of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT URI

Subject: Advertisement of posts for Recruitment of Sahayikas (Aanganwadi Helpers) in Aanganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Uri.
 Advertisement no.: 06 CDPO-URI of 2026
 Dated: 01-01-2026

Applications on prescribed proforma (Annexure-I) are hereby invited from the eligible female candidates of the Panch wards shown against the below mentioned Panchayat Halqas, for the engagement of Sahayikas (Aanganwadi Helpers) for the Aanganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Uri on "Honorarium basis". The application form along with required documents should reach to the office of Child Development Project Officer Uri near Toll Post Lagama with in 15 days from the date of publication of the said notice against proper receipt.

S.No	District	Project	Name of Panchayat	Vacancy of Sahayikas (Aanganwadi Helpers)	
				Panch/MC Ward No.	Name of Aanganwadi Centre
01	Baramulla	URI	Nawa Runda	05	Runda-A
02			Dawaran	07	Dawaran-A
03			Gingle-A	06	Khawaja Mohala
04			Churunda	05	Churunda Naka
05			Salamabad Dachna-B	08	Kanchan-A
06			Muqampiran	01	Muqampiran Lone Mohalla

Criteria for Selection of Sahayikas (Aanganwadi Helpers) shall remain as envisaged in the Govt. Order No: 222-JK (SWD) OF 2022, Dated: 30-11-2022 Le,

- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible (age shall be calculated on the 1st day of calendar year i.e 01-01-2026).
- The candidate should be a domicile of the UT of J&K.
- The candidate should be a resident of the Electoral Ward where AWC is located. Name in the voter list for the ward shall be considered as the proof of residence of the candidate. Wherever there is any dispute as to residence for any reason then residence proof certifying the ward of residence from the concerned SDM shall be considered.
- Minimum educational qualification for Aanganwadi Helper shall be Matriculation.
- In case no matriculate candidate is available in the Panch Ward, candidates with qualification not less than 8th standard shall be considered.
- The selection shall be made purely as per merit in light of the instructions of the administrative Department communicated vide No: SWD-ICDS/43/2022, Dated: 14-08-2023 and as per the communication of Mission Director, POSHAN J&K vide No: SMD/ICDS/Recruitment/2022-23/21349-72, Dated: 14-07-2023.

Self-attested copies of documents to be attached with the application form:-

- Panch Ward Certificate and Voter list issued by BDO concerned.
- Un-married certificate issued by Tehsildar in case name appears with parents in electoral roll.
- Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Academic Qualification Certificates with class 10th Marks card.
- Non employment Certificate.
- Self-Addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs 5/-
- Affidavit from first class magistrate stating following facts.
- All Documents/details submitted along with the application form for engagement of Sahayika (Aanganwadi Helper) are correct, without any mismatch, duplicacy, or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect on any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law.
- Minimum qualification for Sahayikas (Aanganwadi Helpers) shall be Matriculate and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent.
- 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 Sahayika (Aanganwadi Helper)

Note: Prescribed Application Proforma can also be had from the undersigned office "Free of Cost".

Sd/-
 Child Dev. Project Officer
 Mission POSHAN Uri

No:-CDPO/UV/Advt/2025/789-805
 Dated:- 02-01-2026
 (ANNEXURE-I)

Advt Notification No. & Date: _____ Form Sr. No. _____

APPLICATION FORM FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SAHAYIKA (ANGANWADI HELPER)

- Name of the District:- Baramulla
- Name of the ICDS Project:- URI
- Name of the Aanganwadi Centre for which engagement sought: _____
- Panch Ward: _____ of Panchayat Halqa _____
- Name of the Candidate (in Block Letters) _____
- Fathers Name (in Block Letters) _____
- Marital Status:- Married / Un Married _____
- Husbands Name (if married) _____
- Place of Permanent Residence:- Mohalla _____ Village _____ Panch Ward no. _____
- Name of the Panchayat Halqa _____
- House No. _____ (As per latest Panchayat Ward Electoral) Block: _____ Pin code: _____
- Mobile No. _____ Email ID: _____
- Date of Birth: / / (in words) _____
- Age as on 01-07-2024: _____ Years _____ months _____ Days
- Academic Qualification: _____

S.No	Examination passed	Board/School	Year of passing	Marks Obt.	Max. Marks	%age
1	Matric					
2	Middle					

- Does candidate belong to the family of retired AWH (Yes/No) _____
- Documents attached. _____
- Panch Ward Certificate and Voter list issued by BDO/EO. _____
- Un-married certificate issued by concerned Tehsildar in case name appears with parents in electoral roll. _____
- Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned. _____
- Date of Birth Certificate. _____
- Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10th. _____
- Non employment Certificate. _____
- Self-Addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs 5/-.
- Affidavit. _____

UNDERTAKING
 I, _____ D/o/W/o _____ R/o _____ do hereby certify that the contents of the application given above are correct and true to the best of my knowledge. In case any of the above contents is found incorrect, the selection committee shall have the right to reject my application and similarly revoke my engagement order.
 Signature of Candidate

FORMAT FOR PANCH WARD CERTIFICATE.
 This is to certify that the candidate name _____ D/o/W/o _____ R/o _____ is residing in Panch Ward _____ of Panchayat Halqa _____ It is further certified that her name is enlisted in electoral / voter list of the panch ward at S. No. _____ No: _____ Date: _____
 Signature of Block Collection Officer

Photograph of the applicant duly attested by Gazetted Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE
 My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Riales Ah Bhat while my correct name is Rayees Ahmad Bhat . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.. fko
 Rayees Ahmad Bhat S/o Ghulam Hassan Bhat R/O Ganowpora Distt Shopian

PUBLIC NOTICE
 I have changed my name from (old name) Mohammed Abass to (New Name) Sheikh Mohammad Abass Wani in future I will be known as Sheikh Mohammad Abass Wani. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the Passport Office Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. bmg

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Kashmir Golf Club, M.A Road Srinagar NOTICE INVITING TENDER E-NIT No. 15 Of 2025-26 dated 01.01.2026

For and on behalf of the Administrator KGC, e-tenders are invited on two cover system by Executive Engineer Kashmir Golf Club by e-tendering mode on Percentage basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State UTI, PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. for the following works:-

S No	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earned Money (in Rs)	Cost of T/Doc	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
1	Procurement of Spare Parts for Turf Machinery and Allied Equipment's at KGC, Srinagar.	12.00 lacs	Rs. 24,000/- in shape of CDR or FDR in favour of Executive Engineer KGC	Rs. 1250/= Non Refundable in shape of Bank Challan CD 0005010100005998 J&K Bank Branch Residency Road Srinagar in favour Administrator KGC	45 DAYS	Mechanical Dealers OR Authorized Dealers OR Mechanical Suppliers With Valid GST Registration	5452 Tourism

Position of AA: Obtained
Position of TS: Obtained

Terms and Conditions:

- No exemption is allowed and so all bidders must, EMD and Tender Processing Fee.
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason at any stage.
- Intending bidders shall upload scanned copies of documents of valid registration card with renewal of 2025-26 /PAN/GST registration with latest receipt for the month of November 2025 or 2nd Quarter (i.e July - Sep 2025). However successful bidders shall produce the original copies of same before issuance of contract.
- Only those bidders who have previously executed works of a similar nature shall be eligible to participate in the tender, subject to Submission of a completion certificate along with the relevant allotment order from the Bidder.
- The typographical error in the BOQ like Unit of Item Quantity of Item etc, if any found during e- NIT or after end date of NIT shall be rectified in the allotment as per the estimate.
- The Time is the Essence of this Contract. Agencies are requested to supply the item within the stipulated period of time, which is much mandatory. The Bidding documents 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 www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

S No	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01.01.2026 3:00 PM
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 01.01.2026 to 12.01.2026 (3:00 PM on wards)
3	Bid submission Start Date	01.01.2026 3:00 Pm on wards
4	Bid Submission End Date	12.01.2026 upto 03:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids(Online)	13.01.2026 at 10: 00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer RSGC Srinagar
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids(Online)	To be notified after Technical Bid Evaluation is completed

General Conditions:

- The financial bid (BOQ) of only eligible, responsive bidders shall be opened on line on the date mentioned above in the office of Executive Engineer, KGC, and Srinagar. In case of any unavoidable circumstances the tenders shall be opened on the next working day or any subsequent date convenient to the Authority.
- The 1st lowest bidder (Successful) has to submit performance security @ 5% of the Contract Value in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer, KGC, Srinagar drawn from any recognized Bank, which should reach to the office of Executive Engineer, KGC Srinagar within 05 days from the date of opening of on line bids. In case of failure the bid shall be treated as non-response.
- The bidders will submit the e-mail address, postal address and cell No's on a separate page along with their bids.
- The bids for the works shall remain valid for 90 days from the date of opening of tenders.
- The department shall not be responsible for any technical error or delay in submission of on line bids due to any reason.
- Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GSTIN registered number of the successful bidder.
- The department can modify the terms and conditions, specification of work if need arises before the dead line date of receipt of tenders.
- Un-balanced Bid: The bidders have to produce additional security in shape of CDR/FDR of recognize scheduled/commercial Bank, pledged to Executive Engineer RSGC Srinagar. The CDR/FDR shall be valid for maximum six months or more after the last date of receipt to bids along with the bid document as per following break up: Additional Security online in shape of CDR/FDR: (As Financial Department Circular No. FD-Code/441/2024-02-158 Dated 08-08-2025)**

S No	Percentage of Unbalanced Bid viz; Advertised cost on account flow rates	Additional Security On L1 value of work as percentage of Advertised cost
1	Up to and including 10% below	Nil
2	Greater than 10% up to 20% below	1%
3	Greater than 20% up to 30% below	3%
4	Greater than 30% up to 40% below	5%
5	Greater than 40% up to 50% below	7%

- The bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ down loaded should be used for filling the item rate/Percentage inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- The date of start of work shall be reckoned within one week from the date of issue of LOI /Allotment.
- In case of delay in completion of the work beyond stipulated period of completion, penalty up to 5% of the allotted cost shall be imposed.
- No advance payment shall be paid to the Service / contractor.
- The contractor shall ensure execution of an agreement with the Department within 20 days from the date of issue of LOI/allotment.
- All disputes and differences between the parties arising out of any relating to the NIT, Letter of intent, Allotment, work done bills and agreement to be signed between the Officer of KGC and the contractor including interpretation of its terms and conditions shall be preferable to Administrator KGC Srinagar whose decision shall be final and binding upon all the parties
- The bidders are advised to quote their rates in Percentage which includes Income tax, GST, Labour cess etc.
- The employer may terminate the contract if the contractor causes a breach of the contract.
- The tender is liable to rejection if it does not fulfil the requirements as laid down in the NIT/ Agreement
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD form-25 double /FC-31.
- The Contractor is bound to work / supply the material of best quality as per specifications. Any material found Substandard / defective shall not be entertained and contractor is bound to replace it immediately at his own cost.
- Any item found to be necessary execute on site not covered by allotment the same shall be paid on in vogue rate along allotted percentage.
- The DLP shall be reckoned from the date of successful completion of work shall be upto the period of not less than Six Months.
- Rates should be quoted in INR inclusive of all taxes / Charges / FOR.
- No escalation of rates shall be allowed whatsoever during the period of rate contract.
- In case of the unsuccessful tenderer the CDR/FDR shall be released after completion of the rate contract with successful tenderer.
- The EMD in shape of CDR/FDR with validity of not less than 24 months from any nationalized/Scheduled bank preferably J&K Bank pledged to Executive Engineer KGC and should be uploaded on the portal with tender.

No. KGC/EE/2025-26/156-59
 Dated: 01/01/2026
 Dated: 02-01-2026
 DPK-NB-2921/25
 Executive Engineer
 Kashmir Golf Club
 Srinagar

Fire Damages House in Batamaloo

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A fire broke out yesterday night at SD Colony in the Batamaloo area of Srinagar, damaging a three-storeyed residential house.

According to officials, the second floor and attic portion of a three-storeyed residential structure were engulfed in flames. The house belongs to Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh, son of late Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh, and Mehraj-ud-Din Sheikh, son of late Mohammad Abdullah Sheikh.

"The blaze was brought under control, preventing it from spreading to adjoining houses in

the densely populated locality," the officials said, adding that due to congestion and limited access, additional reinforcement in the form of fire boozers was pressed into service to ensure adequate water supply.

As per KNT, the operation was led by the Divisional Fire Officer Headquarters Muzaffar Ali under the supervision of the Deputy Director Fire and Emergency Services, with Mobilising Officer Aijaz Ahmad Shah overseeing field coordination.

At the preliminary stage, officials said the cause of the fire is suspected to be a short circuit.

No loss of life or injuries were reported in the incident.

KU Notifies Vacancy for Public Relations Officer

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The University of Kashmir has invited online applications from eligible domiciles of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the post of Public Relations Officer (PRO), according to Advertisement Notice No. 01 of 2026 issued by the varsity.

As per the notification, the recruitment is for one unreserved post of Public Relations Officer under Pay Level-10, carrying a salary of Rs 56,100 to Rs 1,77,500. The essential qualification prescribed for the post is a Master's Degree in Social Science, Science, Journalism, Management, Commerce, Law, Electronic Media or Mass Media with at least 55 percent marks from a recognised university. The university has also listed three years of relevant experience in an educational institution, government department, public sector undertaking or autonomous body as a desirable qualification.

Regarding age criteria, the upper age limit as on January 1, 2026 has been fixed at 40 years for open merit candidates. Age

relaxations are applicable for reserved categories, physically challenged candidates and in-service university employees, in accordance with existing rules.

The online application process will commence from January 2, 2026, and the last date for submission of online forms has been fixed as January 22, 2026. In-service candidates are required to submit hard copies of their applications through the proper channel by January 28, 2026.

According to KNT, the applicants have been advised to apply through the official website of the University of Kashmir by completing the registration process, filling in personal, educational and experience details, and paying the prescribed application fee online. Persons with benchmark disabilities have been exempted from payment of the application fee.

The university has clarified that incomplete applications will be rejected without notice and that all future updates, including corrigendum or selection-related information, will be published only on the university website.

ALC Launches Campaign on New Labour Codes, SSSs

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: To empower the local workforce and ensure strict adherence to statutory compliances, the Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) Srinagar inaugurated a ten-day district-wide awareness programme on new Labour Codes and Social Security Schemes (SSS).

The campaign was launched at the Industrial Estate Khanmoh, which was attended by HR professionals, employers, and industrial workers, to discuss the evolving landscape of labour rights and employer responsibilities.

During the inaugural session, the department officials provided an in-depth orientation on the four primary New Labour Codes, specifically focusing on the Code on Wages, Code on Social Security, Industrial Relations Code, and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code. The discussions emphasized the critical necessity of maintain-

ing minimum wage standards, ensuring the timely disbursement of salaries, and upholding rigorous safety protocols at the workplace.

The programme further highlighted the various safety nets available to workers through central social security schemes. Detailed information was shared regarding the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana for pension security, as well as the Suraksha Bima and Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojanas for insurance coverage.

Additionally, the department underscored the specialized welfare measures and benefits accessible to those registered under the Building and Other Construction Workers framework.

In an interactive session, officers of the Labour Department addressed technical queries from HR managers and workers alike, stressing that enrollment in these schemes is vital for the long-term financial stability of the workforce.



CHILDREN ENJOY PLAYTIME at a park near the city centre on a clear day.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Smart City Projects, Market Upgrades Reviewed in City

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a move aimed at strengthening municipal finances while improving the city's commercial and public spaces, the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) and Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), Faz Lul Haseeb on Friday undertook an extensive inspection of key municipal assets and ongoing Smart City projects across Srinagar.

Accompanied by Joint Commissioner Suhail ul Islam, the Chief Revenue Officer and other senior officials, the Commissioner reviewed measures focused on optimal utilisation of municipal properties, faster project execution and enhanced urban aesthetics—seen as critical to boosting revenue generation and economic activity in the city.

The inspection began at the SMC Commercial Complex at Hari Singh High Street, where the Commissioner interacted with shopkeepers and examined issues related to infrastructure and facilities. He reviewed proposals for façade renovation and restoration of parking spaces, stressing that improved functionality, better traffic management and enhanced visual appeal are essential to increasing footfall and commercial vibrancy in the area.

Highlighting the importance of unlocking the full revenue potential of municipal assets, the Commissioner directed officials to initiate a transparent, competitive and time-bound auction of vacant shops in the complex. He said efficient monetisation of municipal properties is vital for achieving financial self-reliance and sustaining civic services without undue dependence on external funding.



6 THE COMMISSIONER LATER INSPECTED ONGOING WORKS AT THE JHELM RIVERFRONT, with particular focus on the underground cabling project. Terming the Riverfront a high-value urban and tourism asset, he instructed executing agencies to immediately augment manpower and resources to ensure timely completion of works."

The Commissioner later inspected ongoing works at the Jhelum Riverfront, with particular focus on the underground cabling project. Terming the Riverfront a high-value urban and tourism asset, he instructed executing agencies to immediately augment manpower and resources to ensure timely completion of works. He noted that expediting the project would significantly enhance the Riverfront's economic, tourism and commercial appeal.

The tour also included Gonikh Market, where underground and allied infrastructure upgradation works are underway. Reviewing progress on site, the Commissioner directed officials to adhere strictly to

project timelines while ensuring minimal inconvenience to traders and the general public. He observed that timely completion of such projects directly improves the business environment and contributes to long-term revenue growth.

Reiterating the administration's priorities, the Commissioner said strengthening municipal revenues through efficient asset management, accelerated execution of infrastructure projects and transparent processes remains central to the agenda of SMC and SSCL. He added that these efforts go hand in hand with improved service delivery and citizen-centric urban development, aimed at making Srinagar a more resilient and economically vibrant city.

House Arrest Bars Mirwaiz From New Year's First Friday Sermon

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the chief cleric of Kashmir, on Friday said he was prevented once again from delivering the traditional Friday sermon at Srinagar's historic Jama Masjid after being placed under house arrest, forcing him to address people through social media instead.

Calling the confinement "deeply suffocating", Mirwaiz said the denial of access to the pulpit reflected a broader silencing of Kashmiri society. "I meet you on the first Friday of the year, not in Jama Masjid, as the Mirwaiz should, but on social media," he said, adding that arbitrary house arrests had become a recurring feature of his life, with 14 Fridays spent under detention last year alone.

Reflecting on 2025, Mirwaiz described it as a year marked by tragedy, fear and uncertainty. He referred to the Pahalgam attack, which he said was unanimously condemned in the Valley but followed by anxiety, targeting of people and demolition of homes. He also cited another India-Pakistan war as a reminder of the fragility of peace in the region and the year-end blast in New Delhi that claimed several lives.

Despite unilateral changes made in August 2019, Mirwaiz said the Kashmir conflict remained unresolved, leaving the region in a perpetual state of instability. "Wars are paused, not ended, and



FILE PHOTO

dialogue finds no takers," he said, adding that Kashmiris continue to face suspicion and hostility in parts of India.

He alleged that the trust deficit between Kashmiris and New Delhi had widened, with enforced silence being portrayed as acceptance. "Wounds remain open, problems unaddressed, and even an elected UT government complains of being powerless," he said, warning of an "existential crisis" driven by fears of demographic change following the abrogation of constitutional guarantees and changes in laws and rules.

Mirwaiz also spoke against the banning of the Awami Action Committee and Ittihadul Muslimin, both constituents of the Hurriyat Conference, describing them as socio-political institutions that had advocated peace and dialogue. He said dissenting voices were increasingly criminalised and branded "anti-national", while public space and media platforms for expressing people's views had virtually disappeared.

Explaining changes to his social media profile, Mirwaiz said he was compelled to do so after Hurriyat constituents were banned under the UAPA, leaving social media as the only remaining channel of communication. "Let me make it clear, my beliefs and convictions have not changed—not even by a comma," he said, rejecting allegations of compromise.

Tracing his role to the legacy of his father, who was assassinated 35 years ago, Mirwaiz said his commitments to the people of Kashmir were non-negotiable. He said he had consistently stood for the rights of Kashmiris, highlighted the plight of jailed youth and leaders, and supported the return of Kashmiri Pandits to their homeland.

Reiterating his long-held position, Mirwaiz said he continued to see his role as a bridge for peace, brotherhood and reconciliation. Recalling past engagements with former Prime Ministers Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh and senior BJP leader L.K. Advani, he said dialogue remained the only viable path forward.

- 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

SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
13 Rajab
1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	6:07
ZUHR	12:35
ASR	3:56
Magrib	5:37
ISHA	7:03

This Day In History

- 1945 - Allies land on west coast of Burma, conquer Akyab.
- 1947 - 1st opening session of Congress to be televised.
- 1948 - Bradman completes dual Test tons (132 & 127*) v India MCG.
- 1956 - A fire damages the top part of the Eiffel Tower.
- 1958 - Edmund Hillary reaches South Pole overland.
- 1958 - The West Indies Federation is formed.
- 1959 - Alaska admitted as 49th US state.
- 1961 - US breaks diplomatic relations with Cuba.
- 1970 - Marxist government takes over in Congo.
- 1974 - Arias Navarro succeeds Carrero Blanco as premier of Spain.
- 1974 - Burma accepts its constitution.
- 1977 - Apple Computer, Inc incorporates.
- 1977 - Former Home Secretary Roy Jenkins announces his intention to be Britain's first President of the European Commission.
- 1980 - Babrak Karmal defends the Soviet-backed coup in first public appearance since taking power as President of Afghanistan.
- 1984 - Syria frees captured US pilot after appeal from Jesse Jackson.
- 1985 - Israel government confirms resettlement of 10,000 Ethiopian Jews.
- 1988 - Israel orders 9 Palestinian "instigators" deported from W Beirut
- 1988 - Margaret Thatcher becomes longest-serving British PM this century.
- 1990 - Panama's leader Gen Manuel Noriega surrenders to US authorities.
- 1991 - Israel reopens consulate in USSR after 23 years.
- 1993 - In Moscow, the Start II arms reduction treaty is signed by George H. W. Bush (USA) and Boris Yeltsin (Russia).
- 1994 - 100s killed in Venezuela in prison revolt.
- 1994 - Tupolev-154M crashes at Irkutsk, Siberia: 122 killed.
- 1994 - 35-foot-tall Chief Wahoo, trademark of Indians on top of Stadium since 1962, is taken down, to be moved to Jacob's Field.
- 1994 - Restoration of South African citizenship, announced on 15 December 1993 by the South African parliament led by President F. W. de Klerk, becomes effective four months before the first South Africa non-racial polls of 27 April, 1994.
- 1996 - The first flip phone, the Motorola StarTAC, goes on sale.
- 1999 - Israel detains, and later expels, 14 members of Concerned Christians.
- 2002 - The Palestinian freighter Karine A is seized by Israeli forces in the Red Sea
- 2004 - After hosting the show for over 30 years, Casey Kasem gives up the hosting duties of "American Top 40" to Ryan Seacrest
- 200 - Flight 604, a Boeing 737 owned by Flash Airlines, an Egyptian airliner, plunges into the Red Sea, killing all 148 people on board.
- 2009 - Israeli ground forces invade Gaza.
- 2009 - The Bitcoin network is created as the first block of the digital currency is mined by a person or group of people using the name Satoshi Nakamoto
- 2013 - 27 Shiite pilgrims are killed and 60 are injured by a suicide bombing in Musayyib, Iraq
- 2015 - Over 2,000 people are killed in north-east Nigeria after Boko Haram militants raze the town of Baga
- 2018 - First bionic hand with a sense of touch, for use outside a lab unveiled in Rome
- 2018 - Lawyers of US President Donald Trump try to stop the publication of book on Trump's administration "Fire and Fury" by Michael Wolff
- 2018 - Previously unknown ancient Beringians group of people unearthed in Alaska, earliest known Native Americans at 11,500 years old
- 2018 - Security expert reveal two security flaws, Meltdown and Spectre which affect most microprocessors
- 2019 - Archaeologists in Mexico announce discovery of pre-Aztec temple to god Xipe Tótec in Puebla state (dated 900-1150 AD)
- 2019 - Chinese Chang'e-4 spacecraft becomes the first ever to touch down on the far side of the Moon

KASHMIR GOLF CLUB

M.A ROAD SRINAGAR

EXTENSION NOTICE

Sub: - Procurement of Various Irrigation Spares (for Rainbird Pump Station) and allied items at KGC, Srinagar.

Ref: - E-NIT NO. 13 of 2025-26 dated 23-12-2025

Tender Id No:- 2025_Tourm_298952_1

Please read the following details carefully:

The bid submission end date has been extended up to **09-01-2026 3:00 PM.**

The date & time for opening of the Technical Bid have been extended up to **10-01-2026 10:00 AM.**

Terms and Conditions:

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

No: KGC/EE/2025-26/160-62 Sd/-

Dated:- 01/01/2026 Executive Engineer

DIPK-NB-2923-25 Kashmir Golf Club

DT: 02/01/2026 Srinagar

'Satellite Images on Punjab Hits During Op Sindoor Misleading'

Prss Trust Of India

New Delhi: Some Pakistani elements are using social media to allegedly circulate "misleading and unverified satellite images", falsely claiming strikes on Indian military facilities in Punjab during Operation Sindoor with the aim to "resurrect a failed narrative", people familiar with the matter said.



Independent verification of the locations shown in these images "confirms that no destruction or damage is visible" at the alleged targets, they said on Friday.

The latest social media push relies on unverified imagery and "recycled propaganda", which does not withstand independent scrutiny, they added.

India launched Operation Sindoor last year on May 7 in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, and engaged in a four-day military conflict with Pakistan.

Indian officials and military officers during press briefings then had underlined that they had to also counter a "misinformation campaign".

In a desperate attempt to "resurrect a failed narrative", some Pakistani elements have "once again turned to social media to circulate misleading and unverified satellite images, falsely claiming strikes on Indian military facilities in Punjab, including areas around Amritsar, during Operation Sindoor," a person familiar with the matter said. The facts, however, remain

unchanged and there is no credible evidence to support claims of Pakistani strikes on Indian military facilities in Punjab during Operation Sindoor, they said.

Indian military facilities cited in the posts "remain intact, with no signs of blast impact, structural damage, or secondary effects that would be expected from a strike," another person familiar with the matter said.

The sudden appearance of these visuals seven months later, "without verifiable timestamps, satellite-source details, or corroboration, suggests a post facto attempt to manufacture evidence rather than present genuine documentation," they added.

Indians Travelling to Saudi Need Clearance for Restricted Drugs: NCB

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Indians travelling to Saudi Arabia should obtain prior permission for carrying certain "restricted" medicines in and out of the country, as the Kingdom there has introduced a mandatory online clearance system, the NCB said on Friday.

The federal anti-narcotics agency, in a statement, said the General Directorate of Narcotics Control, India Country Office, Saudi Arabia, has formally communicated to it that certain medicines that are legally available in India or other countries may be prohibited or subject to restrictions in the Kingdom.

"It has also been informed that carrying medicines in excess of prescribed limits may also attract regulatory action," the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) said.

The West Asian country has launched an electronic service platform - with the web address <https://cds.sfda.gov.sa> - for submission of applications and related details. Permission can be sought online for the medicines intended to be carried for personal use.

As per the advisory, the NCB said, applications are required to be submitted by those who are travelling or their authorised rep-



It has also been informed that carrying medicines in excess of prescribed limits may also attract regulatory action

representatives through the platform.

"Travellers are also advised to consult the official list of restricted and prohibited medicines issued by the Saudi authorities prior to undertaking travel," it said.

The NCB added that Indian travellers are advised to verify the permissibility of medicines they intend to carry and to obtain the requisite approvals, wherever applicable, before travel.

Trump's Backing of Protesters Sparks Iran's Fury

Trump's comments marked one of the clearest expressions of US support for Iranian protesters

Trans Asia News

Tehran: US President Donald Trump and senior Iranian officials traded sharp threats on Friday as protests driven by Iran's collapsing currency entered a sixth day, further inflaming tensions between Washington and Tehran months after US airstrikes on Iranian soil.

The demonstrations, sparked by the rapid fall of the rial to historic lows began as economic protests led by shopkeepers in Tehran and other cities. They have since taken on political overtones, with some chants reportedly directed against Iran's Islamic system. Unconfirmed reports suggested at least five people were killed in clashes during violent demonstrations, though Iranian authorities have not verified the figures.

While the unrest has drawn widespread international media attention, analysts note it has not yet reached the scale or intensity of the nationwide protests that followed the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini in police custody.

The situation escalated after Trump posted a warning on his Truth Social platform, saying the United States would intervene if Iran "violently kills peaceful protesters."

"If Iran shoots and violently kills peaceful protesters, which is their custom, the United States of America will come to their rescue. We are locked and loaded and ready to go," Trump wrote, without providing details.

The statement drew swift and angry responses from



If Iran shoots and violently kills peaceful protesters, which is their custom, the United States of America will come to their rescue. We are locked and loaded and ready to go

Iran's top leadership, who accused the US and Israel of exploiting domestic unrest and warned of severe regional consequences.

Ali Larjani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council and a former parliament speaker, said Trump's remarks exposed "hidden coordination" among Iran's enemies. Writing on X — a platform blocked in Iran — Larjani warned that US interference would destabilise the entire region.

"Trump should know that US interference in this internal matter would mean chaos across the region and the destruction of America's interests," he said. Addressing the American public, he added: "Trump began this adventurism. They should be mindful of their soldiers' safety."

Larjani's remarks appeared to reference America's extensive military pres-

ence in the Middle East. In June, Iran launched missiles at the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar following US strikes on three Iranian nuclear facilities during Israel's 12-day war with Tehran.

Ali Shamkhani, an adviser to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei echoed the warning, saying any attempt to intervene would be forcefully repelled.

"Iranians know well the US 'rescue' record — from Iraq and Afghanistan to Gaza," Shamkhani wrote. "Any intervening hand approaching Iran's security under any pretext will be cut off with a response that induces regret."

Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf went further, declaring that all US bases and forces in the region would be considered "legitimate targets" if Washington intervened.

After a Year of Multiple Setbacks, Cong Hopes for Revival in 2026

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Congress endured another gloomy year in 2025, as it posted one of its worst performances in Bihar and Delhi assembly polls, and battled internal factionalism in Karnataka, one of the only three states the party rules on its own.

Promising results in the Kerala local body polls offered a flicker of hope for the grand old party that looks for a revival in 2026.

Top Congress leaders, including organisation general secretary K C Venugopal, described the Kerala local body poll results as a sign of things to come in this year's state elections, where the Congress-led United Democratic Front will face off against the incumbent Left Democratic Front for power.

The Congress is equally

banking on Assam to reverse its electoral fortunes, although it remains acutely conscious of the formidable opponent in Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of the BJP.

Elections apart, the principal opposition party continued to struggle on the organisational front, with seniors openly demanding strengthening the organisation at the grassroots. The demands cropped up towards the fag end of 2025, with a large section of the party convinced that frontal bodies have to step up for the parent organisation to revive.

Party veteran Digvijaya Singh led the demand for organisational revamp, hailing the model of the ruling BJP's mothership RSS as a disciplined cadre force. Congress outlier Shashi Tharoor backed Digvijaya Singh.

Going forward, the Congress will draw solace from its recent success in local body elections in Kerala, which gave a ray of hope to the party that has been out of power in the state for close to a decade.

The road to power in Kerala is likely to be rough, given the party has multiple chief ministerial hopefuls in the race, with Venugopal, a well-known Rahul Gandhi favourite, as the frontrunner. Insiders say the party's ability to manage competing ambitions will matter in Kerala.

The factional wars in the Congress continued in other states also, with the battle between Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar surfacing routinely through November as the party completed its half-term in the state.

Saudi Jets Strike UAE-backed Separatists in Yemen

AHMED AL-HAJ

Aden (Yemen), Jan 2 (AP) Saudi warplanes have reportedly struck on Friday forces in southern Yemen backed by the United Arab Emirates, a separatist leader says. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

This comes as a Saudi-led operation attempts to take over camps of the Southern Transitional Council, or STC, in the governorate of Haramout that borders Saudi Arabia.

Tensions between Saudi Arabia and the UAE rose after the STC moved last month into Yemen's governorates of Hadramout and Mahra and seized an oil-rich region. The move pushed out forces affiliated with the Saudi-backed National Shield Forces, a group aligned with the coalition in fighting the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen.

Meanwhile, the Saudi ambassador to Yemen accused the head of the STC of blocking a Saudi mediation delegation from landing in the southern city of Aden.

Strikes on Hamdmout The STC deputy and former Hamdmout governor, Ahmed bin Breik, said in a statement that the Saudi-backed National Shield Forces advanced toward the camps, but the separatists refused to withdraw, apparently leading to the airstrikes.

Salem al-Khanbashi, the governor of Hadramout who was chosen Friday by Yemen's internationally recognised government to command the Saudi-led forces in the province, called the current operation "peaceful."

"This operation is not a declaration of war and does not seek escalation," al-Khanbashi said in a speech aired on state media. "This is a responsible pre-emptive measure to remove weapons and prevent chaos and the camps from being used to undermine the security in Hadramout," he added.

The Saudi-led coalition now demands the withdrawal of STC forces from the two governorates as part of de-escalation efforts. The STC has so far refused to hand over its weapons and camps.

Escalating tensions

In his post on X, the Saudi ambassador to Yemen, Mohammed al-Jaber, said the kingdom had tried "all efforts with STC" for weeks "to stop the escalation" and to urge the separatists to leave Hadramout and Mahra, only to be faced with "continued intransigence and rejection from Aidarous al-Zubaidi," the STC head.

Al-Jaber said the latest development was not permitting the Saudi delegation's jet to land in Aden, despite having agreed on its arrival with some STC leaders to find a solution that serves "everyone and the public interest."

Yemen's transport ministry, aligned with STC, said Saudi Arabia imposed on Thursday requirements mandating that flights to and from Aden International Airport undergo inspection in Jeddah. The ministry expressed "shock" and denounced the decision. There was no confirmation from Saudi authorities.

A spokesperson with the transport ministry told The Associated Press late Thursday that all flights from and to the UAE were suspended until Saudi Arabia reverses these reported measures. Yemen has been engulfed in a civil war for more than a decade, with the Houthis controlling much of the northern regions, while a Saudi-UAE-backed coalition supports the internationally recognised government in the south. However, the UAE also helps the southern separatists who call for South Yemen to secede once again from Yemen. Those aligned with the council have increasingly flown the flag of South Yemen, which was a separate country from 1967 to 1990.

Govt Directs Musk-led X to Remove Vulgar, Unlawful Content

New Delh: The government on Friday issued a stern notice to Elon Musk-led social media platform X to immediately remove all vulgar and unlawful content, especially generated by its AI app Grok or face action under the law.

The Ministry of Electronics and IT has issued a notice to the Chief Compliance Officer for India operations of X for failure to observe statutory due diligence obligations under the Information Technology Act, 2000, and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

"...X is hereby directed to... remove or disable access, without delay, to all content already generated or disseminated in violation of applicable laws, in strict compliance with the timelines prescribed under the IT Rules, 2021, without vitiating the evidence in any manner," the order dated January 2 said.

The ministry has sought an action taken report towards immediate compliance for the

prevention of hosting, generation, publication, transmission, sharing or uploading of obscene, nude, indecent and sexually ex-



licit content through the misuse of AI-based services like 'Grok'.

"It is reiterated that non-compliance with the...requirements shall be viewed seriously and may result in strict legal consequences against your platform, its responsible officers and the users on the platform who violate the law, without any further notice, under the IT Act, the IT Rules, the BNSS, the BNS and other applicable laws," the order said.

NEWS MAKERS

Gaza Humanitarian Crisis Deepens: Grandmother, Her Grandson Burnt to Death

WAFATA SHURAF

Deir Al Balah (Gaza Strip), Jan 2 (AP) A grandmother and her 5-year-old grandson burned to death in Gaza when their tent caught fire, as thousands of Palestinians battle harrowing winter conditions in flimsy makeshift housing and the humanitarian crisis deepens.

The nylon tent in Yarmouk caught fire Thursday night from cooking, a neighbour said.

As 2026 begins, the shaky 12-week-old ceasefire between Israel and Hamas has largely ended large-scale Israeli bombardment of Gaza. But Palestinians are still being killed almost daily by Israeli fire, and the humanitarian crisis shows no signs of abating.

Over the past weeks, cold winter rains have repeatedly lashed the sprawling tent cities, causing flooding, turning Gaza's dirt roads into mud and causing buildings damaged in Israeli bombardment to collapse. UNICEF says at least six children have now died of weather-related causes, including a 4-year-old who died in a building collapse. At least three children

have died of hypothermia, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

Aid groups say not enough shelter materials are getting into Gaza during the truce. Figures recently released by Israel's military suggest it hasn't met the ceasefire stipulation of allowing 600 trucks of aid into Gaza a day, though Israel disputes that finding. There is also concern that Israel's recent suspension of more than three dozen international aid groups from operating in Gaza will make it even harder to get supplies like tents in.

Palestinians have long called for mobile homes and caravans to be allowed in to protect them against living in impractical and worn-out tents. In Yarmouk, people live in nylon tents near a garbage dump.

Ashraf al-Suwair said he woke up to the sound of screaming as his neighbours shouted "fire! fire!" He said the nylon is like fuel, easy to ignite. "We need a good place that suits the people and the children of Gaza, instead of burning to death," he said.



Gaza isn't getting the help it needs

On Friday, the foreign ministers of Arab and Muslim countries, including Egypt, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, expressed concern about Gaza's deteriorating humanitarian situation. The situation has been "compounded by

the continued lack of sufficient humanitarian access, acute shortages of essential life-saving supplies, and the slow pace of the entry of essential materials," said the joint statement.

Since the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas began, 414 people have been killed and

1,142 wounded in Gaza, according to the Health Ministry. The overall Palestinian death toll from the war is at least 71,266. The ministry, which does not distinguish between militants and civilians in its count, is staffed by medical professionals and maintains detailed records viewed as generally reliable by the international community.

The Israel-Hamas war began with the Hamas-led attack in southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, that killed about 1,200 people and saw 251 taken hostage.

Israel carries out more West Bank raids and arrests

Meanwhile, Israel continues operating in the occupied West Bank.

On Friday, the Palestinian Prisoners' media office said Israel carried out wide-scale raids across the territory, including Ramallah and Hebron. Nearly 50 people were detained.

Israel's military said there were arrests made of people "involved in terrorist activity." This follows the arrest of at least 50 other Palestinians on Thursday, most of whom were arrested in the Ramallah area.

Kashmir's Rooftops Turn Power Producers, Hit 40 MW by Year-End

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In Kashmir valley, more than ten thousand households have installed rooftop solar systems in 2025 under the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The officials informed KNO that the current installed capacity stands at 39-40 Megawatts (MWs). "Till the month of February, there was a total installed capacity of 2-3 MWs but the local implementing agency, Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDC), had installed rooftop solar systems with capacity of nearly 40 MWs till the December end," the official said. It also said at least 40-50 feeders in Kashmir valley are enjoying the electricity supply round the clock.



"Almost all of the areas having AT&C losses of less than 20 percent are receiving the 24 hours power supply," the official added. The official further informed that more than 6.52 lakh smart meters have been installed in Jammu and Kashmir till the month of November. It includes installation of 2.81 lakh smart meters in the past two years under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) and Prime Minister's Development Package. Pertinently, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah last week had said that nearly 48 percent households in

Srinagar enjoy uninterrupted electricity supply following a successful Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) trial with zero power cuts. The Chief Minister, in a post on X had congratulated KPDC on making another 83 areas in Srinagar 24-hour power zones following a successful RDSS trial with zero power cuts. "With this, 108 areas in Srinagar now enjoy round-the-clock, uninterrupted electricity supply, benefiting 1.25 lakh households, nearly 48% of the city. Similar upgrades are underway in other districts to ensure 24x7 power supply," he said.

TILL THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, THERE WAS A TOTAL INSTALLED CAPACITY OF 2-3 MWS BUT THE LOCAL IMPLEMENTING AGENCY, Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDC) had installed rooftop solar systems with capacity of nearly 40 MWs till the December end."

Minister Rana Reviews Issues Raised by Legislators



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana on Friday held a series of meetings with several legislators and public delegations to review and discuss issues related to departments under his charge. The deliberations primarily focused on matters concerning the Public Health Engineering (PHE), Irrigation & Flood Control (I&F) and Tribal Affairs. During the interactions, a broad spectrum of issues of public importance were taken up in detail. These included the availability and augmentation of drinking water supply, irrigation and flood management works under I&F, concerns of tribal communities, timber supply-related matters and service-related issues of employees of the Jammu & Kashmir Forest Development Corpora-

tion Limited (JK FDCL). Special emphasis was laid on resolution of compassionate appointment related cases and long-pending pensionary matters of JK FDCL employees. These issues were discussed comprehensively in presence of the Managing Director, JK FDCL, with a view to ensuring timely and fair redressal. The legislators who met the Minister included Ch. Muhammad Akram, Iftikhar Ahmed, M.Y. Tarigami, Nizam ud Din Bhat, Bharat Bhushan, Mush-taq Guroo, Arjun Raju, Javaid Iqbal, Hasnain Masoodi and Peerzada Feroze Hmad Shah. They highlighted constituency-specific and sectoral issues requiring administrative attention. The Minister gave a patient hearing to all the legislators and members of the public delegations, assuring them that all their genuine issues would be examined for resolution in a time-bound and result-oriented manner.

Sajad Chairs Meeting of Committee on Govt Assurances

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Committee on government assurances of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly convened a meeting at Assembly Complex, Jammu to review the assurances pertaining to the Power Development Department (PDD).



The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman, MLA Sajad Gani Lone and attended by members including Choudhary Mohammad Akram, Iftikhar Ahmed, Hilal Akber Lone, Mian Mehar Ali, Mohan Lal, Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj and Shagun Parihar. The Committee reviewed the status of assurances given by the government on the Floor of the House pertaining to Power Development Department and working of different projects. The Chairman stressed upon the concerned authorities to address the grievances and issues raised by the members on

priority basis. Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department, Shailendra Kumar, briefed the Committee about the status of implementation and action taken by the department in respect of government assurances pertaining to PDD. He also assured the Committee that all pending assurances of PDD would be redressed on priority basis. The members of the Committee highlighted various issues of public importance regarding the working of Power Development Department. The Chairman of the Committee exhorted upon the senior authorities of Power Department to take all necessary arrangements to provide adequate power supply to the people of Jammu and Kashmir especially in winter zones in Kashmir and Jammu region so that they can get relief during winter season.

Probe Ordered After Cricketer Wears Helmet with Palestinian Flag

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday ordered a preliminary enquiry after a cricketer from south Kashmir wore a helmet with the Palestinian flag during a private cricket tournament match in Jammu, a police spokesperson said. A video and photos of the cricketer, Furqan Ul Haq, were circulated online after he was seen displaying the flag on his helmet during the Jammu and Kashmir Champions League here on Thursday. "Yesterday, a video circulating on social media showed a cricket player, Furqan Ul Haq, resident of Tangipuna, Pulwama, playing cricket at K C Door in Muthi, while displaying a Palestine logo on his helmet," the spokesperson said. He said that in view of the "sensitivity of the matter and its potential public order implications", a 14-day preliminary enquiry under Section 173(3) of the BNSS has been initiated at the Doman police station to ascertain the facts, intent and background of the individual and "any possible linkages". The tournament started

on December 29 in Jammu. According to PTI, the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association maintained that it has no role, engagement or association with the tournament, as it is a private affair and not recognised by the association. This is the second cricket league in the UT to be hit with controversy, following the collapse of the privately-

run Indian Heaven Premier League (IHPL), whose organisers allegedly fled Srinagar on November 1 after duping players, officials, broadcasters and hoteliers.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (MECHANICAL), PWR(R&B), CENTRAL KASHMIR ENGINEERING COMPLEX (PMGSY BUILDING), RAJBAGH SRINAGAR KASHMIR-190008

DATE EXTENSION-01

Subject:- Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 12 No., (G+3), 5 passengers, Customized MRL lifts at Transit Accommodation at Wandahama Ganderbal.

Reference:- eNIT No;- R&B/MDCK/NIT/23 of 2025-26. Dated:- 11.12.2025

Due to poor response, the last date of Bid Submission will be 06-01-2026 (16:00 hrs) & opening of technical bid will be 07-01-2026 (at 12:00 hrs.)

Rest, all other terms and conditions of the said e-NIT (with annexures) shall remain same.

No. XENMC/Sgr/2564-66. Sd/-

Dated:- 01.01.2026 Executive Engineer

DIPK-9620-25 PW(R&B) Mechanical Division

DT: 02/01/2026 Central Kashmir

Over 340 Killed in Accidents on Jmu-Sgr Highway in 2 Years

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: More than 340 people lost their lives in about 2,300 road accidents on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway over the past two years, officials said on Friday. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic, National Highway, Raja Adil Hamid Ganaie while talking to KNO said, "As many as 1,056 road accidents were reported on the highway in 2025, claiming 170 lives. In comparison, 1,300 accidents occurred in 2024, resulting in 173 fatalities." Sharing the enforcement data for 2025, the SSP said that a total of 88,700 challans were issued during the year, imposing fines amounting to Rs 10.61 crore, of which around Rs 3 crore was realised. He said 497 vehicles without valid documents were seized, while five FIRs were registered against habitual traffic violators. He said that special enforcement drives were conducted throughout the year to curb traffic violations. "As many as 153 special drives were carried out across the highway jurisdiction, focusing mainly on visible offences such as the use of pressure horns, overloading and non-

use of seat belts," he said. Referring to the challenges faced by the Traffic Police in the year 2025, the SSP said, "The year proved to be challenging for traffic management on the highway, especially as heavy monsoon rains caused extensive damage at multiple locations, including Ramban and Udhampur." During that period, he said, the priority of the Traffic Police was regulation rather than enforcement, with all available manpower deployed to ensure smooth movement and safety of commuters. "Once the situation improved, traffic police teams resumed enforcement with renewed vigour," he said. The SSP said public cooperation with Traffic Police has improved and stressed that strict adherence to rules by commuters would further enhance safety on the highway. He also said that the 25-kilometre stretch between Ramban and Banihal is currently single-lane due to ongoing work, adding that occasional damage caused by shooting stones hampers progress but work continues. Appealing to commuters, the SSP urged them to follow traffic advisories before undertaking their journey on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

Drug Peddler on the Run Arrested

The Anti-Narcotics Task Force of the Jammu and Kashmir Police arrested a woman drug peddler on Thursday, who had been evading her arrest for the last three years, officials said on Friday. The accused, identified as Tamana Ashraf, a resident of the Batamalo area, was wanted in connection with a drug trafficking case registered under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, according to PTI. A police spokesman said Ashraf was involved in the trafficking of over seven kilograms of charas. The contraband was being sent to Mumbai through courier services. Since the case was registered, the accused had been hiding in various states across the country to avoid arrest. The spokesman added that through the sustained efforts of the Anti-Narcotics Task Force, she was tactfully apprehended from her residence at Batamalo. (Observer News Service)

Woman Found Dead in Kreeri

A woman was found dead on Friday in Kreeri area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district, nearly two months after she went missing from her home. A police official identified the deceased as Atiqa Begum, resident of Kreeri, who had been missing since 5 November 2025. A missing report was lodged at Police Station Kreeri on the same day by her family, he said. According to KNS, he further said that the body was first spotted by local residents early in the morning. "Locals informed the police soon after noticing the body. A team was immediately dispatched to the site and the body was taken into custody," the official said. The official added that the body was shifted to the nearest government hospital for medical and legal procedures. "The post-mortem examination is currently underway to ascertain the cause of death. The investigation has been initiated from all possible angles," he added. (Observer News Service)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER

POSHAN PROJECT KHANYAR

MISKEENBAGH KHANYAR SRINAGAR | 0194-2459859

Advertisement Notice: - 03 of 2025

Dated:- 31.12.2025

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

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

Approval has been accorded, vide letter No: 103 - JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28.04.2023 and MD/Poshan/47286-93 dated: 24.12.2025 for filling up of various vacancies of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Khanyar, as per the details given below:

S. No	Name of Project	Name of Post	No. of Post
1	Poshan Project Khanyar	Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers)	3
		Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers)	5
		Total	8

Applications are invited in the Prescribed Performa in Annexure "A" from the eligible candidates at CDPO Poshan Project Khanyar Miskeen Bagh Srinagar for engagement as Anganwadi Worker and Anganwadi Helper on Honorarium basis for aforementioned posts of Anganwadi Centres. The important dates/details with regard to the posts are as under:

a) Date of commencement for submission of application forms 15 days from the publication of this Advertisement.
b) Annexure B - Name of the Post, Location/Ward, Qualification and Criteria for selection
c) Annexure C - Affidavit

ANNEXURE 'A'

Format of Application

- Name of POSHAN Project
- 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:

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

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

15. Document Attached: _____

Date: _____ Signature of the candidate

ANNEXURE 'B'

Detail of Vacant Posts Anganwadi Worker (Sanginis) along with name and location of AWC.

S. No.	NAME OF ANGANWADI CENTRE	WARD NO.	NAME OF POST	NO. OF POSTS
1	Taibal Dangeerpora	Wanihama-67	Anganwadi Worker (Sanginis)	01
2	Kondabal	Joglanker-62	Anganwadi Worker (Sanginis)	01
3	Ashraf Khan	Bud Dal-65	Anganwadi Worker (Sanginis)	01

Detail of Vacant Posts Anganwadi Helpers (Sahayikas) along with name and location of AWC.

S. No.	NAME OF ANGANWADI CENTRE	WARD NO.	NAME OF POST	NO. OF POSTS
1	Mughal Mohalla A	Daulatabad-45	Anganwadi Helper (Sahayikas)	01
2	Peer Bagh	Daulatabad-45	Anganwadi Helper (Sahayikas)	01
3	Zaidar Mohalla	Bud Dal-65	Anganwadi Helper (Sahayikas)	01
4	Dhobi Ghat	Hazratbal-66	Anganwadi Helper (Sahayikas)	01
5	Khar Mohalla	Hazratbal-66	Anganwadi Helper (Sahayikas)	01

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.
- Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Worker shall be 10+2 and maximum graduation. In case no 10+2 pass candidate is available in the adjoining ward shall be considered which would require prior approval of Mission Director, Mission POSHAN.
- In case suitable candidate is not available for adjoining ward, candidate from the nearest ward within the ward can be considered subject to the approval of the MD, Mission POSHAN.
- 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.
- In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.
- Candidate with qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered.

B. Anganwadi Helpers

- The selection of Helper shall be restricted to the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre is located.
- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible.
- The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.
- Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Helper shall be matriculation.
- In case no matriculate candidate available in the ward, candidates with qualification not less than 8th standard shall be considered.
- The committee shall select the most destitute/ needy married woman of the ward as helper from amongst those who fulfill the qualification criteria. In case no married candidate is available, unmarried candidate may be considered.

C. 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

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.

- Marks sheet(s)/Diploma/Degree of the qualification prescribed for the post as per Advertisement Notification.
- Date of Birth/Matriculate Certificate.
- Domicile Certificate.
- Unmarried Certificate (where required)

2) Candidates have to bring two passport size recent colour photographs and one original Photo ID Proof. Photo ID Proof can be:
i) Aadhaar Card
ii) Voter ID card

3) The candidates, who are supposed to furnish various certificates 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:

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

No.: CDPO/Posh/Khy/Estt/2025-26/ Date: .12.2025

DIPK-9639-25
DT: 02/01/2026

Child Development Project Officer
Poshan Khanyar

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Distribution & Advertising: Firdous Ahmad
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

KO VIEW

Hope On Slopes

The last year ended on a hopeful note for Kashmir. Tourists returned after months of fear and silence. Hotels are busy again. Taxis move steadily on the roads. Shops stay open longer. For many families who depend on tourism, this shift feels like relief after a long and difficult stretch.

The return mattered because the valley had gone through deep shock earlier last year, when tourists were killed in Pahalgam. That incident changed everything overnight.

Bookings were cancelled, work disappeared, and the mood across tourist towns turned heavy. The renewed footfall helped lift that weight. It brought back income for drivers, guides, hotel staff, artisans, and street vendors. Winter tourism once again became a source of hope.

This winter, however, tells two different stories. Hill stations such as Gulmarg, Sonamarg, and Pahalgam receive good snowfall. Ski slopes stay active and visitors are enjoying the season. At the same time, large parts of the Kashmir plains saw very little snow.

The contrast points to a larger reality. The climate is changing, and winters no longer follow old patterns.

These changes place a clear responsibility on everyone linked to tourism. Numbers alone cannot be the goal. Tourism needs to grow in a way that protects the land that draws visitors in the first place.

Clean surroundings, safe water, and proper waste systems are basic duties. Many mountain regions outside India have preserved their charm because they respect nature and enforce clear rules.

There is also growing concern about rapid construction in fragile areas. Hotels and guest houses have come up on hillsides and close to rivers. Reports suggest that this unchecked growth is harming the environment. Landslides, water stress, and damaged forests affect both locals and visitors. When nature suffers, tourism suffers with it.

The strong beginning of 2026 shows that Kashmir still holds its appeal. People want to return. They trust its beauty and hospitality. That trust needs protection.

Tour operators, hotel owners, transport unions, and local bodies have to work together. Careful planning and shared responsibility can keep tourist places clean, safe, and welcoming.

The Long Road to Empowerment

Policy targets, events, and photographs often hide the persistent limits women face in everyday decision-making.

Irfan Jaffer

I spend much of my time moving between villages and semi-urban settlements, sitting in courtyards, anganwadis, and small community halls.

On official files, these places are full of empowered women. Schemes have reached them. Groups have been formed. Trainings have been completed.

But on the ground, the story is more layered.

Many of the women I met were members of self-help groups. They attended meetings, signed registers, and handled group savings. Some kept detailed records with care and discipline. Their names appeared in progress reports as active participants.

Still, many of them asked for permission before leaving home. Some rushed back early to avoid questions. Others spoke softly, watching who might be listening.

I met women who managed group money but had no role in deciding how money was spent in their own homes. I spoke with women who could explain loan rules clearly but had little say in household choices.

These moments revealed a gap that numbers fail to show.

Being part of a program does not always mean having control over one's life.

One of the most difficult lessons from my fieldwork was understanding that control does not come only from men. In many homes, women also enforce limits on other women.

Mothers-in-law often decide when younger women can step out, what they can wear, and whom they can meet.

Elder women sometimes discourage girls from studying further or taking up work, saying it brings trouble into family life.

During discussions on domestic abuse, I heard women advising other women to stay silent and endure. They spoke of family honour and adjustment.

These conversations were painful, but they mattered. They showed how deeply gender roles are learned and passed on.

Beyond blaming women, this is about seeing how inequality becomes normal over time.

When people grow up seeing control as care, speaking out feels risky.

If empowerment efforts do not deal with this reality, they remain surface-level. Teaching women to speak in



“My experience leads me to one clear conclusion. Women's empowerment will remain incomplete as long as it is reduced to events, targets, and headcounts. Real change begins when uncomfortable truths are faced, when women and men are both involved, and when power inside daily life is taken seriously. Empowerment does not begin in policy documents. It begins in homes, conversations, and lived experience.”

meetings has limited impact if silence is demanded at home.

At the same time, my work challenged another common idea.

Men are often described only as barriers.

On the ground, I saw something more complex. When men were included in conversations without accusation, change began to show.

I sat with fathers who spoke about wanting their daughters to study and work. I met husbands who admitted that housework and care duties fall mostly on women and that this is unfair.

These were simple, honest exchanges, and they showed that involving men through conversation, not confrontation, matters deeply.

Change grows when men see themselves as part of it.

I also saw how many empowerment efforts stop at symbolism. Women were invited to meetings, seated in

front rows, and photographed. Special days were marked with speeches about equality and strength. Once the events ended, daily life stayed the same.

Women were present, but their views rarely shaped decisions. Visibility replaced voice.

This approach looks good in reports but does little for real change. Empowerment becomes something to display, rather than something to live.

Over time, one thing became clear. Empowerment cannot work in isolation.

Training a woman to speak confidently does not help much if her family, community, and local systems continue to shut her down. Change must happen at many levels. But primarily, it must reach homes.

Women I met wanted space to make their own choices, the freedom to question rules, and support when they stood up for themselves.

They needed systems that stayed

with them after meetings ended.

The field shows a simple truth. Empowerment matters when it shapes women's daily lives, beyond words and programs.

My experience leads me to one clear conclusion. Women's empowerment will remain incomplete as long as it is reduced to events, targets, and headcounts.

Real change begins when uncomfortable truths are faced, women and men are both involved, and power inside daily life is taken seriously.

The author is a Gender Studies postgraduate and Cluster Lead with the Human Welfare Voluntary Organization, working on community development with a focus on gender and grassroots social change. He can be reached at jaffarirfan77@gmail.com.

I was standing outside a bakery on Residency Road last month when a young man in a pressed outfit asked if I knew any office that needed “a boy for a few weeks.”

He had walked from Budgam at dawn because the temp agency that promised him a data-entry shift had sent a WhatsApp at 10 pm, saying the job was gone.

The boy still came, “in case they change mind again.”

The bakery owner watched the exchange and shrugged. “This is how it works,” he said. “We hire for a week and pay when we can. It keeps things flexible.”

Flexible, the man replied, means nothing is fixed.

In that brief exchange, Kashmir's private sector comes into focus. Work is offered as a favour, given today, and taken back tomorrow.

The result is a valley where tourists see houseboats and apple orchards, but locals see a labour market that never solidified into steady, scaleable companies.

We keep asking why Kashmir's unemployment rate stays above the national average. The louder question is why anyone expects investment to grow where the rules of employment are rewritten each morning.

In many private offices in Srinagar, employees cannot remember their last paid holiday. Appointment letters are rare. Provident fund deductions show up on payslips, but the money never reaches their accounts.

A trade survey conducted this spring found that 68 percent of private-sector employees had been paid late at least once in the previous six months. One in four said the delay stretched beyond 90 days.

When salaries turn into surprises, rent, school fees, and insulin become gambles.

Families adapt by keeping sons in government-exam coaching centers and placing daughters on short-term teaching contracts, sustaining the belief that private work is only “supplementary.”

In reality, supplementary work has become central, and it is bleeding talent.

National chains that open outlets here enter the same security climate and banking bottlenecks we blame for scaring capital away. But they stay, expand, and attract queues. Their staff wear name tags, take scheduled breaks, and know the exact date salary hits their account.

Customers notice. A mediclaim rejection is handled by a process, rather than by pleading with the proprietor's cousin. That reliability, not price, explains why Srinagar's middle class drives past the corner store to a corporate chain. Local owners mutter about “brand power” while refusing to archive bills or train floor managers. Brand begins with systems instead of logos.

The excuse list is familiar: distress, disruption and disturbance. Each shock is real, but shocks test structure. They do not explain its absence.

The Valley's Private Sector Void

Kashmir's job problem is rooted less in markets and more in how employers treat work.

Irshad Mushtaq

Gujarat's textile mills endured riots and earthquakes. Bangalore's call centers lived through water crises and terror alerts. They responded by tightening payroll software, diversifying clients, and insuring plants.

Kashmir's default response is to shrink the workforce overnight, delay wages, and wait for “normalcy.”

Normalcy becomes code for never investing in the plumbing of business: ledgers, job descriptions, and succession plans.

Last year I spent a week inside a four-room handicraft exporter in Zaldagar. Orders from Milan had revived after the pandemic lull, but the owner could not dispatch 300 pashmina shawls on time. His senior weaver had left for a government daily-wage ditch-digging crew that paid less but on the dot. The remaining artisans worked home-based, afraid to demand advances.

The exporter railed against “ungrateful artisans,” but his own ledger showed payments made in three instalments stretching 16 weeks. Italy's buyer switched to a Chandigarh unit that cost 18 percent more and delivered in 21 days.

The valley lost not just margin but the entire narrative that Kashmiri craft is worth waiting for.

Skill deficit is routinely indicted, and our colleges still treat typing as computer education. But the bigger hole is organizational.

Give a 24-year-old a six-day crash course in Excel and clear instructions, and she will reconcile inventory. Place her in a showroom where the manager screams daily, salary arrives unpredictably, and policy changes with the owner's mood, and she will retreat to Instagram or the next PSC exam.

Training sticks where rules feel fair. Fairness is cheaper than new machinery but scarcer.

Artisans, hotel bellboys, and pharmacy aides converge on the same missing pillar: a workplace contract that treats



“Kashmir will build a lasting private sector the day employers accept that timely salary is not generosity but cost of goods sold, that training is capex, and that listening to the youngest hire is market research.”

labour as a relationship governed by law, than charity.

The Jammu & Kashmir Shops and Establishments Act has applied in full since 2016. It mandates written appointment, weekly off, overtime pay, and a grievance redress forum.

Enforcement is left to district labour officers who oversee thousands of units with a staff of three.

Inspections are announced by WhatsApp, and closure threats negotiated over a cup of tea. Owners know the state is unlikely to fine them, and workers know complaints invite dismissal.

Both sides settle into the mutual pretence that informality helps “keep peace.”

Peace, in this equation, means silence, rather than stability.

Some change is visible. A ski-resort operator in Gulmarg now ties end-season bonus to guest-review scores. A Srinagar diagnostics lab funds an evening spoken-English class and promotes from within. Attrition has halved, and footfall rises each quarter because patients trust the same technician who drew their blood last year.

These outliers prove the market rewards reliability even in twisted terrain. They also show reform needs no Delhi package. It needs owners willing to step off the shop floor and design a process that survives their absence.

Policy can help at the margin: a single online portal for registration, fines that escalate for repeat wage delay, and a seed fund that releases 25 percent grant only after a firm files audited wage records. But the engine is inside each unit.

Kashmir will build a lasting private sector the day employers accept that timely salary is not generosity but cost of goods sold, that training is capex, and that listening to the youngest hire is market research.

Until then we will keep exporting apples and importing apple juice, stitching shawls and watching others retail them for five-fold margins.

Beyond another summit on ease of doing business, the valley requires hundreds of owners willing to look at the Residency Road job-seeker in the eye and say, “Be here at nine tomorrow. Your wages will be in your account on the last working day, every month.”

When that sentence becomes ordinary, investment will arrive without buzzwords, and young men will not walk morning buses hoping for a week of mercy work.

Reliable paychecks are the only stimulus package that ever lasted, and Kashmir can issue them without waiting for anyone's permission.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Finding Ali Beyond Claims

Why competing claims, ritual praise, and historical disputes have obscured Imam Ali's ethical and political vision.

Dabirah Hassan

I have grown up observing deeply contradictory portrayals of Imam Ali among two broad groups. One group claims to love and revere Ali in a particular manner, while the other appears to distance itself from such expressions. But both insist that they accept Imam Ali. Amid these conflicting claims, the authentic identity of Imam Ali (AS) has gradually



HOW, THEN, CAN WE FIND ALI? ALI LIVES WHEREVER THOUGHT RESISTS TYRANNY, WHEREVER JUSTICE confronts power, and wherever ethics challenges convenience. Ali speaks through his supplications, through his whispered prayers, and most powerfully through Nahjul Balagha, a text that does not merely inform but disturbs, unsettles, and demands. To encounter Ali directly through his words is to bypass sanctified intermediaries who offer reverence without reflection and ritual without consciousness.

been obscured.

The true stature of Imam Ali has not been preserved with balance. At times, he has been elevated beyond the limits of human reality. At other times, he has been reduced below the rank he rightfully deserves.

This imbalance has prevented us from understanding Imam Ali in accordance with the truth of who he was and what he represented. Imam Ali himself warns against this distortion in Nahjul Balagha, where he states: "Two groups will be destroyed because of me: a friend who exaggerates in love and an enemy who falls short in justice."

Despite this clear warning, Imam Ali has often been reduced to the subject of sectarian rivalry, treated as though he were merely an inheritance to be claimed in a dispute between two brothers.

Such an approach strips him of his universal moral and intellectual significance. Imam Ali stands far above narrow claims of ownership, lineage, or factional loyalty.

More troubling is the way Imam Ali is frequently presented through inherited interpretations and repetitive narratives.

He is often seen through the lenses of religious authorities who themselves rely on tradition without reflection and reverence without understanding.

As a result, Ali is remembered as a symbol rather than engaged with as a living moral force.

There is no denying that Imam Ali is among the most admired figures in Islamic history. His name has inspired vast bodies of poetry, prose, and devotional literature. Countless

manqabats have been composed in his honour.

But, when these praises are examined critically, many lack spiritual vitality. Year after year, the same expressions are repeated with altered language, while their essence remains unchanged and shallow.

A similar pattern appears in many contemporary religious lectures. The focus often rests on enumerating virtues and recounting miracles, while the deeper dimensions of Imam Ali's thought, including his vision of justice, his principles of governance, his ethics, and his inner struggle, remain largely unexplored.

We celebrate his greatness without confronting the demands his example places upon us.

As a result, Imam Ali becomes an object of admiration rather than a guide for transformation.

We speak endlessly of our love for him, yet rarely ask what it truly means to follow him. We compete to prove devotion while neglecting understanding, reflection, and practice.

This is the root of our confusion regarding Imam Ali.

Until we move beyond exaggerated praise and hollow rivalry and instead strive to engage sincerely with who Imam Ali truly was, our claims of love will remain superficial and incomplete.

How, then, can we find Ali?

Ali lives wherever thought resists tyranny, justice confronts power, and ethics challenges convenience.

Ali speaks through his supplications, through his whispered prayers, and most powerfully through Nahjul Balagha, a text that does not merely inform but disturbs, unsettles, and demands.



To encounter Ali directly through his words is to bypass sanctified intermediaries who offer reverence without reflection and ritual without consciousness.

Our tragedy is a lack of courage. We reduce Ali to a historical dispute, arguing endlessly over whether he was first or fourth, while ignoring why he stood alone.

This fixation on rank replaces the question of responsibility.

Ali does not ask where we place him in history. He asks where we stand in relation to justice.

This age can no longer claim ignorance as an excuse. We live in a time when knowledge is no longer hidden behind walls or monopolised by authority. Information is abundant, and the burden of choice is heavier than ever.

The question is no longer whether Ali can be known, but whether we are willing to be transformed by knowing him.



OUR TRAGEDY IS NOT A LACK OF ACCESS BUT A LACK OF COURAGE. WE REDUCE ALI TO A HISTORICAL DISPUTE, arguing endlessly over whether he was first or fourth, while ignoring why he stood alone. This fixation on rank replaces the question of responsibility. Ali does not ask where we place him in history; he asks where we stand in relation to justice.

Love, when detached from action, becomes a refuge from commitment.

To claim Ali through affection alone is to betray him. Ali does not belong to those who praise him but to those who walk his path.

He is not the property of a sect, a lineage, or a tradition. Ali is a human possibility, open to all who choose justice over comfort, truth over silence, and consciousness over conformity.

Let Ali be freed from our narrow enclosures so that humanity may encounter him as a living question addressed to every age.

— The author is a multimedia producer at Kashmir Observer and can be reached at dabeerhassan121@gmail.com.

Loopholes in Our Hospitals

A year of observing valley hospitals exposes inefficiencies, overburdened staff, and unattended patient needs.



Faizaan Bashir

In the last year, I wrote scores of articles on the inefficiencies and inadequacies of our government hospitals. Drawn purely from observations over the past three years, the pieces focused on what factual analysis often misses.

They came with folded hands, requesting those at the helm to examine the details on the ground.

No committee could dig deeper than the author has. Factoring in details as granular as an "uff" escaping from the lips of attendants, to doctors sweating in cramped spaces, and as serious as an empanelled pharmacy pushing "Videsh" away, every observation is linked to (or derived from) a disease whose genesis and eradication remain unknown.

Issues persist in swathes. Some I may have forgotten to mention. Others I have stressed fairly enough. Of the former, examine the following, if you do not have time to confirm it yourself.

The resuscitation room is a holy place, where life is either saved by a doctor or snatched away by death. How distressing it is to watch those who have passed away being wrapped in the same room, in front of critically ill patients. How horrifying must the shrieks of attendants sound to the ears of the sick, sitting nearby and battling death?

This is a scene in one of the premier institutions of our valley: a three- to four-bedded room where resuscitation, the wrapping of a dead body, ECGs, dying patients, nervous attendants, and more all unfold simultaneously.

Can we zoom in on the root cause of this mess, equally grave and important, yet paid less attention?

Lack of space and inattention. Or spatial availability and inattention. Two possibilities. If the case is the former, carving out a space from the boundary-less hospital land and deploying a couple of men of honour there for post-mortem formalities should not be a tough job. But if it is the latter, then we are truly unlucky.

And this is now 2026. And I have been raising these issues for over a year.

The sole purpose of hospitals is to cure patients and give them relief, as clichéd as it may sound. But our hospital administration does not bother to confirm whether the resuscitation room is meant for saving lives or wrapping up the dead. It does not confirm whether the meagre sum released under the Ayushman Bharat Golden Card is enough to cover essential drugs in emergencies. In emergencies, I reiterate.

Nor does it account for the pain of attendants running relay races for drug requisitions — signed, stamped, and carried across departments — before reaching drugstores poles apart from the ward where their patient lies.

The pain is intensified by the pressure our premier hospitals face from hundreds of thousands of overwhelming patients. The situation is worsened by frequent referrals from peripheral hospitals for ailments they should have been able to handle.

Genuine or not, shouldn't this concern the hospital administration and the government enough to act, and clear this mess, in which both the workforce and the patients suffer?

When doctors burn out, patients are neglected. When attendants are exhausted, patients receive less care. How can this frustration continue in a sacred place, a hospital, of all places?

Granted, our hospitals are doing their best for patient care and trying to avoid irregularities, but when issues such as resuscitation chaos and endless queues arise, they taint the entire system.

A situation comes to mind as I sit awake at the premier hospital in Srinagar right now at 1 P.M.: unless we abandon our indolent habit of running government hospitals on a two-wheeled cosmetic cart, patients will continue to suffer, in ways our policymakers won't understand, and in ways our hospital administration cannot even imagine. Pin it.

— The author holds a Master's degree in History and can be reached at peerfaizanbhashir@gmail.com.

Hope & Renewal

A year of rebuilding trust, expanding opportunities, and embracing change defines Jammu and Kashmir's journey forward.

Dr. Nisar Farhad

The turn of a year is a moment to look back, and imagine what lies ahead.

This annual tradition stretches back millennia, from the Mesopotamians who welcomed hope and renewal in 2000 BCE, to the Romans who set January 1 as the start of the year under Julius Caesar.

Today, it remains a time to reflect, learn, and move forward.

For the people of Jammu and Kashmir, 2025 was a year that tested courage, patience, and collective will. It brought sorrow and fear, most painfully in Pahalgam, where a tragic attack disrupted lives and livelihoods, and in Srinagar, where the Nowgam Police Station blast shook the city.

Thousands dependent on seasonal tourism faced anxiety and uncertainty. But through it all, the swift coordination of security forces and civil administration restored stability and confidence. Their prompt action reminded the people that peace is achievable.

The agricultural sector too felt the strain. Erratic weather and repeated highway closures cost fruit growers nearly 2,000 crore. Families faced financial stress, and relief was limited.

Even so, the year reaffirmed that Jammu and Kashmir continues to move forward with strong institutions and a shared commitment to safeguarding peace, livelihoods, and development.

Infrastructure and connectivity became a beacon of hope. The Chenab Railway Bridge, the world's highest railway arch bridge, and the Anji Bridge, India's first cable-stayed rail bridge, were symbols of determination, and progress.

The Vande Bharat Express between Kathra and Srinagar made travel faster, safer, and more comfortable, opening doors for tourism, trade, and cultural exchange. The arrival of the first FCI freight train in Anantnag strengthened supply chains and food security, especially crucial during harsh winters.

Ongoing work on tunnels and ring roads promises all-weather connectivity, reduced isolation, and safeguarded economic activity.

These are pathways to stability and opportunity. Economic renewal gained ground. Jammu and Kashmir earned fifth place in the



Ease of Doing Business rankings, a sign of simplified procedures and growing transparency.

J&K Bank emerged as a champion for MSMEs and local industries, fueling employment and enterprise. The startup ecosystem expanded from a handful in 2020 to over 1,100 by 2025.

Srinagar's recognition as a World Crafts City, along with GI tags for traditional crafts, revived cultural pride and created sustainable income for artisans.

Tourism showed resilience. Domestic tourist arrivals crossed 95 lakh in the first half of 2025, reflecting confidence and the benefits of opening new destinations. In health, the Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY scheme extended financial support to families, while telemedicine and AIIMS Kashmir expanded access to specialized care.

The foundation of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence in Reasi signals long-term commitment to healthcare, even as manpower shortages remain. Education made strides too. Jammu University earned A++ accreditation, research from Kashmir University gained global recognition, and digital classrooms expanded access.

But teacher shortages and dropout rates remind us that more work is needed.

The year also highlighted pressing social and environmental issues. Youth unemployment, climate disasters, winter power shortages, and healthcare gaps un-

derscored the need for forward-looking, people-focused policies. Mental health, particularly among young people, gained attention, with technology helping reduce stigma and connect people to services. Addressing these challenges requires sustained awareness and care.

Democracy and governance also saw renewal. The first Legislative Assembly budget session in seven years marked a return to participatory governance. Digitized services and online grievance systems brought citizens closer to decision-making. Programs like the National Rural Livelihood Mission empowered women to start businesses, promoting economic independence and inclusive growth.

As 2026 begins, hope is tangible. People look for more peace, more jobs, and better lives. The goal is clear: equitable access to education, healthcare, infrastructure, and opportunities across every corner of the region.

The year is a moment to build trust, promote reforms, and move forward with consistency, vision, and the active participation of citizens.

With strong institutions, good governance, and collective effort, Jammu and Kashmir can step into the future with confidence, clarity, and shared prosperity.

— The author is a Lecturer in Chemistry with the School Education Department in Jammu and Kashmir.

Husband's Financial Dominance Not Cruelty: SC



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- Financial dominance of a husband over his estranged wife in a soured marital relationship is not an act of cruelty, the Supreme Court has said while highlighting that a criminal litigation cannot become a "gateway to settle scores and pursue personal vendettas".

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan made the observation while quashing a criminal case lodged against an estranged husband by his wife, alleging cruelty and dowry harassment.

Setting aside a Telangana High Court verdict that had refused to quash the FIR, Justice Nagarathna said, "The monetary and financial dominance of the accused-appellant, as alleged by the complainant-respondent No.2, cannot qualify as an instance of cruelty, especially in the absence of any tangible mental or physical harm caused. "The said situation is a mirror reflection of the

Indian society, where men of the households often try to dominate and take charge of the finances of the women, but criminal litigation cannot become a gateway or a tool to settle scores and pursue personal vendettas."

Justice Nagarathna, who authored the judgment on behalf of the bench, refused to consider the act of seeking details of expenses of the money sent by the estranged husband as an act of cruelty.

"Courts have to be extremely careful and cautious in dealing with complaints and must take pragmatic realities into consideration while dealing with matrimonial cases, where the allegations have to be scrutinised with greater care and circumspection in order to prevent miscarriage of justice and abuse of process of law," the bench observed.

The court termed the discord over the expenses as a reflection of "the daily wear and tear of marriage" and held that such actions cannot be categorised as cruelty under section 498 (sub-

jecting a married woman to cruelty by her husband or his relatives) of the Indian Penal Code.

The bench said after a careful consideration of an earlier judicial dictum, none of the offences alleged against the accused husband is made out.

"In fact, we find that the allegations of cruelty, mental harassment and voluntarily causing hurt against the accused-appellant herein have been made with a mala-fide intent with vague and general allegations," the court said in its December 19 order.

The verdict came on an appeal filed by the husband against the April 27, 2023 order of the high court refusing to quash the FIR against him and his family members.

The apex court clarified that the observations made in the verdict shall not come in the way of any matrimonial or other proceedings pending between the parties, which shall be decided on their own merits and in accordance with law.

NOTICE

It is hereby informed that in my J&K Bank account bearing No. 0217040150000014, my name has been incorrectly recorded as Zamrooda Banoo W/o Ab Rashid. However, my correct name, as per my Aadhaar Card is Zamruda Rasheed W/o: Abdul Rasheed. I request that the necessary correction be made. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, they may convey the same to J&K Bank, Business Unit Nailamar Road Srinagar, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections will be entertained after this period.

Zamruda Rasheed W/o: Abdul Rasheed
R/o: Makhdoom Mandow,
Naid Kadal Srinagar

ab

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the Death Certificate of my father, Abdul Ahad Lone who died on 19-07-2014. 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 concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Abdul Hamid Lone
S/o Abdul Ahad Lone
R/o Zangam Pattan

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to correct my Ward's name in Aadhaar card Bearing no. 668002333790, from Toiba Shabir to Toiba Shabeer as per her Domicile Certificate.
If anybody having any objection may contact the concern authority within a period of seven days, after that no objection will be entertained.

Shabeer Ahmad Sheikh
F/o Toiba Shabeer
R/o Syed Colony Zakura

media line

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the District Youth Services & Sports Kulgam

Sub: - Final Seniority of Physical Education Teacher of District Kulgam as on 01-12-2025.

Whereas, the administrative department vide YSS-Adm/14/2022-02-YS&S Dated: - 16-01-2025 advised to update the seniority list of Physical Education Teachers in terms of SRO-375 of J&K Decentralization & Recruitment Act 2010 issued by General Administration Department; and

Whereas, the Directorate of Youth Services & Sports, J&K vide order no. DGYSS/Estt/455-79 Dated:- 09-04-2025, constituted District Level Committees headed by the concerned District Youth Services & Sports Officers and accordingly authorized these committees to prepare the District wise seniority of Physical Education Teachers as per rules in vogue and it was further ordered that the concerned Joint Directors Youth Services & Sports will examine the draft seniority lists and ensure that all the rules & regulations governing the formulation of seniority list are strictly adhered to. The final seniority lists shall be issued only after being vetted by the concerned Joint Directors YSS Jammu/Kashmir; and

Whereas, this office had issued tentative seniority list of Physical Education Teachers vide notice No:-DYSSO/Kul/800-06 Dated: 24-10-2025 which was published in two leading newspapers for inviting objections, if any, from the stakeholders; and

Whereas, this office has received 27 objections from the stakeholders within 21 days from the Date of Publication of the Notice in the newspaper through Department of Information and Public Relations, J&K

Whereas, the District Level Committee headed by the undersigned had convened the meeting on 24-12-2025 and the objections received by this office have been examined/scrutinized thoroughly by the committee and necessary corrections/additions/deletions have been made in the seniority list

Whereas, the updated seniority list is also vetted by the Joint Director Youth Services & Sports concerned in terms of rules in vogue.

Now, therefore, in terms of Rule 24 of J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956, the final seniority list in respect of Physical Education Teachers in respect of District Kulgam is hereby issued forming annexure to this order for information among all officials.

The date (s) of birth/ Reserved Category/Qualification recorded in the seniority list against the officials shall be subject to further verification from the Original Service Book/Matriculation certificate / Qualification Certificate / permission from the competent authority wherever applicable of the concerned official (s) or from the competent issuing authority at the time of placement on higher position. If the Reserved Category Certificates (s) furnished by any official turns out to be false/fake later on, the same shall be deemed to have been cancelled, ab-initio along with all such benefits which the official(s) would have availed on the basis of such false/fake certificates.

The seniority list so issued will be subject to outcome of writ petition(s) pending, if any, before any Competent Court of Law.

No. DYSSO/Kul/Estt/1060-71
DIPK-9623/25
Dated: 02-01-2026

Raja Yaqoob
District Youth Services & Sports Officer
Kulgam



The methods used to consume news have changed over time from newspapers, to television, to the Internet on our computers to carrying the news around with us 24/7 on smartphones in our pockets.

Kashmir Observer, with 28 years of experience in news gathering is now available 24x7 on all digital platforms like laptops, cell phones or via Bluetooth on your smart TV's across the world

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

28th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

VISIT

<https://www.youtube.com/c/kobserver>

OR SCAN



OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

THE OTHER SIDE

INKISHAF

VOX POP

UNRAVEL KASHMIR

Agri Minister Chouhan Bats For Integrated Farming Methods



Press Trust Of India

NASHIK (MAHARASHTRA) - Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday said integrated farming methods are necessary for increasing sustainable economic productivity of farmers, and even small land-holders can benefit from it.

He was speaking at a programme organised at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra under Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) here.

"Farmers have to bear huge financial losses due to the changing climate and natural disasters. Therefore, integrated farming methods are necessary for farmers to add complementary business to agriculture in order to increase sustainable economic productivity," the Union minister said.

"It is possible even for small landholders to benefit from integrated farming," Chouhan said, adding that farmers are being encouraged to take up complementary businesses like poultry farming, animal husbandry, sericulture, pond fish farming and horticulture.

The government is also keen on the development of new climate change-resistant varieties of crops, the minister said.

Chouhan also visited the famous Trimbakeshwar temple here, one of the 12 Jyotirlingas, earlier in the day, and offered prayers.



JAVID AHMED TENGA, PRESIDENT, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday in Jammu.

Govt Announces Rs 7,295-Cr Export Package To Improve Exporters' Access To Credit

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The government on Friday announced a Rs 7,295-crore export support package, comprising a Rs 5,181-crore interest subvention scheme along with a Rs 2,114-crore collateral support, to improve exporters' access to credit.

Both measures will be rolled out over a period of six years (2025-31).

Additional Secretary in the Commerce Ministry Ajay Bhadoo said that these interventions will address the trade finance issues of exporters.

Under the interest subvention scheme, which has been resumed after a gap of one year, exporters will get a subsidy on pre- and post-shipment export credit.

It will help cut the cost of credit for exporters.

MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) currently pay anywhere between 9.5 per cent and 12.5 per cent for export credit, and the subsidy will make their goods competitive in the tough global market, which has been disrupted due to high tariffs imposed by the US.

This is the second component of the Rs 25,060-crore export promotion mission (EPM) approved in November 2025.

The first component -- market access support with an



outlay of Rs 4,531 crore -- was rolled out on December 31, 2025.

The subvention scheme will help exporters from identified sectors to avail of rupee export credit at competitive rates at a time when global trade is facing headwinds.

Under the scheme, the government will provide subsidy benefits in the range of 2.75 per cent to eligible MSME exporters.

According to the commerce ministry, the subvention rates will be reviewed bi-annually in March and September based on domestic and global benchmarks.

The annual benefit is capped at Rs 50 lakh per firm. The detailed guidelines of the scheme will be released by the RBI, which is the implementing agency, along with the Directorate General of

Foreign Trade (DGFT).

A pilot roll-out will be undertaken, with a scope for refinement based on implementation feedback, it said.

Even with the cap, 75 per cent of the total tariff lines or product categories (over 12,000) would be covered.

The interest rate subvention that has been capped at 2.75 per cent for now will be benchmarked against the Repo or policy rates of India and comparable economies, and would be adjusted as the interest rates move, Bhadoo said.

When the policy rates go down, the subsidy will also come down.

The rates will be adjusted every March and September, he said, adding that an additional interest subsidy will be provided to MSMEs exporting to new and emerging markets.

Foxconn, Dixon, Samsung Among 22 Projs Cleared For Electronics Components Mfg Scheme

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Foxconn, Dixon, Tata Electronics and Samsung are among the 22 new proposals approved by the government under the ambitious Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), with a projected investment of Rs 41,863 crore and production worth Rs 2,58,152 crore.

The approvals - third set of clearances under the scheme - are expected to generate 33,791 new jobs, reduce India's import dependence for critical electronic components, and accelerate the build-out of high-value manufacturing capabilities in the country.

Taken together with previous ECMS tranches and ongoing semiconductor initiatives, the latest clearances underline India's firm resolve to emerge as a major hub in global electronics supply chains.

According to sources, a large chunk of investments and employment will come from Apple's new vendors, who are now joining its global supply chain. Some of them will be exporting to Apple's international locations.

Notably, Motherson Electronic Components, Tata Electronics, ATL Battery Technology India, Foxconn (Yuzhan Tech India), and Hindalco Industries are five vendors from Apple's ecosystem. The approved projects are



spread across eight states, including Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, and reflect the government's focus on geographically balanced industrial growth and expansion of electronics manufacturing across the country, according to the IT Ministry.

At a briefing announcing the new set of investment proposals approved by the government, Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw underlined the Centre's focus on big reforms, enabling policies, and efficient and speedy execution of projects and initiatives.

"The results are clearly visible sector after sector," Vaishnaw said.

The minister asked the industry to prioritise setting up design teams and nudged players to go for Six Sigma to be globally competitive.

India's Manufacturing Sector Activity Falls To 2-Yr Low In Dec: PMI

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- India's manufacturing sector activity witnessed the weakest improvement in the sector in two years in December on account of softer expansions in new orders, prompting firms to limit input purchases and job creation, a monthly survey said on Friday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) -- an indicator of sector performance -- fell from 56.6 in November to

55 in December. In the PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"Even with growth momentum easing, India's manufacturing industry wrapped up 2025 in good shape. The sharp rise in new business intakes should keep companies busy as we head into the final fiscal quarter, and the lack of major inflationary pressures could continue to support demand," said Pollyanna De Lima, Eco-

nomics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

The end of the 2025 calendar year was characterised by a loss of growth momentum across several measures tracked by the HSBC India Manufacturing PMI survey. Production growth slowed to a 38-month low amid the weakest upturn in new orders for two years.

Part of the slowdown in total sales reflected a softer increase in international orders. New export orders rose to the least extent in 14 months. Where growth was

signalled, panellists cited better demand from clients in Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

"We have seen a steady spell of softer growth in new export orders. In fact, the share of companies signalling higher international sales in December was about half of the average for 2025. The survey's anecdotal evidence has also pointed to a narrower range of export destinations, with goods mainly heading to Asia, Europe and the Middle East," Lima said.

A softer increase in new business intakes prompted companies to limit the extent to which inputs were purchased. Moreover, amid a general lack of pressure on operating capacity, factory employment increased only marginally in December.

"The pace of job creation was the lowest in the current period of growth that began in March 2024," the survey said.

On the price front, the survey said input costs rose at a historically negligible pace. Concurrently, the rate of 'charge inflation' eased to a nine-month low.

Gold Climbs Rs 1,100 To Rs 1.39 Lakh Per 10g In Delhi Markets

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Gold prices climbed Rs 1,100 to Rs 1,39,440 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid firm trends in international markets, according to the marketmen.

Silver prices also surged by Rs 4,000 to Rs 2,41,400 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes).

In the international market, spot gold increased by USD 67.47, or 1.56 per cent, to USD 4,392.94 per ounce.

Spot gold is trading with a gain of over 1 per cent at USD 4,390. As the move lacks any clear reason behind it, the rationale could be rate cut expectations by the US Federal Reserve and optimistic outlook for the metal, Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities, Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said.

In the near-term outlook, Singh said that "Gold is expected to range trade between USD 4,250-4,335 per ounce, ahead of the release of key US reports, including ISM manufacturing, ISM non-manufacturing and non-farm payroll report to be released next week".

Spot silver also went up by USD 3.06, or 4.28 per cent, to



USD 74.52 per ounce in the overseas trade.

"Silver prices in the global market started 2026 on a positive note on Friday, following their strongest annual increases in over four decades in 2025," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

He noted that ongoing geopolitical uncertainty, expectations of lower US borrowing costs, and a firm dollar have supported this upward trend.

Meanwhile, the US has imposed tighter restrictions on Venezuela's oil exports, and renewed hostilities between Russia and Ukraine over the New Year have continued to bolster safe-haven demand, Gandhi said.

Nifty Hits Record Intra-Day High; Sensex Jumps 573 Points

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Equity benchmark index Nifty hit its lifetime peak before closing 182 points higher on Friday, and the BSE Sensex jumped 573 points, powered by strong buying in power, banking and metal stocks.

Unabated capital infusion by domestic institutional investors amid a sharp rally in Asian peers also supported the domestic stock market, traders said.

Charting out a firm trend, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 573.41 points or 0.67

near-term market direction," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark jumped 720.56 points or 0.84 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 286.25 points or 1.09 per cent.

From the 30-Sensex firms, NTPC, Trent, Bajaj Finance, Power Grid, Maruti, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank and Bharat Electronics were among the biggest gainers.

In contrast, ITC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Titan Company,



per cent to settle at 85,762.01. During the day, it jumped 623.67 points, or 0.73 per cent, to 85,812.27.

A total of 2,772 stocks advanced, while 1,449 declined and 150 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Rising for the third-straight session, the 50-share NSE Nifty went up by 182 points, or 0.70 per cent, to 26,328.55. During the day, it surged 193.45 points, or 0.73 per cent, to reach an all-time peak of 26,340.

"After the New Year holiday, the global markets initiated 2026 on a positive note, while strong domestic automobile sales helped Indian equities to touch a fresh all-time high. Investor sentiment remains broadly constructive as attention turns to Q3 earnings, which are expected to guide

Axis Bank and Bharti Airtel were the laggards.

"Select index heavyweights provided additional support, enabling the market to sustain its upward momentum despite the absence of strong global triggers, as several overseas markets remained closed due to holidays. Meanwhile, continued weakness in tobacco-related stocks weighed on the FMCG space following recent tax-related developments," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Shares of cigarette and tobacco product makers ITC, Godfrey Phillips and VST Industries ended lower on Friday, extending their previous day's decline, after the government imposed an additional excise duty on such products effective February 1.

Rupee Slips Past 90, Settles At 90.20 Against Dollar

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- The Indian rupee slipped below the 90-mark and settled the day lower by 22 paise at 90.20 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, amid disappointing macroeconomic data and strengthening of the American currency in overseas markets.

Forex traders said persistent foreign fund outflows and strong dollar demand from importers further dented investor sentiment.

However, weak crude oil prices and a surge in the domestic equities cushioned the downside, they said, adding that any intervention by the RBI may support the rupee at lower levels.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the local unit opened at 89.95 against the dollar, and touched an intraday low of 90.25 and a high of 89.92 during the session.

At the end of Friday's trading session, the rupee was quoted at 90.20 (provisional) against the greenback, down 22 paise from its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee depreciated 10 paise to close at 89.98 against the US dollar.

"Indian rupee fell on Friday, breaching the 90-mark once again amid disappointing macroeconomic data and a positive US dollar index... FI outflows too weighed on the rupee.

However, weak crude oil prices and a surge in the domestic equities cushioned the downside. RBI reportedly sold dollars via state-owned banks, which also prevented the pace of fall," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Commodities, Mirae Asset ShareKhan.

Dir Agri Inaugurates Sensitization Programme On FPOs

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah Friday inaugurated one day sensitization programme on Farmer producer organizations (FPOs) at Agriculture complex Ialmandi Srinagar.

The program was attended by Joint director agriculture extension, joint director agriculture inputs, project coordinator Mushroom, PDO, ADO Srinagar, district nodal officers for the FPO scheme and the members of registered FPOs access Kashmir division.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director marked the role of FPOs in modern agriculture. He said the FPO scheme is one of the innovative initiatives under HADP to strengthen the socio-economic conditions of farmers and today's program is aimed at capacity building of FPOs.

The Director further noted that a majority of farmers in Jammu and Kashmir are small and marginal landholders who are highly vulnerable to climate change, erratic weather events, and pest infestations. In this context, he emphasized that FPOs play a vital role by enabling farmers to achieve economies of scale, access shared resources, adopt modern and sustainable technologies, and secure better market linkages.

Shah impressed upon the concerned officers to work in close coordination with the FPOs and address their issues if any, on priority basis.

JKEDI Launches 5th Batch Of MDPs Under RAMP Scheme

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Friday launched the fifth batch of Management Development Programmes (MDPs) at Shopian under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme.

The initiative is funded by the Union Ministry of MSME and is being implemented in the Union Territory by the Industries & Commerce Department.

The district-level MDP was inaugurated at Zainapora, Shopian, with 21 participants enrolled in the 30-hour training programme to be conducted over a period of six days. The programme has witnessed enthusiastic participation from local MSMEs and entrepreneurs.

The MDP aims to strengthen managerial, financial, and operational capacities of MSMEs by providing practical, hands-on training in modern business management practices. The initiative seeks to enable entrepreneurs to scale their enterprises, improve competitiveness, and adopt sustainable and resilient business models.

The curriculum includes focused modules on business planning, marketing strategies, digital tools, financial literacy, statutory compliance, innovation, and leadership, complemented by case studies, mentorship sessions, and experiential workshops for real-world exposure.

During the programme, participants interacted with industry experts, JKEDI faculty, and certified trainers.

Ministry Of MSME Organises Series Of EAPs

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Ministry of MSME, through its Branch MSME Development & Facilitation Office, Srinagar, organized district-wise Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAPs) in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JK-RLM) UMEED.

The programmes were conducted in the districts of Anantnag, Kulgam, Kupwara and Baramulla.

The programmes were coordinated by Mohamed Tariq Ishtiaq, Assistant Director, Ministry of MSME, in close coordination with the respective District Programme Managers (DPMs) of JK-RLM.

The primary objective of these programmes was to motivate women beneficiaries towards entrepreneurship and to create awareness about various schemes and facilities offered by the Ministry of MSME, District Industries Centres (DICs), and other supporting institutions.

The programmes witnessed active participation from the banking community, wherein bankers elaborated in detail on the financial support and facilitation available to Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under NRLM, including credit linkage and other banking services.

The programmes served as an effective platform for capacity building, financial awareness, and entrepreneurial motivation among women, fostering inclusive and sustainable economic development at the grassroots level.

VPN Ban Violation: Security Action Taken Against 10

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Police have initiated "security proceedings" against ten people, and counselled five minors, in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district for not complying with orders prohibiting the use of virtual private network (VPN) in the Union territory for security reasons.

Authorities in Shopian and Kulgam districts on Monday (Dec 29, 2025) had suspended

the use of VPN services until further notice over security considerations.

A police spokesperson said the police conducted a district-wide verification drive to check for compliance in the south Kashmir district and identified 15 individuals allegedly violating the order.

Following detailed technical scrutiny and background verification, no terror-related links or adverse antecedents were found, and no FIR has

been registered in the matter, the spokesperson said.

However, as a preventive measure, security proceedings were initiated against 10 individuals, as five others were minors, for violation of the said orders.

The minors were counselled and advised in the presence of their guardians, with emphasis on awareness, lawful digital conduct, and the consequences of violating lawful orders, the spokesperson said.

J&K Govt To Launch Online Notary Portal, Inspection Teams To Verify Notaries

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has decided to launch an online notary portal and has ordered the constitution of dedicated inspection teams for physical verification of notaries across the Union Territory to ensure accountability, transparency and efficiency.

According to a circular issued by the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, directors of litigation in Jammu and Kashmir have been instructed to constitute inspection teams under the

supervision of district litigation officers. These teams will carry out physical verification of notaries in their respective districts and collect all relevant data within one week to facilitate onboarding on the proposed online notary portal.

The circular states that any discrepancy noticed during verification shall be brought to the notice of the department for necessary action in accordance with the Notaries Act, 1952 and the Notaries Rules, 1956. It has also been made mandatory for all notaries appointed by the Government

of Jammu and Kashmir to extend full cooperation to the inspection teams within the stipulated period, failing which action will be initiated as per law.

The department said the online notary portal will enable registration and appointment of notaries, renewal of certificates of practice and online submission of annual returns. All notary related information will be placed in the public domain, accessible round the clock, and grievances related to notaries can also be registered through the portal.

The circular further reiterated that as per rules, every notary is required to submit an annual return of notarial acts in the first week of January each year and apply for renewal of certificate of practice online within the prescribed timeframe.

The order has been issued under reference LAW (Notary) 50 of 2021 and has been signed by Binny Kumar, Assistant Legal Remembrancer, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, with a copy circulated to all concerned authorities and notaries.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Dry Spell For

Jammu division, dense to very dense fog is likely at a few places over the plains during the next three days, prompting an advisory for caution while commuting.

Kashmir is currently observing Chilla-e-Kalan, the harshest 40-day winter phase, though the plains have yet to receive snowfall this season, indicating a departure from usual winter patterns.

Director Meteorological Centre Srinagar Mukhtar Ahmad said no major weather system is expected till January 15, and overall conditions are likely to remain largely dry, with a slight increase in cold but no significant temperature drop anticipated.

Seasonal Rainfall

of rainfall, 78 per cent below normal. Kistwar and Ladakh (Leh) followed closely, with deficits of 76 per cent and 72 per cent, respectively, the data stated, adding, other districts facing significant shortfalls included Pulwama (-52%), Baramulla (-58%), Ganderbal (-48%), and Srinagar (-51%). Kupwara also experienced below-normal rainfall, with 60.6 mm recorded against the normal 170.9 mm, a departure of 65 per cent.

The data revealed that Ramban, Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur, and Anantnag reported deficits ranging from 22 to 39 per cent. Budgam saw rainfall fall 59 per cent short of the seasonal average.

A few districts bucked the trend, recording near-normal or above-normal rainfall. Doda recorded 135.7 mm, just 8 per cent below normal, while Rajouri saw 100.5 mm, only 1 per cent below average, the data stated, adding, Poonch stood out as the only district with above-normal rainfall, recording 109 mm, 26 per cent higher than normal. Reasi (104.9 mm) and Samba (48 mm) also saw rainfall within or slightly below normal ranges.

The IMD data further indicated extremely low rainfall in high-altitude areas, with Kargil registering only 3.7 mm and Leh 1.9 mm, marking departures of 71 and 72 per cent from their respective normals.

Meanwhile, MeT officials said the below-normal rainfall could impact soil moisture

levels and winter crops in many districts.

"The rainfall pattern has been uneven across the region, with some districts receiving adequate precipitation while others remain water-stressed. Localised measures and irrigation planning may be required to mitigate the shortfall," they added.(KNO)

Hiking, Camping

police station has been directed to ensure strict implementation of the order and monitor movement at all checkpoints. The public has been asked to strictly comply with the restrictions, with violations attracting legal action.

The order will remain in force for two months from the date of issuance, unless withdrawn earlier or extended as per the law.

Court Rejects

following seizure of the heroin-like substance during vehicle checking near Sozeith in City outskirts on 24 February last year.

Earlier counsel for the accused contended that the rigours of Section 37 were not attracted, arguing that the alleged recovery did not fall within the definition of commercial quantity and that the accused deserved to be enlarged on bail.

Opposing the plea, the Special Public Prosecutor submitted that the seized substance was of commercial quantity, and therefore bail was statutorily barred. She argued that the offence was grave in nature and had devastating consequences for society, particularly the youth including the young girls.

"If released on bail, the accused is likely to continue such activities and destroy the lives of the younger generation," the Special Public Prosecutor said.

After hearing both sides, the court observed that it meticulously applied the twin conditions under Section 37 of the NDPS Act, which impose stringent restrictions on the grant of bail in cases involving commercial quantities of narcotic drugs.

Relying on settled Supreme Court jurisprudence, the court reiterated that bail can be granted only when it is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the accused is not guilty of the offence and that he is not

likely to commit any offence while on bail.

The court further held that the prosecution had produced sufficient corroborative material, including bank transactions between the accused, mobile call data reflecting regular communication, and recovery of the mobile phone used in the alleged transactions from the applicant's residence. These factors, the court said, prima facie establish a nexus beyond mere confessional statements.

Holding that the material on record disclosed a strong prima facie case and that there was a tangible risk of the accused re-engaging in similar activities, the court dismissed the bail application.

Alarming Trend

with true happiness flowing from righteousness.

He cautioned that education systems which fail to instil humility, character and a sense of dharma along with knowledge are incomplete. "When I speak of religion, it should not be limited to visiting temples, mosques or churches. Religion is a sense of duty. Education devoid of morality and values is not useful to society and can sometimes even prove fatal," Singh said.

The defence minister said terrorists are not necessarily illiterate and may possess university degrees, but lack wisdom. "Therefore, wisdom is essential," he said.

Singh also spoke about the country's defence and economic trajectory, saying many defence startups are doing commendable work and expressing confidence that India will become fully self-reliant in weapons over the next 15 to 20 years. He noted that technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning are transforming lives and must be harnessed positively for national development.

Highlighting India's economic growth, Singh said the country is the world's fourth-largest economy and is on track to become the third-largest by 2030, with universities playing a crucial role in this journey.

He urged students to maintain a balance between self-respect and ego, saying self-respect should never turn into arrogance. Stressing the importance of values, Singh described teachers as the strongest pillars of education and the

initiators of major social change in India.

Referring to global challenges such as environmental issues, health crises and digital ethics, Singh said solutions cannot emerge from a single discipline. "Universities must teach students not only what to think, but how to think, and promote solution-driven research that brings real change on the ground," he said.

Chittorgarh MP C P Joshi, Nathdwara MLA Vishvaraj Singh and other political leaders were present at the event.

NIA Conducts

by local police and the Central Reserve Police Force, conducted the searches after bringing along one of the accused, Yasir Ahmad Dar, who was arrested for his alleged role in what investigators have described as a "white-collar" terror module.

According to officials, the searches were carried out in the Padpawan area of Shopian and the Pampore locality of Pulwama in south Kashmir.

Dar, the ninth accused in the case, had reportedly informed investigators about suspected hideouts in these areas, prompting the agency to launch the search operations, officials said, adding that further details were awaited. PTI

J&K Govt

The appointment is aimed at ensuring structured oversight and coordination within the department on matters related to stray dog management.

The order further specifies that Technical Officers attached to all Chief Engineers of the Jal Shakti Department have also been designated as nodal officers within their respective jurisdictions. These officers will function at the level of Chief Engineers' offices, extending the implementation mechanism across divisions and field units.

The decision reflects the administration's intent to establish a clear chain of responsibility for addressing issues arising from the presence of stray dogs, which have increasingly become a concern for locals in several urban and semi-urban areas due to safety, sanitation, and public health implications.

Copies of the order have been circulated to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, the offices of the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, senior secretariat officials, divisional commissioners, deputy commissioners, and other concerned authorities to ensure wide dissemination and compliance.

The order has been issued with the approval of the competent authority and signed by senior officials of the Jal Shakti Department, bringing it into immediate effect from January 1, 2026.

37 PDD Officials

have identified Mushtaq Ahmad Malik, son of Sonallah Malik and a resident of Aragam in Bandipora, as the alleged kingpin of the scam.

The case was registered after the Crime Branch received credible information that the Drawing and Disbursing Officer, in active connivance with departmental officials and bank staff, had fraudulently withdrawn crores of rupees from government accounts. The illegally drawn funds were allegedly used to facilitate fake appointments and siphon off public money.

Investigations revealed a well organised and systematic conspiracy involving diversion of government funds, manipulation of official records and fraudulent financial transactions. Officials said substantial amounts were transferred into multiple bank accounts of the accused, including savings accounts and term deposits, along with accrued interest.

During the course of the investigation, crores of rupees were recovered from the possession of the alleged kingpin. The recovered amount was subsequently deposited into the government treasury, officials said.

The government has accorded the mandatory sanction for prosecution against all the accused persons. With the filing of the charge sheet, the case will now proceed before the competent court for judicial adjudication.

Officials said the filing of the charge sheet marks a major step towards fixing accountability and sends a strong message against corruption and misuse of public funds in government departments.

MIRAE ASSET Sharekhan

Achieve financial freedom

Set up Systematic Investment Plans in Exchange Traded Funds (Shariah Based ETF)

Contact: M I Securities - 9906518342 / 9906684475

1, 10 Samad Complex, Ma Link Road, Srinagar, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, Srinagar - 190001

Pak-born Australian Khawaja to Quit Cricket Over Racial Stereotypes

AP

SYDNEY: Veteran Australia batter Usman Khawaja has announced he will retire from international cricket after the fifth Ashes test beginning Sunday at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

He didn't go quietly. The Pakistan-born Khawaja, who was the first Muslim to play for Australia, used his retirement announcement Friday to criticize the "racial" stereotyping he experienced during his career.

It will be the 39-year-old Khawaja's 88th and final test — played at the ground where he began his first-class career. Khawaja scored his first Ashes century at the SCG with 171 against England in 2018.

It was also at that the SCG where he revived his career at age 35, scoring two centuries against England. That prompted one of the great late-career revivals, as Khawaja hit seven centuries in his next two years back in the side.

But Khawaja's position had come under scrutiny and criticism this season after being unable to open in the first Ashes test in Perth due to back spasms and then missing the Brisbane test with the injury.

He was then initially left out in Adelaide until Steve Smith's vertigo allowed Khawaja to return, before an 82 in the first innings there ensured he would stay in the side for the fourth test in Melbourne. Australia, with a 3-1 lead going into the fifth test, has

retained the Ashes.

Khawaja said he felt he was treated "a little bit different, even to now," because of his Pakistan and Muslim background.

"Different in the way I've been

retained the Ashes. Khawaja said he felt he was treated "a little bit different, even to now," because of his Pakistan and Muslim background.

"Different in the way I've been

retained the Ashes. Khawaja said he felt he was treated "a little bit different, even to now," because of his Pakistan and Muslim background.

"Different in the way I've been

retained the Ashes. Khawaja said he felt he was treated "a little bit different, even to now," because of his Pakistan and Muslim background.

retained the Ashes. Khawaja said he felt he was treated "a little bit different, even to now," because of his Pakistan and Muslim background.

retained the Ashes. Khawaja said he felt he was treated "a little bit different, even to now," because of his Pakistan and Muslim background.

retained the Ashes. Khawaja said he felt he was treated "a little bit different, even to now," because of his Pakistan and Muslim background.

retained the Ashes. Khawaja said he felt he was treated "a little bit different, even to now," because of his Pakistan and Muslim background.

retained the Ashes. Khawaja said he felt he was treated "a little bit different, even to now," because of his Pakistan and Muslim background.



retained the Ashes. Khawaja said he felt he was treated "a little bit different, even to now," because of his Pakistan and Muslim background.

retained the Ashes. Khawaja said he felt he was treated "a little bit different, even to now," because of his Pakistan and Muslim background.

retained the Ashes. Khawaja said he felt he was treated "a little bit different, even to now," because of his Pakistan and Muslim background.

retained the Ashes. Khawaja said he felt he was treated "a little bit different, even to now," because of his Pakistan and Muslim background.

India to Tour Bangladesh for 3-match ODI & T20I Series



Press Trust of India

DHAKA: The Bangladesh Cricket Board on Friday announced it will host India for a three-match ODI as well as T20I series to be played in September this year.

However it is not clear if BCCI will agree to travel to Bangladesh in prevailing conditions with no stable government in place.

According to a media release by the BCB, the three ODIs will be played on September 1, 3 and 6, while the T20Is will be played on September 9, 12 and 13.

The Indian team will reach Bangladesh on August 28 for their limited-overs affair.

In July last year, India's tour of Bangladesh was called off indefinitely and the six-match white-ball tour was deferred for more than one year.

"The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) have mutually agreed to defer the white-ball series, three ODIs and three Twenty20 Internationals, between Bangladesh and India in August 2025 to September 2026," the BCCI had informed in a statement last July.

"This decision has been reached following discussions between the two Boards, taking into account the international cricketing commitments and scheduling convenience of both teams."

"The BCB looks forward to welcoming India in September 2026 for this eagerly anticipated series. Revised dates and fixtures for the tour will be announced in due course," it added.

Ashes: Australia Name Unchanged Squad For Sydney Test



IANS

MELBOURNE: Australia have named an unchanged squad from the Boxing Day Test for the upcoming final Test of the Ashes series, though conditions at the SCG could still prompt changes to the final XI. The match is set to begin on January 4 here at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

The announcement was made on Thursday afternoon as the Australian team assembled in Sydney for their first training session following last week's four-wicket defeat to England. The Melbourne Test ended inside two days on a pitch later deemed "unsatisfactory" by the ICC.

The loss marked Australia's first defeat to England in red-ball cricket at home in almost 15 years, with 36 wickets falling across two days at the MCG. However, the result carried greater importance for England, as Australia had already secured the Ashes by winning the first three Tests in Perth, Brisbane and Adelaide.

Many fans and cricket experts believe that the upcoming match, known as the New Year's Test,

will be Usman Khawaja's final appearance for Australia. Additionally, reports indicate that Khawaja plans to speak to the media before the match begins, which fuels retirement rumours. But head coach Andrew McDonald all but guaranteed veteran batter Usman Khawaja would be marking centre in Sydney after posting second-best score of Australia's first innings in the Boxing Day Test.

Meanwhile, all-rounder Beau Webster might replace Cameron Green in the XI, as the latter has yet to record a significant score in the series. Webster, however, has not yet been part of the XI in any of the four games so far this series and will be eager to end the Ashes strongly, especially since the hosts are already leading 3-1.

"We know we've got a quality player sitting there waiting. We've got a batting order that we'd like to think can function at a higher capacity, so we'll be having conversations leading into Sydney," head coach Andrew McDonald was quoted as saying by Cricket Australia.

Hindu Seer Calls SRK 'Traitor' for Signing Bangladeshi Cricketer

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Superstar Shah Rukh Khan finds himself at centre of an escalating controversy over the decision of his IPL team KKR signing Bangladeshi player Musafizur Rahman with multiple parties speaking out — either slamming him or saying he was being targeted for his Muslim identity.

Leaders of the BJP and the Shiv

been to not allow anyone who has committed atrocities against Hindus or is involved in a terrorist attack in India to play in India.

"We would request the IPL governing body and the BCCI to ban these players... they cannot commit atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh and then enjoy the hospitality and the benefits and the money from India," he said.

Spiritual leader Rambhadra-

Shah Rukh, he said, does not select the team on his own.

"There is a process and in that process, I have never seen SRK sitting there. Juhi Chawla and her husband sit in that process because they are partners. It is not like Shah Rukh Khan went to Bangladesh and Pakistan and selected players there," Jagtap said, adding that everything is done with the concurrence of the ICC.

According to TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh, not every issue needs to be politicised.

"What will they achieve by targeting Shah Rukh Khan," he asked. Samajwadi Party leader Abu Azmi also questioned the brouhaha over the inclusion of the Bangladeshi player in KKR.

"The player he signed, has he ever harmed Hindus? If I say it bluntly, it is the governments that spread hatred. Bangladesh's Sheikh Hasina, who was sentenced to death, where is she now? She has been allowed to stay in our country. Then there is Taslima Nasrin...When you look at all these issues, it becomes clear that all this is just about spreading hatred among people," he said.

On December 18, a 25-year-old Hindu man, identified as Dipu Chandra Das, was lynched by a mob and his body set on fire over alleged blasphemy in Myeensingh city. A week later, on December 24, another Hindu man, identified as Amrit Mondal, was lynched over alleged extortion in Rajbari town's Pangsha upazila.



Sena said they would not tolerate Rahman being part of the IPL given the atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh. The opposition Congress' Bhaji Jagtap backed the star and said the controversy is evidence of the "BJP-RSS' double-faced policy" as India still plays cricket with Pakistan.

"In Bangladesh, Hindus are being tortured, killed, they are being thrown out of their homes, naked and beaten... Buying players from there is treason against the country. People like Shah Rukh Khan are traitors," BJP's Sangeet Som said.

Shiv Sena leader Krishna Hegde said the party's stand has always

charya also criticised Shah Rukh Khan.

"It is unfortunate but he will do so because he is considered a hero. Shah Rukh Khan's stance has consistently been at odds with the nation. His character has always been questionable and anti-national," he claimed.

There were voices that spoke up in support of the "Chak De! India" star.

"Shah Rukh Khan is being targeted because he is Muslim; we still play cricket with Pakistani cricketers after Operation Sindoor. This is BJP-RSS' double-faced policy," Congress leader Jagtap said.

Man City & Liverpool Frustrated in 0-0 Draws, to Leave Arsenal with 4-point lead

AP

LONDON: Erling Haaland and Manchester City were frustrated in a 0-0 draw at Sunderland, leaving Arsenal with a four-point lead at the halfway stage of the Premier League season.

Liverpool couldn't manage a goal against a promoted team, either, laboring to a 0-0 draw against Leeds at Anfield.

The stalemates highlighted the strength in depth in England's lucrative top flight.

They also maybe showed why Arsenal has been able to forge clear after 19 of 38 games in its bid for a first league title since 2004, with City and Liverpool — the dominant forces in English soccer over the last decade — having lost their old fluency going forward.

There were draws all round on a low-scoring night, with Tottenham held 0-0 at Brentford and Fulham scoring in the 80th minute to finish 1-1 at Crystal Palace.

City's run over City was on an eight-match winning run in all competitions but stumbled against an opponent that has drawn against Arsenal and beaten Newcastle at its Stadium of Light home over the last two months.

Haaland had opportunities either side of halftime against stubborn Sunderland but couldn't add to his league-high 19 goals for the campaign.

Indeed, it was substitute defender Josko Gvardiol who came closest for City, flicking a shot against the post and having a header saved from point-blank range.

"You can't be perfect every time, every half, every minute," City captain Bernardo Silva said. "The team is showing a lot of resilience at the minute — in the moments when we don't play that well, we are still very consistent, very stable."

Spain star Rodri, the former Ballon d'Or winner, made his return for City after two months out with a hamstring injury when he came on as a



halftime substitute. Liverpool underwhelms Liverpool extended its unbeaten run to eight

games but underwhelmed again amid key absences up front. Hugo Ekitike's misdirected header

from in front of goal in the first half was the only clear-cut chance at Anfield for Liverpool, which lacked

inspiration in attack with Alexander Isak injured and Mohamed Salah at the Africa Cup of Nations.

Liverpool stayed in fourth and is 12 points behind Arsenal in a disappointing title defense.

Since a 4-1 home loss to PSV Eindhoven in the Champions League on Nov. 26, Liverpool has played seven games in the Premier League — winning four of them and drawing the other three. It has struggled to find much fluency, however, with Liverpool manager Arne Slot placing extra emphasis on being tighter at the back after the team's early season woes.

"This season multiple times we have conceded a goal in a game like this and that's a positive thing today," Slot said.

The other result in the recent undefeated streak was a victory at Inter Milan in the Champions League.

Palace struggling Jean-Philippe Mateta headed Palace in front against Fulham, only for Tom Cairney to equalize for the visitors.



EXPERIENCE TAILORED COVERAGE TO FIT YOUR NEEDS



Bajaj General My Health Care Plan that gives you the power to tailor your coverage to align with your specific requirements, providing you with the flexibility and freedom you deserve.

Coverages:


OPD Benefits Of 2x
(twice the premium)


Sum Insured Options
Upto Rs.5 Crore


Inbuilt Home
Nursing Cover


Unlimited Sum
Insured Reinstatement


Inbuilt Maternity
And Baby Care Cover


Consumable Expenses Covered
Upto Sum Insured


Option To Add International
Cover(Emergency Only)


Option To Add Major Illness And
Accident Multiplier


Up to 50% Cumulative Bonus For Each
Claim Free Year; Maximum 100%


Inbuilt Cover For Prescribed
External Medical Aid

To Know More Contact your J & K Bank Relationship Manager

Bajaj General Insurance Limited (Formerly known as Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd.) Bajaj Insurance House, Airport Road, Yerawada, Pune - 411006. IRDAI Reg No.: 113. | CIN: U66010PN2000PLC015329 | My Health Care Plan UIN:BAJHLIP23143V012223 | web: www.bajajgeneralinsurance.com | Toll free: 1800-209-8858 / 1800-209-0144 | careforyou@bajajgeneral.com For more details on risk factors and Terms and Conditions, please read the sales brochure before concluding a sale. | BGI-O-JK-002/18-12-2025

J & K Bank is licensed corporate Agent [bearing License No.: CA0029] of Bajaj General Insurance Limited [IRDA registration No. 113]. The benefits/features of products are indicative and for more details on risk factors and Terms and Conditions please read sales brochure before concluding a sale.