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### J&K Assembly Budget Session To Begin On Feb 2

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has summoned the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly to convene for its Budget Session beginning February 2, 2026, officials said.

The summon was issued by the Lieutenant Governor in exercise of powers vested under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. According to the order, the Assembly will meet at Jammu on Monday, February 2, 2026, at 10:00 am.

"I, Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me under Section 18(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, do hereby summon the Legislative Assembly for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to meet at Jammu on Monday, the 2nd of February, 2026 at 10:00 A.M.," the summon reads. A copy of the order is with the news agency Kashmir News Observer.

Officials said the Council of Ministers had recommended convening the Budget Session from February 2, following which the [More on P6](#)

## U.S. Takes Over Venezuela After Capture Of President

### Trump Says U.S. Will Look To Tap Venezuelan Oil Reserves

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: President Donald Trump said Saturday that the United States will temporarily "run" Venezuela following a dramatic overnight U.S. military operation that captured President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, a claim that immediately raised sharp legal, diplomatic and geopolitical questions.

Speaking at a press conference from his Florida residence hours after the raid, Trump said the U.S. would administer Venezuela until what he called a "safe, proper and judicious transition" could be put in place.

"We're going to run the country until such time as we can do a safe, proper and judicious transition," Trump said. "We don't want to be involved with having



someone else get in and then have the same situation we've had for years. So we are going to run the country."

Trump offered no timeline, legal framework or explanation of how such an arrangement would operate under U.S. or international law. He made no reference to elections,

international oversight or a Venezuelan-led transitional authority, instead indicating Washington alone would decide when control would be restored.

The comments followed an unprecedented U.S. special forces operation early Saturday that struck military installations in Caracas and removed Maduro, a

sitting head of state, from power. U.S. officials said Maduro and Flores were taken from their residence on a military base and flown out of the country aboard a U.S. naval vessel.

Trump later confirmed the couple were being transported to New York to face federal criminal charges. [More on P6](#)

### Shock and Awe as World Reacts

International reaction mounted swiftly after the United States launched airstrikes in Venezuela and reported the capture of President Nicolás Maduro, drawing sharp condemnation from governments across Latin America and beyond.

UN Chief

"These developments constitute a dangerous precedent," spokesman for the Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said. "The Secretary-General continues to emphasise the importance of full respect - by all - of international law, including the UN Charter. He's deeply [More on P6](#)

### Kashmir Shivers As Night Temps Dip

• Gulmarg	: -6.5°C
• Pahalgam	: -5.2°C
• Shopian	: -4.7°C
• Pulwama	: -3.9°C
• Anantnag	: -3.0°C
• Qazigund	: -2.6°C
• Awantipora	: -2.4°C
• Srinagar	: -1.5°C
• Srinagar Airport	: -2.0°C
• Kupwara	: -1.6°C
• Ganderbal	: -1.6°C
• Baramulla	: -0.5°C
• Bandipora	: -0.2°C

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Cold conditions continued across Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, with most parts of the Kashmir Valley and Ladakh recording sub zero minimum temperatures, while the Jammu region experienced comparatively milder weather, officials said.

In the Kashmir Valley, Gulmarg emerged as the coldest place, recording a minimum temperature of minus 6.5 degrees Celsius. It was followed by Pahalgam at minus 5.2 degrees and Shopian at minus 4.7 degrees, according to data accessed by the news agency Kashmir News Observer.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus [More on P6](#)

## Drug Addiction Triples In Kashmir In 3 Yrs: Div Com

### Religious Scholars Roped In To Fight Drug Abuse

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Drug addiction has witnessed a three fold increase in Kashmir over the last three years, with heroin consumption rising sharply among the younger population, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg said on Saturday, calling it a serious warning signal for society.

Speaking to reporters, Garg said drug addiction has emerged as a major challenge across the Valley. "There has been a three fold increase in the last three to three and a half years. It is a warning signal for all of us," he said.

He expressed concern over the growing use of heroin among youth, particularly students. "Young people whether they are in educational institutions, colleges or coaching centres are getting involved. The consumption of heroin is increasing and it is a huge concern for us," Garg said, stressing the need for a



collective societal response to tackle the problem.

The Divisional Commissioner said a massive drug de-addiction campaign is currently underway across Jammu and Kashmir and is being personally monitored by the Chief Secretary to ensure effective implementation. He added that the administration is focusing on awareness, early identification of cases, and timely rehabilitation.

The District Administration Srinagar on Friday brought together Masjid Imams and

religious scholars for an Orientation-cum-Capacity Building Workshop at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, underscoring the role of faith leaders in taking the anti-drug message deeper into communities.

The workshop was attended by over 100 prominent religious scholars, including Imams and Ulemas from across the Valley, along with members of civil society. The initiative aimed to equip religious leaders with a better understanding of drug addiction, its social and psychological consequences, and the support mechanisms available for prevention and rehabilitation.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, urged religious scholars to actively support the administration in sensitising people, particularly the youth, about the harmful effects of drug abuse. He called on Imams to use [More on P6](#)

### Fare Hike Or Not? Kashmir Commuters Left Guessing

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Passenger fares across several parts of Kashmir have gone up on the ground even as the government maintains that no official order has been issued approving any hike, leaving commuters confused and transporters divided.

The Jammu and Kashmir government had last week reportedly cleared an 18 percent increase in passenger fares for all categories of public transport vehicles, with the revised rates proposed to take effect from January 1, 2026.

The reported approval followed a meeting of the Fare Revision Committee at the Civil Secretariat in Jammu on December 23. The committee, headed by Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D. Vaidya, discussed the long-pending demand of transporters for a revision of passenger fares.

However, no formal notification has been issued so far, creating uncertainty on the ground. Transporters have said they plan to implement the revised fares [More on P6](#)

## Delhi Blast Key Accused Remanded Till Jan 16

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Saturday remanded Dr Bilal Naseer Malla, one of the accused in the November 10 Red Fort blast case, to judicial custody for 13 days till January 16.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) produced Malla at the Patiala House Court amid tight security on Saturday, upon the expiry of his 8-day NIA custody granted on December 26.

Mediapersons were barred from covering the proceedings. The accused was produced before Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandra, who sent Malla to judicial custody till January 16.

NIA arrested Malla in Delhi on December 9 and termed him a key accused in the conspiracy.

According to the NIA probe, Malla knowingly provided logistical support



to Dr Umar-un-Nabi, the suicide bomber who was driving the explosive-laden i20 car that blew up outside the Red Fort on November 10, killing 15 people.

Malla is also accused of destruction of evidence related to the terrorist attack, the agency said on December 9.

The NIA has arrested nine people in the case so far, including three doctors - Muzammil Ganaie, Adeel Rather and Shaheen Sayeed - and a religious preacher named Maulvi Irfan Ahmed Wagay.

The other five are Malla, Amir Rashid Ali, Soyab, Jasir Bilal Wani [More on P6](#)

### VPN BAN VIOLATION Two FIRs, Security Action Against 11

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Police have registered two FIRs and initiated security proceedings against 11 people in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district for allegedly violating prohibitory orders banning the use of Virtual Private Networks (VPNs), officials said on Saturday.

A police spokesperson said the action was taken to maintain law and order and to prevent the misuse of digital platforms. Following orders issued by the district administration prohibiting VPN usage on security grounds, police carried out verification and technical monitoring across the district.

Between December 29 and January 2, 24 individuals were identified for violating the ban, the spokesperson said. Based on investigation and technical analysis, two FIRs were registered against persons found to have adverse terror-related backgrounds, highlighting the security risks linked to the use of encrypted platforms.

In addition, [More on P6](#)

## Maternal, Infant Health: J&K Emerges Among Better-Performing Regions

### Immunisation Coverage Touches 96.5 Percent; Mortality Rates Far Below National Average

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as one of the better-performing regions in the country on maternal, infant and child health indicators, with official data pointing to significant improvements driven by sustained reforms and targeted healthcare interventions.

The Union Territory's Maternal Mortality Ratio has declined to 47 per 100,000 live births, well below the national average of 88, reflecting major gains in maternal healthcare delivery. Health officials attribute this improvement



to strengthened institutional delivery systems, wider availability of Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care services,

improved blood banking facilities, and an expanded referral transport network under the National Health Mission.

Progress is equally visible in infant and neonatal health outcomes. The Neonatal Mortality Rate in Jammu and Kashmir stands at 10, while early neonatal mortality has been reduced to 6, both considerably lower than the national averages of 19 and 13 respectively. The Under-5 Mortality Rate in the Union Territory is 15, compared to the national average of 29, while the Infant Mortality Rate has declined to 14, far below the countrywide figure of 25.

Officials say these gains reflect improved antenatal and postnatal care, timely medical interventions at health facilities,

and better tracking of high-risk pregnancies, particularly in remote and vulnerable areas.

Immunisation coverage in the Union Territory has also reached a significant milestone, with full immunisation now covering 96.5 percent of eligible children. This places Jammu and Kashmir among the highest-performing regions in the country. Health authorities credit the achievement to intensified routine immunisation drives, door-to-door outreach, and robust monitoring and follow-up mechanisms.

Strengthening its preventive healthcare framework further, the Union [More on P6](#)

### Draft Industrial Policy Amendments

## J&K Govt Proposes Bigger Incentives, Revival Of Sick Units

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir Government has unveiled a draft amendment to its industrial policy 2021-30, proposing a slew of incentives aimed at transforming the Union Territory's industrial landscape.

The Industries and Commerce Department has placed the proposed incentives in the public domain to seek suggestions from various stakeholders.

According to the proposed amendments, sick industries under revival will receive the same incentives as new industrial units under the policy. "A special mechanism will identify and rehabilitate sick SME

units (as per the Reserve Bank of India definition), and such units under revival will receive the same incentives as new industrial units in the current policy," the draft states.

The amendments further provide that MSME units in Zone A shall be eligible for 30% financial assistance, subject to a ceiling of Rs 50 lakh, while units in Zone B shall be eligible for 50% financial assistance, subject to a ceiling of Rs 1 crore.

Women-led MSME units (with at least 51% stakes) across all zones may be provided an additional 25% financial assistance, as an extra benefit, the policy notes.

The proposed initiative also provides [More on P6](#)

Maternal Mortality Ratio at 47; national average 88

Neonatal Mortality Rate at 10; national average 19

Early neonatal mortality reduced to 6

Under-5 Mortality Rate at 15; national average 29

Infant Mortality Rate at 14; national average 25



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# Scholarships This Week

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

## Scholarship Name 1: Bath Global Excellence Scholarship 2026

**Description:** The Bath Global Excellence Scholarship 2026 is being offered by the University of Bath. It aims to reward students, who are academically excellent by supporting their education.  
**Eligibility:** Application is open to individuals holding an admission offer from the University of Bath for a full-time taught Master's course starting in September 2026. Applicants must be enrolled in a course based in the Faculty of Engineering & Design, the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, or the Faculty of Science.

**Prizes & Rewards:** A scholarship worth £10,000.  
**Last Date to Apply:** 04-02-2026  
**Application mode:** Online applications only  
**Short Url:** www.b4s.in/observer/BATH1  
**QR Code:** https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/bath-global-excellence-scholarship-20261767067857.png

## Scholarship Name 2: Science Academies Summer Research Fellowship Program 2026

**Description:** The Summer Research Fellowship Programme 2026 is a collaborative initiative of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bengaluru, Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, and National Academy of Sciences, India, Prayagraj. It supports exceptional students and educators in pursuing research in the fields of science, engineering, and medicine.  
**Eligibility:** Application is open to students from Class 10 up to Postgraduation having secured a minimum of 65% average marks in core subjects.

They must be pursuing specified subjects in STEM. Teachers in universities/colleges are also eligible to apply.  
**Prizes & Rewards:** An opportunity to pursue a fellowship under the guidance of experienced mentors.  
**Last Date to Apply:** 31-01-2026  
**Application mode:** Online applications only  
**Short Url:** www.b4s.in/observer/SASR1  
**QR Code:** https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/science-academies-summer-research-fellowship-program-20261767067770.png

## Scholarship Name 3: KTH India Scholarship 2025-26

**Description:** KTH India Scholarship 2025-26 is being offered by the KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden in collaboration with the KTH India Foundation to Indian postgraduate applicants.  
**Eligibility:** Application is open to Indian citizens holding conditional admission offers for Master's programme at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology. Applicants must have completed an undergraduate programme from a recognised university in India.  
**Prizes & Rewards:** Selected students will be awarded a scholarship covering the full tuition fee for their Master's degree programme at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology.  
**Last Date to Apply:** 15-01-2026  
**Application mode:** Online applications only  
**Short Url:** www.b4s.in/observer/KTH1  
**QR Code:** https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/kth-india-scholarship-2025-261766049337.png

## Scholarship Name 4: STEM Scholars: Shaping the next Generation of Innovators

**Description:** The STEM Scholars: Shaping the next Generation of Innovators an initiative by Nasscom Foundation and supported by Optum CSR initiative empowers underprivileged and economically disadvantaged students in STEM by providing financial aid, mentorship, and internship opportunities to 3rd and 4th-year students in B.E./B.Tech, Pharmacy or Life Sciences program across Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad.  
**Eligibility:** Open to students in the 3rd and 4th year of B.E./B.Tech programs in Computer Science, Pharmacy, and Life Sciences.  
 Open to students pursuing a 5-year Integrated Engineering Programme combining a Bachelor's and a Master's degree (e.g., B.Tech + M.Tech, B.E. + M.E.), provided they are in their 4th or 5th year. Applicants studying in any government or private institutes in Delhi / Bengaluru / Chennai / Hyderabad. Preference to be given to SC, ST, OBC, PwD, single parent, orphan, and girls applicants.  
 Applicants must have scored a minimum of 65% marks in Class 12th. Applicants must have an annual family income from all sources up to INR 8 lakh. Children of employees, Partners, and Donors will not be eligible for the said scholarship.  
**Prizes & Rewards:** Selected students will receive a one-year scholarship of INR 30,000.  
**Last Date to Apply:** 11-01-2026  
**Application mode:** Online applications only  
**Short Url:** www.b4s.in/observer/NCSSP1  
**QR Code:** https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/STEM-scholars-shaping-the-next-generation-of-innovators-1765255985.png

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that in my wards Aadhaar Card bearing No 698932145431, her name has been wrongly entered as Erha Faisal instead of Noor Binti Fasal.

I now intend to get the said entry corrected in the Aadhaar records. If anyone has any objection in this regard, the same may be submitted within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice before the Aadhaar Office, Srinagar / Jammu.

After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.

Name: Mohsina Hafiz.  
 C/O: Noor Binti Fasal.  
 R/o: Karimabad, Pulwama  
 fko  
 Issued in public interest.

**THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION**  
 SUB OFFICE BUDGAM.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have passed / appeared in SSE/ HSE-I/ HSE-II Class 10th under Roll No: 225454, Session: Annual Private, Year: 2011/ Class 11th under Roll No: 829585, Session: Annual, Year: 2012/ Class 12th under Roll No: 8106432, Session: Annual, Year: 2016 through THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION. The error has been committed by the school records against my name and fathers as **Rafaqat Ahmad Khan son Abdul Karim Khan** instead of **Rafaqat Kareem Pakhtoon** son of **Abdul Kareem Pakhtoon**.

Now I have applied for correction in the The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education Sub-office Budgam. If any person has any objection in this regard may file, the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub-Office Budgam Kashmir within Seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period, on objection will be entertained.

This is published for the information of the general public. The correct particulars be recorded as under: -

**NAME :** Rafaqat Kareem Pakhtoon  
**FATHERS NAME :** Abdul Kareem Pakhtoon  
**MOTHERS NAME :** Shareefa Begum  
**DATE OF BIRTH :** 20/02/1995  
**RESIDENCE :** Wussan Kangan Ganderbal  
**MOBILE :** 9596815415

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his/her DOB Certificate issued by Municipal Council Pulwama as Bhat Mohammad Mursi while his correct name is Muhammad Taimur Bhat & DOB 16-08-2024.

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 Municipality Council Pulwama Or Concerned Office within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohd Aehsanul Haq  
 F/o Muhammad Taimur Bhat  
 R/o Dangarpura Shopian  
 fko

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)/  
 (See Section 84 Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita-2023)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Mashooq S/o Almuiddin R/o H.No. VIII: Tenk Jan PS: Yaripora, Jila: Kulgaon (J.K.)** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **CC No. 5284373/2016, FIR No.201/2010 U/s 279/304A IPC at PS: Mahendra Park, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Mashooq** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Mashooq** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Mashooq of CC No. 5284373/2016, FIR No.201/2010 U/s 279/304A IPC at PS: Mahendra Park, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 09.02.2026.

By order  
**Amardeep Kaur**  
 ACJM District Rohini, Room No.117  
 Rohini Courts, Delhi  
 DP/17427/NW/2025

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is information for the general public that we **RAKIB UR REHMAN 2. ASIF AHMAD SHEIKH 3. WASEEM AHMAD SHEIKH** Sons of **AB. REHMAN SHEIKH Prop. of A.G. Construction**, am holder of BEE class contractor card bear **SE/(R&B) SB/3394/ BEE OF-2018-19** issued by Superintendent Engineer Hydraulic BEE to (A) change class. Also add firm name as **A.G. Construction..** If any body having any objection regarding the same they may submit their objection written to the Chief Engineer Civil investigation wing JKPD, Bemina within a period of 7 days from the date of this notice. No objection will be entertained after that.

**Rakib Ur Rehman**  
 2. Asif Ahmad Sheikh  
 3. Waseem Ahmad Sheikh  
 Sons Of Ab. Rehman Sheikh.  
 mcb

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is information for the general public that we **SHABIR AHMAD SHAH 2.ABDUL HAMID SHAH** Sons of **GH MOHIDDIN SHAH Prop. of GMS Construction Group**. Construction, am holder of BEE class contractor issued by Superintendent Engineer Hydraulic BEE to (A) change class. Also add firm name as **GMS Construction Group..** If any body having any objection regarding the same they may submit their objection written to the Chief Engineer Civil investigation wing JKPD, Bemina within a period of 7 days from the date of this notice. No objection will be entertained after that.

**Shabir Ahmad Shah**  
 2.Abdul Hamid Shah  
 Sons Of Gh Mohiddin Shah.  
 mcb

**OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR SARIWARPORA**

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The register birth BDO Pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of **Inayat Bashir Dar S/o Bashir Ahmad Dar R/o Sariwarpora** with unverified date of birth 10-03-2008 occurred at home.

In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

fko  
 Naib Tehsildar

Government of Jammu and Kashmir  
**Directorate of Ayush, J&K**  
 (Bemina Srinagar / Indra Chowk Jammu)  
 (0194-2490443, 2490455 (May-Oct)  
 (0191-2543988, 2543955 (Nov-Apr)

Subject: Cancellation of Appointment of Ms. Akhtar Banoo and Gh. Mohammad Naikoo (Pharmacists) – reg.  
**ORDER No.: 1444 Dir-Ayush of 2025**  
 DATED: 24-12-2025

Whereas, two candidates viz. Ms. Akhtar Banoo (RBA) and Gh. Mohammad Naikoo came to be appointed as Pharmacist (Dawasaz) against available vacancies at ISM Dispensaries at Wattoo & Khiram respectively in the erstwhile District Anantnag vide the then Director, ISM (Now Ayush) orders No. DISM/EST-K/NGK/783-88 dated 26-04-2007 and No. DISM/EST/NGK/765-70 dated 26-04-2007 respectively, on the recommendations of J&K Service Selection Board; and

Whereas, in the year 2011, it came to notice that the aforesaid Pharmacists Ms. Akhtar Banoo and Ghulam Mohammad Naikoo (hereinafter referred to as Ms. Akhtar Banoo and another) were facing trial in the Hon'ble Court of Judge Small Causes Srinagar in a criminal case (FIR No. 38 of 2008 u/s 420, 468, 471 RPC, PS Saddar Srinagar) on charges of having managed selection/appointment by producing fake matriculation (DOB) certificate and accordingly they were placed under suspension vide order No. DISM/enquiry/8183-86 dated 27-02-2012 pending enquiry; and

Whereas, the Matriculation Certificate (DOB) produced by Ms. Akhtar Banoo & another were referred to JKBOSE for ascertaining genuineness. In response, the JKBOSE intimated that the said certificates are fake and fraud. The verification reports received from the JKBOSE vide letter No. W-1058 dated 21-05-2011 and No. F(As-Ver)/B/K.D/2012 A-226 dated 26-05-2012 are reproduced as under:

**A. Ms. Akhtar Banoo**  
 "While scrutinizing the original qualification certificate of Secondary School Examination bearing S. No. 201321, Roll No. 112238 of the year/session 1986/October–November favouring Akhtar Banoo D/O Mohd. Shafi Shah sent by you, it has been observed that the particulars recorded in the said original certificate do not coincide with the particulars recorded in this office, as such the certificate in question is absolutely fake and fraud."

**B. Gh. Mohammad Naikoo**  
 "While scrutinizing the Xerox copy of qualification certificate bearing Roll No. 36543 of the year/session 1982/April–May pertaining to the Secondary School Examination (Class-X) favouring one Gh. Mohd Naikoo S/O Ab Rahim, sent by your office for verification purposes, it has been found that the actual Date of Birth of the candidate as per Board record is 01-04-1965 not 01-09-1967 as reflected in the Xerox copy of certificate. As such the Xerox copy of certificate in question be treated absolutely fake and fabricated. Further, legal action may be initiated accordingly (Copy enclosed); and

Whereas, show cause notices were issued to Ms. Akhtar Banoo and another and the replies furnished by the duo were examined and found "not satisfactory"; and

Whereas, in the meanwhile, the accused were acquitted in criminal case, supra, from all charges by the Hon'ble Judge, Court of Small Causes, Srinagar vide judgement dated 30/12/2013, the operative part of the judgement is reproduced as under:  
 \*\*\*The net result of the aforesaid discussions are that the prosecution has miserably failed at the trial to produce any cogent and convincing evidence to connect the accused persons with the commission of offence charged or any other offence. The statement of the examined witnesses are not sufficient to prove that the accused persons have committed forgery of the document which the prosecution has alleged having being used for the purpose of cheating by the accused persons to get their appointments. Further the prosecution has also failed to prove by any legal evidence that the documents have been fraudulently or dishonestly used as genuine documents to earn illegal gain from the Govt. As a result the accused persons deserves their acquittal. Accordingly the accused persons are acquitted from the charge. Their bail and surety bonds shall stand discharged. This case of the prosecution is dismissed. Let the file after due completion be consigned.\*\*\*

; And

Whereas, the said judgment was referred to the Administrative Department (H&ME) vide letter No. DISM/2001 dated 27-06-2014 seeking legal opinion for taking further action; and

Whereas, in response the Adm. Dept. sought further details, information and clarifications were sought by the H&ME Department and the matter remained under protracted/continuous correspondence among various offices/departments viz. the Directorate of Ayush, H&ME Department, Directorate of Prosecution and the JKBOSE from 27.06.2014 onwards to date; and

Whereas, pursuant to the Adm. Department (H&ME) vide letter No. HD/ISM/65/2018 dt.16.03.2021 & No. HD-ISM/103/2021-02 dt.28.10.2021, matter was again taken up with JKBOSE and also with Director Prosecution; and

Whereas, the JKBOSE confirmed their earlier adverse reports and the Directorate of Prosecution conveyed vide communication No. KZ/Lgl/Acq-App/49/2024-68434 dated 30/09/2024 that no appeal has been filed; and

Whereas, the Adm. Deptt. finally conveyed legal opinion vide No. HD-ISM/103/2021-02 (7397) dt.18/07/2024 to take guidance from the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment passed in case **Ajit Kumar Nag v. G M (P) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., (2005) 7 SCC 764**, that the acquittal in the criminal case is not a bar for departmental proceedings; as such, initiate departmental proceedings against the above suspended duo in consultation with the Board of School Education; and

Whereas, pursuant to letter dated 18.07.2024, the departmental action was initiated and show cause notices were served to Ms. Akhtar Banoo and another vide No. Estt/14456 dated 27-09-2024; and

Whereas, the replies filed by the duo in response to show cause notices were thoroughly examined in this Directorate and found "not satisfactory"; and

Whereas, Ms. Akhtar Banoo and another again approached the Hon'ble CAT by medium of OA No. 547/2024 challenging the above quoted letter dated 18/07/2024 and in the meanwhile sought reinstatement; and

Whereas, the counter affidavit duly vetted by the Law Department has been filed by the Directorate to the OA No. 547/2024 through departmental Counsel; and

Whereas, in the meanwhile an enquiry officer was appointed vide this office order No. 1721-Dir-Ayush of 2024 dated 06/11/2024 to conduct thorough enquiry and furnish report and the enquiry officer furnished enquiry report on 07/01/2025; and

Whereas, the enquiry officer referred to the adverse verification reports conveyed by JKBOSE and the Administrative Department's legal opinion dated 18/07/2024 and recommended to take action as per instructions of the Administrative Department; and

Whereas, the enquiry report was examined thoroughly along with the documentary evidence & acquittal judgment and it was observed that Ms. Akhtar Banoo and another have been acquitted in the criminal case, however they are beneficiaries of fake & fraud matriculation (D.O.B) certificate and have managed selection/appointment on the basis of said fake certificates, as such, liable for major punishment including termination/cancellation of appointment; and

Whereas, after completion of enquiry, legal opinion was sought from the Adm. Deptt. regarding quantum of punishment vide letter No. Dir-Ayush/Legal/1518-19 dated 12.02.2025; and

Whereas, in the meanwhile one of the suspended official **Ghulam Mohammad Naikoo (Suspendee)** attained age of 60 years by ending March 2025 as per actual D.O.B 01-04-1965 conveyed by JKBOSE, however, the enquiry stood completed well before 31.03.2025; and

Whereas, in the meanwhile, the OA No. 547/2024 came to be listed on 16.05.2025 and the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal granted 02 months' time for conclusion of the enquiry and Director, Ayush was directed to personally monitor the disposal of suspension case. For convenience the operative part of the order is reproduced as under:  
 ".....Director, Indian System of Medicines (Now AYUSH) is directed to personally monitor the disposal of the suspension case in accordance with the law. Learned DAG to inform the Director about passing the order."

Whereas, pursuant to the said order, a committee was constituted vide order No. 829 Dir-Ayush of 2025 dated 30.05.2025 to monitor the progress of the case promptly to satiate the directions of the Hon'ble CAT; and

Whereas, the said committee furnished its report with the findings that Ms. Akhtar Banoo and another have managed their appointments on the basis of fake and forged certificates as verified by the JKBOSE & delay occurred in bringing the case to logical conclusion is not deliberate but same is due to administrative reasons. The conclusion arrived at by the committee is reproduced as under:  
 "The committee has observed that the delay of 13 years in deciding the period of suspension of the applicants is not intentional, neither is willful delay. The delay has occurred due to administrative reasons. However, the suspendees have managed their appointments on the basis of fake and forged certificates (as verified by the JKBOSE)."

Whereas, the case was listed for hearing on 08.08.2025 and the Hon'ble CAT while calling personal appearance of the then Director Ayush observed as under:

"5. ... However, given the peculiar facts and circumstances, and in the interest of justice, I deem it expedient to direct the presence of the Director, AYUSH, J&K, who shall appear before this Court on 27.08.2025 at 11:00 AM, so that the officer is apprised of the matter.

6. The presence is being sought in these peculiar circumstances to expedite disposal of the case ...." and

Whereas, last & final show cause notice was issued to Ms. Akhtar Banoo and G.M. Naikoo vide No. Dir/Ayush/Estt/11595 dated 21.08.2025 to show cause within 15 days as to why their service shall not be terminated ab-initio and they were also provided opportunity of hearing; And

Whereas, in the meanwhile one more verification report has been received from the JKBOSE vide No. F(DS-Ver)/B/KD/2024/4807/ASV dated 12/08/2025 wherein the JKBOSE while confirming the earlier adverse verification reports further conveyed that Roll Number and other particulars shown by Ms. Akhtar Banoo in the Matriculation certificate produced by her actually pertain to another candidate named **Ali Moh'd Gorsi S/O Mohd Abdullah Gorsi** with DOB 02.03.1970 who has passed Matriculation in Nov. 1986 under Roll No. 11223; And

Whereas, the case was listed before the Hon'ble CAT on 22.08.2025 and the Director Ayush as directed was personally present and the Hon'ble CAT was apprised that final show cause notice has been issued to the petitioners. The Hon'ble CAT while exempting the Director Ayush from personal appearance directed that a senior officer well conversant with facts of the case shall be present before the Court; And

Whereas, Ms. Akhtar Banoo and another filed response to show cause notice dated 21.08.2025 which has been examined and considered. The case law cited by the petitioners in their response is not applicable to their case as the facts are different and distinguishable. The said response submitted by them has been found "not satisfactory" and the fact that both of them have managed appointment on the basis of fake and fraud Matriculation (DOB) certificate continued to remain evident and proven; And

Whereas, the Administrative Department has conveyed vide letter No. HD-Lgal/126/2024-02 (7456630) dated 03-12-2025 to take immediate action in the matter under Rule 30 of the J&K Civil Services Rules, 1956, by imposing the penalty upon the delinquent officials as warranted by findings of the enquiry and report compliance to the Administrative Department for apprising the Hon'ble Tribunal accordingly;

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that Ms. Akhtar Banoo and Ghulam Mohammad Naikoo (suspended pharmacists) are hereby removed from the rolls of Ayush Department ab-initio in terms of Rule 30 of J&K CCA Rules, 1956.

(Dr. Suresh Sharma)  
 MD  
 Director, Ayush, J&K

No.: Dir-Ayush/Estt/(CC:7413986) 15440-46  
 DIPK-9658/25 Dated: 03-01-2026

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I Masroor Ali want to change my name in my adhaar card bearing no 8162 1350 4125 from Masroor Ali (old name) to Masroor Ali (new name) . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned centre within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Masroor Ali  
 jvd

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I Wajad Ahmad Badhan want to change my name in my adhaar card bearing no 9565 8744 7390 from wajid Ahmad Badhan (old name) to Wajad Ahmad Badhan (new name) . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned centre within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Wajad Ahmad Badhan  
 jvd

## Rat Burrowing Threatens Dal Lake Bund, Triggers Erosion

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Parts of the Dal Lake wall or bund along Boulevard Road in Srinagar are facing serious structural risk due to severe erosion caused by extensive rat burrowing, raising concerns over public safety and infrastructure stability.

Locals and boatmen told KNT that a massive rat infestation has weakened the soil beneath the lakefront footpath, with rodents digging deep burrows that have created visible holes and cracks. The erosion has compromised the foundation of the bund, making sections of the pedestrian path fragile and prone to collapse.

They said the problem has been aggravated by food waste and leftovers discarded along the lakefront, which attract rodents and fuel their population. They said the situation is particularly alarming near Ghat 17, where a portion of the footpath had collapsed in February 2025 due to similar erosion.

Another section of the Dal Lake bund on Boulevard Road

had collapsed in September 2025, prompting immediate repair work at the time. However, locals fear that without a comprehensive and long-term solution, more stretches of the bund could give way, posing risks to pedestrians as well as vehicular traffic along the busy road.

Boatmen operating on the lake added that the weakened bund threatens not only the footpath but also the overall integrity of the lakefront infrastructure. They urged authorities to undertake reinforced reconstruction using cemented and strengthened materials instead of temporary repairs.

They have called for an intensive rat control drive, improved waste management along the lakefront to eliminate food sources for rodents, and a comprehensive inspection of the entire bund to identify vulnerable points before further damage occurs.

They warned that failure to act promptly could lead to larger collapses and serious accidents in one of Srinagar's most frequented public spaces.



Men warm themselves by a fire during cold weather in a field near Srinagar. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## ACB Nabs Tehsil Office Clerk for Taking Bribe

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday said to have trapped and arrested a clerk of the Tehsil Office Central Shalteng, Srinagar, for demanding and accepting a bribe of rupees 2,000 from a complainant in exchange for erasing his detention record from official registers.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, the Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau received a written complaint wherein the complainant has alleged that after being detained under preventive action (vide Section 126/170 BNSS)

by orders of the 1st Class Executive Magistrate of the Tehsil Office Central Shalteng Srinagar, a clerk namely Laiq Ahmad Nath deputed in the said office has demanded an illegal gratification of rupees 2,000 for erasing the complainant's detention record from the official registers.

The statement reads, the complainant who is unwilling to pay the bribe, approached the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Srinagar with a written complaint, requesting legal action against the accused public servant under relevant provisions of law.

It reads, on receipt of the complaint, a discreet verification was conducted, which confirmed the demand

of bribe by the accused public servant. Accordingly, Case FIR No. 01/2026 U/S 7 PC Act 1988 was registered at Police Station ACB Srinagar and investigation was taken up.

"During the course of investigation, a trap team was constituted which laid a successful trap and caught the accused clerk, Laiq Ahmad Nath, R/o Qamarwari Srinagar red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe amount of rupees 2,000 from the complainant," the statement reads.

It reads, after completing all necessary medico-legal formalities, the accused Public Servant was taken into custody. Further investigation in the case is going on.

## Electric Blanket Short Circuit Triggers Night Fire

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A fire incident at HMT Shah Wilayat Colony, Sector 8 in Srinagar was brought under control during the intervening night of Friday and Saturday, officials from Fire and Emergency Services said, adding that timely intervention prevented a major mishap.

According to officials, fire broke out in a three storeyed residential house after a short circuit in an electric blanket. Firefighting operation was launched and the

blaze was brought under control within a short span of time, preventing its spread to other parts of the building.

According to KNT, the preliminary assessment carried out before the cooling operation revealed that the fire was caused by an electric blanket that developed a short circuit, leading to sparks and ignition.

The firefighting operation was conducted under the charge of Fire Incharge Mehraj Shah and supervised by Deputy Director Fire and Emergency Services Dr Mir Aqib Hussain, along with Mobilizing Officer Aijaz Ahmad Shah.

## KU Flags Off Cultural Contingent for Youth Fest

Observer News Service

Srinagar: University of Kashmir (KU) on Saturday flagged off the varsity's Cultural Contingent for participation in the 39th Inter-University Youth Festival (North Zone), being organised by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi, and hosted by Chitkara University, Chandigarh. The flag-off ceremony, led by Registrar KU Prof. Naseer Iqbal, was held at the Main Campus in the presence of faculty members and administrative officials.

In her message, Vice-Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, extended her best wishes to the participating students and highlighted the significance of cultural platforms in higher education.

"Cultural engagement is an integral part of holistic education. Such national platforms provide our students an opportunity to showcase their talent, confidence, and the rich cultural heritage of

Kashmir. I wish the contingent great success and hope they represent the University with pride and excellence," she said.

While interacting with the students, Prof. Naseer Iqbal encouraged the participants and described them as cultural ambassadors of the University, urging them to maintain discipline, exhibit confidence, and reflect the artistic and intellectual strength of the institution through their performances.

Dean DSW KU, Prof. Pervez Ahmad, expressed confidence that the KU contingent would make a meaningful mark at the national level event.

The contingent, comprising around 30 student participants, is led by the Cultural Officer DSW KU, Dr. Shahid Ali Khan. It will compete in various events under the categories of literary competitions, fine arts, and music, alongside teams from leading universities of the northern region.

## KPDCL Faces Criticism Over Erratic Power Supply

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Inhabitants of the uptown area of Rajbagh have complained of prolonged and frequent power outages, alleging gross mismanagement by the power supply authorities and calling the situation unprecedented for this time of the year.

Locals said that the electricity supply has remained erratic for the past several days, with frequent and unannounced power cuts severely affecting daily life. They expressed particular resentment over the fact that even metered areas, where consumers regularly pay their electricity bills, are facing extended outages without any explanation.

Locals told KNT that the power cuts have disrupted household routines, office work and essential services, especially during the ongoing winter season when electricity is crucial for heating and basic needs. Many locals described the situation as the worst they have witnessed in recent years.

### NOTICE

Due to inadvertently, My name has been wrongly entered in the Service record as Kahkashan Mubarik Naqshbandi against my correct name Kahkashan which needs to be corrected. Similarly in my Aadhaar records my name and date of birth also wrongly entered as Kehkashan Mubarik Naqshbandi which needs to be changed as Kahkashan. The date of birth is wrongly entered in Aadhaar records as 29.01.1967 where as the correct date of birth as per my Matriculation Certificate is 29.01.1966 which needs to be corrected in Aadhaar records. If any body having any objection he/she may convey to Planning Development and Monitoring Department/Director General Economics and Statistics Jammu/Kashmir within 7(seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Kahkashan D/o Mubarik Ahmad Naqshbandi**  
**Date of Birt: 29.01.1966**  
**R/o Khawaja Bazaar Srinagar,**  
**Presently at Sir Syed Avenue Peer Bagh 190014**  
**Mobile No. 7701953750** ab

Subject: Grant of registration of the proposed Travel unit under the name & Style of M/s.FLY DIVINE TREASURE" situated at Near SB Queens International school Mujgund Srinagar

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Lateef Ahmad Mir S/o Gh Hassan Mir R/o Tilwan Pora Targam, PO Sonawari intends to apply in the Department of tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name and style" M/s. FLY DIVINE TREASURE" situated at Near Sb Queens International School. Mujgund Srinagar Tourist Trade Act/1978/82/2011-12. Whereas I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan card, Experience certificate (minimum 05 years), Character certificate (Police department), Bank statement (minimum balance 1000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested sub-registrar, printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting), Photograph of the unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/ Adventure Tour operation. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/financial institutions/Ban/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the deputy director tourism Registration (e-mail ID: -dtrreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspaper of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained fko

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

**AIRPORTS**  
 SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

**RAILWAYS**

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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

 <b>HIJRI</b> <b>CALENDAR</b> 14 Rajab 1447	<b>PRAYERS</b>	
	FAJR	6: 08
	ZUHR	12:35
	ASR	3: 57
	Magrib	5:37
	ISHA	7: 03

## This Day In History

- 46 BC- Julius Caesar defeats Titus Labienus in the Battle of Ruspina
- 871- Battle at Reading: Ethelred of Wessex defeated by Danish invasion army
- 1490- Anna of Brittany announces that all those who would ally with the king of France will be considered guilty of the crime of lese-majesty.
- 1642- King Charles I with 400 soldiers attacks the English parliament
- 1656- Spanish galleon Nuestra Señora de las Maravillas, laden with gold and jewellery bound for Spain, sinks off the coast of the Bahamas, only 45 of 650 people survive (most eaten by sharks)
- 1698- Most of the Palace of Whitehall in London, the main residence of the English monarchs, is destroyed by fire
- 1717 - Netherlands, Great Britain & France sign Triple Alliance
- 1754- Columbia University founded, as Kings College (NYC)
- 1847- Samuel Colt sells his first revolver pistol to the United States government
- 1854- The McDonald Islands are discovered by Captain William McDonald aboard the Samarang
- 1863- Four wheeled roller skates patented by James Plimpton in New York
- 1878- Sofia is emancipated from Ottoman rule.
- 1894- France ratifies Duple Alliance with Russia
- 1902- The French Panama Canal Company offers to sell its right to build a canal to the US for 40 million, tipping the balance away from those favoring a canal through Nicaragua
- 1906- South Africa beat England by one wicket, their 1st Test win
- 1912- Smallest earth-moon distance this century, 356,375 km center-to-ctr
- 1915- Trans-Caucasus Russian defeat Turkish troops
- 1932- British Viceroy of India Lord Willingdon arrests Indian independence leaders Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru
- 1945- Germans execute resistance fighters in Amsterdam
- 1948- Burma declares independence from UK
- 1951- Korean War: Chinese forces recapture Seoul
- 1958 Sputnik 1 reenters atmosphere & burns up
- 1959- USSR's Luna 1 (Mecha) becomes the 1st spacecraft to leave Earth's gravity
- 1963- Soviet Luna (4) reaches Earth orbit but fails to reach Moon
- 1970- More than 15,000 people are killed in Tonghai County, China after a magnitude 7.7 earthquake
- 1989- George H. W. Bush is 1st sitting Vice President since Millard Fillmore (in 1850) to declare himself President of the United States
- 1989- US F-14s shoot down 2 Libyan jet fighters over Mediterranean
- 1991- Iraq agrees to send Aziz to Geneva to meet Baker on Jan 9th
- 1991 Jan Krzysztof Bielecki becomes premier of Poland
- 1998 - Wilaya of Relizane massacres in Algeria: over 170 are killed in three remote villages. 1998 - A massive ice storm hits eastern Canada and the northeastern United States, continuing through January 10 and causing widespread destruction.
- 1999 - Former professional wrestler Jesse Ventura is sworn in as governor of Minnesota.
- 1999 - Gunmen open fire on Shiite Muslims worshipping in an Islamabad mosque, killing 16 people and injuring 25.
- 2000 - After 2 months, Catherine Hartley and Fiona Thornewill, recall the South Poll, the same day as Sir Edmund Hillary 48 years before.
- 2000 - 19 are killed after two trains collide in Asta, Norway.
- 2004 - Spirit, a NASA Mars Rover, lands successfully on Mars at 04:35 UTC.
- 2004 - Mikheil Saakashvili is elected President of Georgia.
- 2006 - Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel suffers a second, apparently more serious stroke. His authority is transferred to acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.
- 2007 - The 110th United States Congress convenes, electing Nancy Pelosi as the first female Speaker of the House in U.S. history.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**(MECHANICAL), PW(R&B), CENTRAL KASHMIR**  
 Engineering Complex (PMGSY Building), Rajbagh Srinagar Kashmir-190008

DATE EXTENSION-01

Subject:- Engagement of MEP (with HVAC Lead ) Engineering Consultants for Consultancy Services by way of Design, Consultancy and Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR), Detailed Estimates and Bill of Quantities (BoQ) along with all relevant drawings.

Reference:- e-NIT No;- R&B/MDCK/NIT/FRESH24 of 2025-26. Dated:- 23.12.2025

Due to zero response, the last date of Bid Submission will be 09-01-2026 (16:00 hrs) & opening of technical bid will be 10-01-2026 (at 12:00 hrs.)

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

No. XENMC/Sgr/2583-85. Sd/-  
 DPK-9673/25 Dated:- 03.01.2026 Executive Engineer  
 PW(R&B) Mechanical Division  
 Central Kashmir

**GOVERNMENT OF UT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER PULWAMA**  
 Sh. Iahfaq Majeed Wani  
 S/o: Ab Majeed Wani  
 R/o: Mughal Pura Cherath, Pulwama.  
 Subject: Final Notice for surrender of Registration Certificate in respect of vehicle N0.JK13H-8135

**NOTICE**

Whereas, you have purchased the vehicle from PEAKS AUTO PVT. LTD. (PUL) on 02-Sep-2023. Whereas, the same vehicle stands registered in the name of Ishfaq Majeed Wani S/o Ab Majeed Wani R/o: Mughal Pora Cherath, Pulwama.

Whereas, the registration No. JK13H-8135 has been allotted to your vehicle.

Whereas, the same vehicle has been financed by the JK BANK GULZARPORA TOLUNA, PULWAMA 192301.

Whereas, the JK Bank Zonal Office, Pulwama has auctioned the aforesaid vehicle to Irshad Ahmad Beigh S/o Ghulam Mohammad Beigh R/o: Methan, Baghi Mehtab, Srinagar and citing you as defaulter and the same has been communicated by the J&K Bank to this office via email and vide communication No. JKB/IAPMD/ZOPUL/2025-67 Dated: 09-09-2025

Whereas, the J&K Bank Zonal Office, Pulwama requested to cancel the certificate of registration and issue afresh RC in the name of Irshad Ahmad Beigh S/o: Ghulam Mohammad Beigh R/o: Methan Baghi Mehtab, Srinagar.

You are once again directed to surrender the RC of the vehicle with Reg. No. JK13H-8135 (Alto K10) which has been retained by you in spite of you having lost the possession and thereby the ownership of the motor vehicle under section 2(30) of MV Act and to send your representation in this regard, if any, to this office within 07 days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which a fresh RC will be issued in the name of purchaser/financer, in accordance with section 51(5)

**Assistant Regional Transport Officer**  
**Pulwama**

No. ARTO/ Pul/Notice/2026/1214-16  
 Dated: 03.01.2026

## KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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## Too Educated to Work

Years of schooling are supposed to open doors. But in Jammu & Kashmir, higher education is now keeping many women and youth out of jobs, exposing flaws in the recruitment system.

Sabiya Nabi

Jammu and Kashmir is facing a growing problem of educated unemployment, especially among women. People are encouraged to study, with the promise that education will bring opportunity and financial security. But current job rules are turning higher education into a disadvantage instead of an advantage. A clear example is the hiring of Anganwadi Helpers. These positions are meant to provide basic work and support at the local level. However, candidates with higher qualifications, like graduation or post-graduation, are automatically disqualified. Many educated women, willing to work and with no other sources of income, cannot even apply. This issue became worse because the academic merit system has been disrupted in recent years. The COVID-19 pandemic caused major changes: online classes, shorter syllabi, internal assessments, grace marks, and mass promotions led to very high scores at the 10+2 level. These measures were necessary during the crisis, but their lasting impact on job selection has not been properly addressed. The pandemic is not the only reason. Another major problem is linking school results to strict rules for teachers and principals. Low pass percentages sometimes led to salary cuts, negative service records, or even suspensions. Schools started focusing more on scores than on real learning. In response, exams became easier, supervision was relaxed, and evaluations became more lenient. These changes helped statistics look better in the short term, but they weakened the credibility of grades. Students who earned high marks under stricter conditions now see their efforts compared to inflated post-COVID results, which is unfair. The effects go beyond Anganwadi jobs. Similar patterns appear in central government recruitment, such as postal department positions, which often rely only on 10th-grade marks.



Higher education can be ignored or even count against applicants. Educated people miss out on entry-level jobs and face strong competition for higher positions. These rigid rules create a harsh reality in Jammu and Kashmir, where private sector jobs are rare and government work provides steady income. Educated youth, especially women, are stuck. They are too qualified for basic jobs but cannot reach higher positions because there are few opportunities. The original idea behind reserving certain jobs for minimally qualified candidates may have been fair. But the current situation demands a new look. When education prevents people from applying and merit does not account for unequal academic conditions, the system stops being fair. The solution is not conflict but change. Job policies should reflect real circumstances, reconsider restrictions based on higher qualifications, and adjust for unusual academic and administrative events. Education should help people succeed instead of blocking them. If this continues, we risk creating a group of educated citizens who cannot find work. Their disappointment comes from a system that did not evolve to meet their reality.

The author can reach me at: [sabiyababi1@gmail.com](mailto:sabiyababi1@gmail.com).

# Saffron Reality Check

A recent Iranian scientific review has laid bare long-ignored problems in Kashmir's saffron fields at a time when the crop faces climate and market pressure.

Mumin Nabi Zargar

A group of Iranian scientists walked into Pampore this winter and said what many farmers here already feel.

Saffron in Kashmir is running on memory. In Iran, it runs on systems.

The five-day visit brought a senior delegation from Iran's Ministry of Agriculture to Kashmir under a joint programme hosted by SKUAST-K and ICRISAT. The team was led by Elham Fattahifar, who oversees greenhouses and medicinal plants in Iran, along with saffron scientist Parisa Pourali and field specialist Ramin Esmi.

They moved through saffron fields, sat with farmers, and spent hours with researchers.

Two of the world's most important saffron regions were face to face. And the gap between them was clear.

Iran controls more than 90 percent of the global saffron market. Kashmir, once known for its finest strands, is watching production slide year after year.

The visitors did not doubt the quality of Kashmiri saffron. They questioned the system around it.

That contrast stayed with me as I walked through Pampore after they left.

This place is still called saffron country. The land does not always show it anymore. Fields that once turned purple in autumn lie bare in winter. Some carry weeds and stones. Others show only dry soil.

Farmers stand at the edges, staring down at plots their families worked for generations.

A government mission once promised to fix this. It brought crores of rupees, bore wells, sprinklers, and paperwork. What remains are pipes that never carried water and trust that never recovered.

Kashmir once produced close to eight metric tons of saffron a year. Today, it struggles to touch three. In just over a decade, cultivation has dropped by more than two-thirds. The area under saffron has shrunk sharply.

Around 30,000 families once depended entirely on this crop. Many now weigh a hard choice between staying with shrinking returns or leaving the village for other work.

The numbers feel distant until you stand in the fields.

In one village, a farmer showed me soil ripped open by porcupines. Climate shifts have stretched their feeding season. Some years, damage crosses half the crop. Rain no longer follows familiar patterns. Dry spells last longer. Sudden showers flood the land.

The grower replants, hoping the next season treats him better.



**“Kashmiri saffron is clearly at a crossroads. Fields are shrinking, farmers are stepping away, and old knowledge is slipping out of reach. Against this backdrop, the Iranian experts arrived with a wake-up call. Iran built its saffron strength through science, discipline, and trust from field to market. Kashmir has history and institutions. What it needs now are systems that work on the ground, season after season.”**

Spend time with farmers and exporters and the picture sharpens. This decline is no longer a mystery.

People working with Basu Impex and Herb Heaven, the region's largest saffron exporter, say many solutions already exist.

Drip irrigation works, pest control methods function, and quality planting material exists.

What farmers lack is clear, usable information.

No one tells them what is happening beneath their feet. Soil moisture goes unmeasured. Nutrient levels stay unknown. Changes in pH arrive without notice.

Farmers for years relied on experience. They felt the soil and watched the sky. That approach held when seasons stayed predictable. It fails when weather turns erratic.

At its core, this crisis is about missing information.

Saffron here drives daily life. It colours kahwa served to guests and poured at weddings. It sits at the heart of wazwan, the feast that defines celebration. Families trust it as medicine,

and science backs that trust through compounds like crocin that give saffron its colour and health value.

When saffron fades, everyday practices lose something real.

Climate change plays a role, though it is not the only one. Urban growth has eaten into saffron land. Irrigation remains limited, glaciers retreat, and quality seeds are hard to access. Years of failed schemes have drained confidence.

The Jammu and Kashmir Saffron Mission explains why.

Between 2011 and 2018, it received 412 crore. Bore wells were drilled, sprinklers were installed, and official reports declared success.

A decade later, much of that infrastructure sits unused.

Farmer groups to maintain the systems never took shape. Training rarely reached villages. Some farmers invested their own money, trusting official promises.

Systems failed, complaints went nowhere, and what remains feels like effort without listening.

The deeper problem was mindset. Farmers were treated as end users,

rather than partners. Technology arrived without conversation. Traditional knowledge was pushed aside instead of strengthened.

There is another puzzle here. Saffron sells for three to five lakh rupees per kilogram. It is the world's most expensive spice. Farmers should be thriving, but in reality, many are leaving.

The reason is simple: saffron demands intense labour.

About 150 flowers produce one gram. Each flower carries three fine threads. Days of work often bring modest returns once losses are counted. Apples and walnuts offer steadier income with far less effort.

What once kept farmers rooted was meaning. This crop belonged to their families. It carried memory and pride. As younger generations grow up farther from the fields, that pull weakens.

Technology will not fix everything. Used well, it can change outcomes.

A 20 to 30 percent rise in yield can shift decisions for small farms. That difference can decide whether a family stays or leaves.

The tools must be simple and affordable, made for small farms. Soil sensors should track moisture and nutrients and send clear alerts to a farmer's phone. Technology should help farmers make better decisions while respecting their judgment.

When farmers hear about real-time soil monitoring, they lean in. They ask when it can be installed and how much it costs. They recognise what has been missing.

Young farmers need to see that saffron can still make sense. Universities can offer research and training. NGOs can rebuild connection and pride. Schools can teach why this crop shaped Kashmir's past. Companies can design tools that fit village life.

None of this works alone. Together, it can.

Kashmiri saffron is clearly at a crossroads. Fields are shrinking, farmers are stepping away, and old knowledge is slipping out of reach.

Against this backdrop, the Iranian experts arrived with a wake-up call.

Iran built its saffron strength through science, discipline, and trust from field to market.

Kashmir has history and institutions. What it needs now are systems that work on the ground, season after season.

The author is the founder and CEO of AgroSenTech, a student-led agri-sensing company working on smart soil monitoring systems for saffron cultivation.

## Careers Under Judgment

Parents pass down trauma as advice. Employers exploit it. Young workers feel trapped between cultural expectation and career ambition. What message does this send to the next generation?

Sidrat Ul Muntha

looked like the only steady ground: a salary that usually arrived, a pension for later years, and medical cover when illness came knocking.

“My father's shop burned down twice in the nineties,” says Javaid Ahmad, who now runs a digital marketing agency in Srinagar. “He rebuilt it both

silently build their offices around it.

When workers see their jobs as temporary, families push them toward exams, and society treats them as second-best, what reason is there to invest in them?

What sense is there in offering growth, building workplace culture, or

**“Private sector workers in Kashmir are asking for something small and fair: to be seen, respected, and told that their work counts. That should not be too much to ask. If you carry this burden, know this. Your work has worth, even when society fails to see it. And if you run a business, you hold power. You can build spaces that challenge these beliefs instead of feeding them.”**

times, but the fear never left him. Even today, my work earns more than most government jobs, but to him it feels risky. A government post meant his son would never face what he faced.”

This obsession did not come from nowhere. It is pain passed from parent to child, wrapped in advice.

Our parents are not cruel. They are trying to save us from a past they still remember too well.

This is where things turn bitter. Many private employers in Kashmir understand this social shame. Some

caring about emotional health? Shame controls workers, limits salaries, and drags out the workday.

Most private firms here do not even have proper HR teams. One person handles attendance and pay slips. No one stands up for worth or wellbeing.

Strong HR departments can change everything.

They can say that private careers matter and treat their jobs as real careers instead of holding out for exam results.

Workplaces that show clear paths forward let employees know they are

building something real. Companies that celebrate success openly give families proof.

Support for mental health acknowledges the social pressure people carry home every evening. Rules that respect time, effort, and personal life make work sustainable.

Beyond big budgets, this is about basic respect.

We can continue as we are, treating skilled people as second-class workers, watching talent leave for other places, and pressing young minds under expectations they never chose.

Or we can widen our idea of success. Cheer for the entrepreneur starting from scratch. Respect the software developer building solutions. Value the accountant, the marketer, the designer, the private school teacher.

A life outside government service is just another path.

Think of the engineers who set aside their dreams to chase a clerk's post. The skilled workers who endure mistreatment while “waiting for something better.” The parents who hide their child's success to avoid judgment.

These are real lives, far beyond numbers. Private sector workers in Kashmir are asking for something small and fair: to be seen, respected, and told that their work counts.

That should not be too much to ask. If you carry this burden, know this. Your work has worth, even when society fails to see it.

And if you run a business, you hold power. You can build spaces that challenge these beliefs instead of feeding them.

Our children are watching. What we choose now will shape the answers they whisper tomorrow.

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# Kashmir's Ageing Challenge

While the valley debates jobs for the young, an ageing population is living alone, unsupported, and unseen.

Aksa Muzamil

In a Srinagar neighbourhood, an elderly woman begins her day alone. Her children work in the Gulf, and call when they can. She relies on neighbours and routine for meals, medicines, and errands.

Stories like hers are no longer rare, whether in city lanes or rural villages.

As young people leave Kashmir for work, parents and grandparents are left behind. Public conversations often focus on youth unemployment, while older residents are barely noticed.

But beyond buzz and brouhaha, a silent shift is happening in the valley, reshaping family life, work, and care.

Jammu and Kashmir is living longer and having fewer children. People aged 60 and above made up about 8 to 9 percent of the population in 2023.

By 2036, this share is expected to rise to nearly 15 percent.

Youth migration speeds this up, leaving fewer working adults at home.

Falling birth rates make things harder.

At roughly 1.4 children per woman, Kashmir is well below what is needed to replace its population.

Even if fewer young people left, smaller families would still leave fewer hands to look after older parents.

Unemployment pushes this cycle further. More than 370,000 young people were registered as unemployed by November 2025. Many move to big cities or abroad.

The result is a thinning middle layer.

The valley is slowly filling with children and the elderly, while working-age adults disappear.

Care for older people falls almost entirely on families. This creates a trap.

Care work is unpaid and demanding. At the national level, such work is valued at between 7.5 and 15 percent of GDP. Experts estimate that investing in care services could create about 11 million jobs in India.

This, for Kashmir, means local jobs that cannot be outsourced and do not need heavy industry.

Women bear most of this burden. They leave paid work or education to look after ageing parents.

A structured care economy could turn what women already do into paid, recognised work with income and social protection.



**KASHMIR'S AGEING POPULATION IS STILL MISSING FROM MOST POLICY DEBATES. But its impact is already visible in women's lives, labour patterns, and family stress.**

**BUILDING A CARE ECONOMY IS NOT ONLY ABOUT TREATING ELDERLY WELL. It is essentially about fixing a gap in how the valley plans its future. If ignored, this gap will only grow. The time to act is now.**

Today, elder care in Kashmir barely exists as a service. Old-age homes are rare. Assisted living and trained home-care workers are even rarer. Health care focuses on short-term illness, rather than long-term conditions like arthritis, dementia, or diabetes. Families pay the price, financially and emotionally. Social isolation adds another strain. Studies show that about 13.4 percent of older people report

frequent or severe loneliness. This links closely with chronic illness and rising medical costs.

Loneliness often shows up in hospital visits and poor health.

Full-time old-age homes remain unpopular due to social norms. But there are middle options.

Senior day-care centres, local social clubs, and community hubs can offer company and care during the day while letting elders stay in their own homes.

Ignoring this sector is a lost chance. Care work creates steady jobs rooted in local communities. It suits a region with few factories and limited private industry. It also keeps young people closer to home.

Simple steps can unlock this potential.

Caregiver cooperatives can train unemployed youth, especially women, in home-based elder services. Community centres can become senior day spaces with basic health support and volunteer networks.

Startups can help too. Platforms can link migrant children with trusted local companions for their parents. Technology can support care without replacing human contact.

The J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 aims to support 2,000 new ventures. Care-focused startups should be clearly included, from simple health apps to elder-friendly devices.

Money makes this possible. Through silver bonds, non-resident

Kashmiris can fund local elder care and help parents from afar.

Diaspora Care Credits offer another idea. A small, voluntary levy on remittances could be converted into care hours for parents. Migrants could track services digitally, while money flows into local jobs. Similar systems already work in countries like the Philippines.

Kashmir's ageing population is still missing from most policy debates. But its impact is already visible in women's lives, labour patterns, and family stress.

Building a care economy is not only about treating elders well. It is essentially about fixing a gap in how the valley plans its future. If ignored, this gap will only grow.

The time to act is now.

—The author is an M.A. Economics student at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST). She can be reached at aksamuzamil96@gmail.com.

## J&K's Infant Triumph

From weak 1990s health systems to modern care, J&K cut infant deaths, but challenges remain in remote areas.

Akhter Ruqaya

Over the past thirty years, Jammu and Kashmir has slashed its infant mortality rate by more than 70%, reaching one of its lowest recorded levels in 2023-24.

This is a major public health achievement.

But behind these numbers lie persistent regional gaps and new neonatal challenges that demand attention.

Infant mortality, the number of children who die before their first birthday, is one of the clearest measures of a region's health and social development.

The story of J&K's IMR over the last three decades is a story of progress shaped by health reforms, better services, and social change, but also of ongoing challenges that cannot be ignored.

In 1990-91, J&K's IMR hovered around 70 deaths per 1,000 live births, among the highest

in India at the time. Through the early 1990s, the rate stayed stubbornly high, fluctuating between 60 and 70.

Limited health infrastructure, low rates of institutional deliveries, weak immunisation coverage, and difficult terrain, especially in rural and hilly districts, kept infant deaths alarmingly common.

The first signs of improvement came around 1998-99, when IMR dropped from the mid-60s to the high-50s, thanks to early expansions in primary healthcare and immunisation.

Progress, however, was weak.

The early 2000s saw sharp swings: IMR fell to about 45 in 1999-2000, rose the next year, then fell again to around 40 by 2001-02.

These fluctuations reflected uneven service delivery and the vulnerability of early health gains.

A more steady phase of improvement began after 2005-06 with the launch of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).



Between 2005 and 2010, IMR stabilised in the low 40s to early 50s. This period laid the groundwork for future declines through the expansion of sub-centres and primary health centres, introduction of ASHA

workers, promotion of institutional deliveries, better awareness of antenatal and postnatal care, and strengthened immunisation drives.

The most dramatic progress came between 2011 and 2019.

IMR dropped steadily from 44 in 2011 to 39 in 2013, 35 in 2014, 28 in 2015, 25 by 2016-17, and around 20 by 2018-19.

These gains were driven by improvements in health infrastructure: more institutional deliveries, better-equipped newborn care units, enhanced maternal nutrition and antenatal care, and stronger ambulance and referral systems.

Rising female literacy and growing health awareness also

steadily downward since the early 1990s, despite occasional year-to-year fluctuations.

This success reflects better access to healthcare, higher institutional deliveries, and improved newborn care. But challenges remain.

District-level disparities are still pronounced in remote and mountainous areas. Most remaining infant deaths occur during the neonatal period, and quality of care varies between central hospitals and peripheral facilities. Maternal malnutrition and anaemia also continue to undermine infant survival.

As J&K moves closer to single-digit infant mortality, the focus is shifting. The next phase won't be about expanding basic services but about improving quality and equity.

Success will depend on strengthening neonatal care, ensuring fully functional Special Newborn Care Units, improving access to trained specialists, and standardising treatment for high-risk births.

Targeted interventions to address district-level inequalities, better maternal nutrition and antenatal screening, and improved emergency transport in remote areas will be critical.

Community awareness and timely care-seeking remain equally important.

Sustaining these gains will require focused investments to ensure that every child, no matter where they are born, has a

**THE NEXT PHASE WON'T BE ABOUT EXPANDING BASIC SERVICES BUT ABOUT IMPROVING QUALITY AND EQUITY. Success will depend on strengthening neonatal care, ensuring fully functional Special Newborn Care Units, improving access to trained specialists, and standardising treatment for high-risk births.**

**TARGETED INTERVENTIONS TO ADDRESS DISTRICT-LEVEL INEQUALITIES, BETTER MATERNAL nutrition and antenatal screening, and improved emergency transport in remote areas will be critical. Community awareness and timely care-seeking remain equally important.**

fair chance at survival.

—The author is a Research Scholar in the Department of Economics at the University of Kashmir. She can be reached at akhterruqaya@gmail.com.

## J&K Budget Session 2026-27

# Each MLA Can Submit 20 Questions, 4 Resolutions & 2 Bills

### Agencies

Srinagar: Each MLA can submit twenty questions, four resolutions, and two bills for the upcoming Budget Session of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly beginning February 02, 2026.

As per a bulletin issued by the Legislative Assembly Secretariat, each MLA may send notices of not more than ten starred and ten unstarred questions by or before January 12, 2026.

They may also submit notices of not more than two bills by or before January 15, 2026, the bulletin states.

According to the bulletin, MLAs can further give notices of not more than four resolutions by or before January 17, 2026.

Sources told KNO that the Assembly Secretariat may also issue a directive prohibiting advance publicity of questions, bills, and resolutions



submitted by MLAs, as the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the J&K Assembly prohibit it.

"The bills, questions, and resolutions are the property of the House and cannot be disclosed before being brought in the House. Such unwarranted publicity violates parliamentary practices and conventions. The premature disclosure of business breaches parliamentary privilege and goes against established rules," sources said.(KNO)

# Court-Imposed Probe Timelines Exception, Not Norm: SC

### Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has said timelines are imposed by the courts in completion of the investigation by probe agencies "reactively" and not "prophylactically" where inordinate delay could cause prejudice.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N K Singh made the remarks while examining an order of the Allahabad High Court, which has given 90 days to the UP police to complete the probe and granted protection to the accused from any coercive action in case of procurement of arms licence by fabricating documents.

"In sum, timelines are imposed reactively and not prophylactically," the bench said while analysing previous decisions of the apex court and noted that "courts have consistently recognized that directing a timebound investigation must remain the exception rather than the norm".

"It is in this constitutional setting that courts have, in appropriate cases, intervened where delay itself begins to cause prejudice," the top court

said while setting aside the order of the high court.

The bench said that timelines are not drawn by the court to be followed by the investigators/the executive right from the beginning, "for that would clearly amount to stepping on the toes of the latter."

It said timelines are therefore imposed at a point where not doing so would have adverse consequences, i.e., there is material on record demonstrating undue delays, stagnation, or the like. In sum, timelines are imposed reactively and not prophylactically.

"As such, the timelines imposed by the high court need to be interfered with and set aside. Ordered accordingly," it had ordered.

Elaborating further, the bench added that investigation is a product of many factors and happenings apart from the crime itself, which lend to it a sense of uncertainty, and the law therefore accords investigating agencies a reasonable degree of latitude.

"At the same time, the Constitution does not permit investigations to remain open-ended. The Supreme Court has



long held that the right to a speedy trial, which necessarily includes a timely and diligent investigation, forms an essential part of Article 21," the bench said.

Justice Karol, who penned the December 19 verdict on behalf of the bench, said that where there is evident stagnation, unexplained inaction, or a pattern of delay that cannot be justified by the nature or complexity of the case, judicial directions fixing timelines have been considered warranted.

Referring to earlier decisions of the apex court, the bench said the court has emphasised the need for prompt and effective investigation, particularly where delay risks allowing serious matters to drift without resolution.

It said recently the apex court in its 2025 verdict ruled that the investigations cannot be allowed to continue endlessly, and that prolonged and unexplained delay between the registration of an FIR and the filing of a chargesheet may itself infringe Article 21,

especially where such delay keeps an individual under a continuing cloud of suspicion without meaningful progress.

The bench said courts have also been mindful of the impact of prolonged investigation on personal liberty, particularly where coercive measures or extended custody are involved.

"In such cases, fixing timelines is viewed not as an intrusion into the investigative domain, but as a safeguard against inertia and arbitrariness," the top court said while pointing out that it has also been cautioned against routine or mechanical directions for time-bound investigation.

The bench said, "What emerges, therefore, is a balanced approach: courts respect the practical realities of investigation, yet intervene where delay itself threatens fairness, liberty, or the integrity of the criminal justice process."

The top court also found fault with the Allahabad High Court orders granting protection to accused from any coercive action and directed that they were granted protection till the next two weeks, after which action permissible in law will follow.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### J&K Assembly

Lieutenant Governor issued the formal summons.

The session will commence with the Lieutenant Governor's address to the House on February 2 at 10:00 am. A separate notice issued by the Assembly Secretariat under Section 21(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, has called upon Members of the Legislative Assembly to assemble at the Legislative Assembly Complex in Jammu to hear the LG's address.

After the discussion on the Lieutenant Governor's address is concluded, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the Finance portfolio, is expected to present the Union Territory's second budget in the first week of February.

The Budget Session is likely to be held in two phases. The first part is expected to conclude before the commencement of the holy month of Ramadhan, following which the Assembly is likely to go into a month-long recess. The session is expected to resume after Eid-ul-Fitr to complete the remaining business. (KNO)

### U.S. Takes Over

including a newly unsealed indictment accusing them of narco-terrorism conspiracy. The Justice Department had previously indicted Maduro in 2020.

Attorney General Pam Bondi said in a social media post that Maduro and Flores would "soon face the full wrath of American justice on American soil in American courts."

Oil and U.S. control  
At both the Florida press conference and a separate public address, Trump linked the operation to Venezuela's vast oil reserves — the largest in the world, estimated at about 300 billion barrels by the Energy Institute.

"We're going to have our very large United States oil companies go in, spend billions of dollars, fix the badly broken infrastructure and start making money for the country," Trump said. He described the plan as a "partnership" that would make Venezuelans "rich, independent and safe."

Trump accused Venezuela's socialist government of having "stolen" an oil industry he said was built with American expertise, calling it "one of the largest thefts of American property in the history of our country." He said U.S. sanctions on Venezuelan oil would remain in effect and added that the U.S. would sell Venezuelan oil to other countries.

"We're in the oil business," Trump said when asked about potential fallout with China, Russia and Iran.

China, currently Venezuela's largest oil customer, issued a brief condemnation of Maduro's removal. Analysts said any U.S. move to control Venezuelan oil exports could significantly reshape global energy markets and inflame geopolitical tensions.

The capture operation  
According to U.S. and Venezuelan accounts, the operation began shortly before dawn Saturday. Residents of Caracas reported multiple explosions and low-flying aircraft over the capital. At least seven blasts were heard, followed by smoke rising from military facilities.

Video verified by The Associated Press showed tracer fire and smoke lighting up the night sky, with explosions visible near military installations. Smoke was seen rising from a hangar at a Caracas military base, while another installation lost power.

The attack lasted less than 30 minutes. Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodríguez said some civilians and members of the military were killed, without providing a figure. Trump said some U.S. forces were injured but believed none were killed.

Venezuelan ruling party leader Nahum Fernández told the AP that Maduro and Flores were captured at their home inside the Ft. Tiuna military complex.

"That's where they bombed," Fernández said. "And there they carried out what we could call a kidnapping of the president and the first lady."

Under Venezuela's constitution, Rodríguez would assume power in Maduro's absence, though there was no confirmation that had occurred. She issued a statement demanding proof of life for Maduro and Flores.

### Legal and historical parallels

The Trump administration has not publicly detailed the legal authority for either the military strike or the proposed U.S. administration of Venezuela. While Washington does not recognize Maduro as Venezuela's legitimate president, legal scholars note that non-recognition does not itself confer the right to invade or govern another country.

The episode drew immediate comparisons to the 1990 U.S. invasion of Panama, which resulted in the capture of leader Manuel Antonio Noriega and his transfer to the United States to face drug trafficking charges. That operation, while widely criticized, stopped short of Washington declaring it would govern Panama.

Trump said U.S. forces had prepared for a second wave of military action but decided it was unnecessary due to the success of the initial strike, adding that further action remained an option.

"We were prepared to do a second wave," he said. "It wasn't necessary — but it's always an option."

As international condemnation mounted and questions over legality and governance deepened, Trump said the United States would now evaluate its next steps in Venezuela.

"We'll be involved in it very much," he said in a Fox News interview. "We can't take a chance in letting somebody else run and just take over what he left."

### Shock and Awe

concerned that the rules of international law have not been respected."

Colombia  
President Gustavo Petro said the world must be alerted to the attack on Venezuela. In posts on social media, Petro rejected what he called aggression against Venezuela and Latin America, urging respect for international law, peace and human dignity over armed confrontation.

Cuba  
President Miguel Díaz-Canel condemned the U.S. action as a "criminal attack" and described it as "state terrorism." Cuba called for an urgent international response, saying its declared "zone of peace" was under assault.

Chile  
President Gabriel Boric expressed concern and condemnation over the U.S. military actions, calling for a peaceful solution to Venezuela's crisis. He reaffirmed Chile's commitment to international law, non-intervention and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Mexico  
President Claudia Sheinbaum condemned the military intervention and cited the United Nations Charter, emphasizing that countries must refrain from the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of other states.

Brazil  
President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva said the U.S. attack crossed an "unacceptable line," warning it could fuel global instability. He urged the international community, particularly the United Nations, to respond, citing past U.S. interference in Latin America.

China  
A foreign ministry statement in Beijing said, "China is deeply shocked and strongly condemns the use of force by the U.S. against a sovereign country and the use of force against the president of a country."

Russia  
Russia has called the US move at the UN "cowboy behaviour". Russia clearly believes that the US wants to control Venezuela's oil resources under the guise of eradicating drugs. "This morning, the United States committed an act of armed aggression against Venezuela. This is deeply concerning and condemnable."

"The pretenses used to justify such actions are unfounded. Ideological animosity has prevailed over business pragmatism and the willingness to build relationships based on trust and predictability."

Iran  
Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei criticised what he described as coercion by the United States, calling on nations to resist external pressure. Iran's foreign ministry condemned the U.S. attack on Venezuela "as a blatant violation of its national sovereignty

and territorial integrity." It called on the UN Security Council to "act immediately to halt the unlawful aggression" and hold those responsible accountable.

Israel  
Israel's foreign minister hailed the American attacks and said Washington acted as the "leader of the free world".

### Kashmir Shivers

1.5 degrees Celsius, while the temperature at Srinagar Airport settled at minus 2.0 degrees. Qazigund and Awantipora recorded minimum temperatures of minus 2.6 degrees and minus 2.4 degrees respectively.

Other parts of the Valley also witnessed freezing nights. Anantnag recorded a low of minus 3.0 degrees Celsius, Pulwama minus 3.9 degrees, Kupwara minus 1.6 degrees and Ganderbal minus 1.6 degrees. Baramulla and Bandipora recorded relatively higher minimum temperatures of minus 0.5 degrees and minus 0.2 degrees respectively.

In the Jammu region, temperatures remained above the freezing point at most places. Jammu city recorded a minimum of 7.9 degrees Celsius, while Jammu Airport registered 8.8 degrees. Katra recorded 6.6 degrees, Udhampur 5.0 degrees and Banihal 2.7 degrees. Bhandarwah was the coldest place in the region, with the mercury dipping to minus 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Ladakh continued to reel under intense cold conditions. Kargil recorded a minimum temperature of minus 11.2 degrees Celsius, while Leh recorded minus 10.6 degrees. Nubra Valley registered a low of minus 8.2 degrees Celsius. Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department has forecast generally cloudy weather on January 6, with the possibility of light snowfall over isolated higher reaches of north and central Kashmir. From January 7 to January 15, weather conditions are expected to remain partly cloudy.

The department has also warned of dense to very dense fog at a few places over the plains of the Jammu division during the next three days and advised commuters to exercise caution.

### Drug Addiction

Friday sermons to convey that drug consumption is prohibited across religions and poses a serious threat to individuals, families, and society.

"Religious clerics are already part of the anti-drug campaign, but there is a pressing need to intensify their participation to reach deeper into communities," he said.

He said clerics have a strong influence at the grassroots level and can play an effective role in spreading awareness about the dangers of drug abuse.

He said the administration has adopted a three stage approach to tackle the menace, focusing on awareness generation, identification of victims, and counselling and rehabilitation. Emphasising early intervention, he encouraged families to report cases of substance abuse and seek timely help from Drug De-addiction Centres for professional treatment and guidance.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, termed the rising drug menace a

matter of grave concern and called for collective efforts to address it. He said drug abuse not only ruins the life of an addict but also disrupts families and weakens the social fabric. The DC stressed that while the administration is taking stringent measures, the involvement of religious scholars and parents remains critical.

The Deputy Commissioner also outlined the district administration's rehabilitation policy, aimed at reintegrating drug victims with their families, and highlighted the deterrence measures being undertaken to break the supply chain and curb drug peddling in Srinagar.

Principal GMC Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan Shah, highlighted the importance of Imams as trusted community leaders who can help in prevention, early intervention, and reducing the stigma associated with addiction. Prof. (Dr.) Arshad Hussain, Head of the Department of Psychiatry at IMHANS-GMC Srinagar, spoke about the growing burden of substance use disorders in the region and stressed the need for sustained community participation.

Earlier, mental health experts made detailed presentations on substance abuse, its treatment, existing policies, and the preventive and rehabilitation services available, highlighting the importance of early identification and continued awareness at the community level.

Several religious scholars who addressed the gathering echoed the need for such targeted initiatives and pledged to play an active role in spreading awareness against drug abuse within their respective communities.

### Fare Hike Or Not?

from January 5, regardless of the absence of an official order.

Transporters argue that passenger fares have not been revised for the past five years despite a steep rise in operational costs. They point to increased expenses related to vehicle fitness, maintenance, fuel and compliance charges, saying the fare hike is necessary to sustain operations. According to them, the increase would apply across Jammu and Kashmir for all categories of passenger vehicles.

Despite the lack of a government notification, commuters said that higher fares are already being charged on several routes from January 1.

Passengers reported paying increased amounts on routes such as Brein Nishat to Lal Chowk, Pantha Chowk to Dal Gate and Awantipora to Srinagar, often without any prior notice. Several commuters said the sudden increase has left them unsure about the actual fare structure and has added to their daily travel burden.

The Jammu and Kashmir Transport Welfare Association, which had earlier sought a 35 to 40 percent hike in fares, has welcomed the reported 18 percent increase, describing it as a balanced decision.

Meanwhile, MLA Zadibal and National Conference chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq has rejected claims of an approved fare hike, stating that the proposal has not yet been notified and therefore has no legal backing.

The contradictory positions have resulted in confusion across the Valley, with some routes

witnessing increased fares while others continue to follow the old rates, leaving commuters caught between government statements and ground-level implementation.

### Delhi Blast Key

alias Danish and Yasir Ahmad Dar.

### Two FIRs, Security

security proceedings were initiated against 11 individuals aged between 18 and 40 years for non-compliance with the prohibitory orders. The spokesperson said they were bound down under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and later released after due warning.

Police said the action forms part of ongoing efforts to curb activities deemed a threat to public order and security in the district.

### J&K Govt Proposes

for reimbursement of 100% SGST to eligible industries for five years, subject to a ceiling of 200% of Fixed Capital Investment (FCI) for micro enterprises and 150% in Zone A; 150% of FCI for small and medium enterprises in Zone B and 100% in Zone A; and up to 100% of FCI for medium and large enterprises in Zone B.

The proposed incentives provide for 100% exemption from stamp duty on land transactions in government industrial estates, including lease deeds and mortgage deeds.

The government also plans to incentivise industrial units that list on stock exchanges.

"An incentive of Rs 50 lakh shall be provided to any industrial unit registered in Jammu & Kashmir that successfully lists its equity on a recognised stock exchange in India, namely the National Stock Exchange (NSE) or the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)," the draft reads.

The initiative also proposes incentives for filing patents, with reimbursement of 100% of the actual filing cost on awarded patents, subject to a ceiling of Rs 2 lakh for domestic patents and Rs 5 lakh for international patents.

The policy further seeks to incentivise green and environmentally protective initiatives.

It provides subsidies for the adoption of pollution control devices, rooftop solar, rainwater harvesting, wastewater recycling, zero-discharge processes, solid waste management, or any other green measures certified by the Pollution Control Board.(KNO)

### Maternal, Infant

Territory is set to introduce the Human Papillomavirus vaccine under the Universal Immunisation Programme for girls aged 14 to 15 years. The move is aimed at reducing the long-term risk of cervical cancer through early prevention.

Together, the improved health indicators underscore Jammu and Kashmir's sustained commitment to strengthening public healthcare delivery. Officials say continued focus on maternal and child health, coupled with preventive interventions, will remain central to the administration's efforts to consolidate these gains and ensure equitable access to quality healthcare across the region.



NEWS & UPDATES

29<sup>th</sup> Year OF PUBLICATION

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# Govt Determined to Complete Flood Reconstruction by Aug 2026: Dr Jitendra Singh

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Asserting that PM Modi led government is determined to complete major reconstruction works in the flood hit areas in Jammu and Kashmir by August this year, Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Friday said the Centre has released over Rs 1,400 crore as special assistance to rebuild the shattered infrastructure.

Chairing a meeting with district officials and public representatives, Dr Singh, according to KNO said that Kathua was the worst-affected district due to recent flash floods, given its location near the international border and its geographical linkage with adjoining areas of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.

"Kathua was worst hit due to floods. After the Prime Minister's intervention, we have received more than Rs 1,400 crore from the central government," Dr Singh said.

He said the meeting focused on ensuring proper utilisation and accountability of the funds.



"It was decided that the money should be used judiciously and in a time-bound manner," he added.

Singh said the administration has been asked to prepare, within a week, a list of public structures that have suffered damage exceeding Rs 2 crore. "Once the list is ready, a detailed plan will be prepared so that reconstruction work can be completed by August, before weather conditions turn unfavourable," he said.

Dr Singh said from January 5 to 7, elected representatives and officials would carry out a

local-level assessment to identify damaged structures and incorporate public suggestions.

"We want to ensure that no eligible structure is left out and the opportunity provided by this assistance is fully utilised," he said.

Dr Singh clarified that the special allocation was primarily meant for public infrastructure, including school buildings, roads and bridges, while separate funds would be provided through SDRF and other mechanisms for private housing damage.

The Minister also announced several development initiatives for the district.

He said an MRI facility is being installed at Government Medical College (GMC), Kathua. "After Jammu, this will be the first such facility in the region," he said.

Dr Singh added that a comprehensive cancer care unit, supported by Tata Memorial Cancer Centre, Mumbai, has been established at GMC Kathua.

The Minister said a homeopathy college is moving into the tendering stage, with ground-work and planning to begin soon.

Dr Singh said development works in Kathua had faced a setback due to flash floods, but measures were being taken to bridge the gap.

He said the long-pending Ujh multipurpose project has been revived. "The project is nearly a century old and has now been revived with the Prime Minister's support," he said.

He said a canal system is being planned to utilise excess water locally in Jammu and Kashmir and, where feasible, divert it

**KATHUA WAS WORST HIT DUE TO FLOODS.** After the Prime Minister's intervention, we have received more than Rs 1,400 crore from the central government,"

to neighbouring states such as Haryana and Rajasthan.

Dr Singh also said approval has been granted for the Chattergala tunnel, which will serve as an alternative highway. He said the project will now be executed by the National Highways Authority of India due to its expanded budget.

On infrastructure, Dr Singh said widening work on the Dhar Road, a long-standing demand, has begun. "Following inputs from the Defence Ministry and the Home Ministry, it was decided that widening the road is necessary from a security perspective," he said.

## Free Medical Camp Marks Imam Ali's Birth Anniversary at Yakmanpora



In a significant community outreach initiative, Idara Islam Library Hazrat Imam Khamenei (H.Z.) organised a free medical camp at BMS Yakmanpora on the auspicious eve of the birth anniversary of Hazrat Imam Ali (A.S.).

The camp witnessed an encouraging response, with more than 200 patients receiving free medical consultations and treatment. Renowned doctors from various specialties across the Kashmir Valley volunteered their services, providing healthcare support to people from Yakmanpora and adjoining areas.

The organisers expressed their sincere gratitude to the Block Medical Officer (BMO) Pattan for the necessary support and coordination, as well as to the medical team, volunteers, and all contributors who ensured the smooth and successful conduct of the camp.

Highlighting the spirit behind the initiative, the organisers said such humanitarian efforts are inspired by the teachings and sayings of Hazrat Imam Ali (A.S.), who consistently emphasised compassion, justice, and service to the poor, the needy, and the oppressed. They added that similar welfare programmes would continue in the future to strengthen community well-being and social responsibility. (Observer News Service)

## Proposal on Mandi Expansion in Sopore to be Sent to CM: Minister Dar

Cabinet Minister Javid Ahmad Dar on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting in Baramulla to review issues related to urban infrastructure, mandi expansion and decongestion of Sopore.

The meeting was attended by MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Minga Sherpa, and officers from the Housing and Urban Development, Planning, Marketing, Horticulture and other concerned departments.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the proposed expansion of the mandi, availability of land, development of a truck terminal, four-laning and two-laning of roads, creation of multi-level parking facilities, construction of new roads and installation of street lighting in Sopore. Officials said the deliberations lasted for over 90 minutes with inputs taken from all stakeholder departments.

Later talking to reporters, Cabinet Minister Javid Ahmad Dar said that all suggestions and deliberations from the meeting would be consolidated into a comprehensive proposal and forwarded to the Chief Minister for approval. "The responsibility now is to compile the discussions and prepare a proposal regarding the mandi and the land, keeping in view future expansion, road infrastructure and parking facilities. Once sent, we will pursue it with the Chief Minister for implementation," he said, according to KINS. (Observer News Service)

## Free FMD Vaccination Drive for Entire Sheep Population of Srinagar in January

The administration has launched a mission-mode initiative to vaccinate the entire sheep population of Srinagar district against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) within a month, with all vaccinations to be provided free of cost, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo said on Saturday.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the symbolic launch of the vaccination campaign, the Deputy Commissioner underscored that agriculture and allied sectors continue to form the backbone of the Kashmir division, particularly in rural and peripheral areas, where government interventions play a vital role in sustaining livelihoods.

He said the FMD vaccination drive is being implemented under the supervision of the District Sheep Officer and will cover all sheep across the district during January 2026. The exercise will be carried out by government veterinary doctors, officers and field staff, with special focus on rural and outer areas of Srinagar. (Observer News Service)

## Apple Demand Rises as CA Stores Open

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** After months of uncertainty and distress sales during the peak harvest season, demand for Kashmiri apples has begun to show a noticeable improvement with the gradual opening of Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage facilities, raising hopes of better returns among growers across the Valley.

As per KNO, officials associated with the Horticulture Department and CA storage units said that for now, apples stored in the corridor spaces of CA units are being released into markets, while the main CA chambers have also started opening in a phased manner. These developments have already resulted in improved demand and comparatively better prices.

"In routine practice, apples kept in corridor spaces are stored under basic arrangements, where fans help circulate air and temperatures are maintained at a minimum level. These are not fully controlled conditions like the main CA chambers," an official explained.

He added that the main CA chambers, which offer advanced regulation of oxygen, carbon dioxide, and temperature to preserve fruit quality for longer periods, are now being opened gradually to ensure a steady market supply. "The



idea is to avoid oversupply and maintain price stability," the official said.

Currently many CA stores have already opened their main chambers as demand for apples has surged and growers have been getting better returns.

Growers said the improvement in demand has come as a relief after a challenging main season marked by weak market response and low prices. Many farmers had refrained from selling their produce during harvest due to unviable rates and instead opted to store apples in CA corridors.

"The rates during the peak season were extremely disappointing. Selling then would have meant selling at a loss," said Bashir Ahmad, an apple grower from Shopian district in South Kashmir. "That is why many of us chose to store apples in CA corridors, even though they don't offer the same level of protection as main chambers."

According to growers and traders, the strategy is now showing positive results. With demand picking up in outside markets, prices have improved considerably.

"At present, a 15-kg box is fetching between Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,500, depending on the variety and quality," said a grower from Sopore in north Kashmir. "Compared to the rates we were offered during the harvest season this is a significant improvement and gives us some breathing space."

Despite the positive trend, growers have urged CA operators to ensure a regulated and systematic release of apples from storage units. "If apples from the main CA chambers are released too quickly, the market could again face oversupply, leading to a crash in prices," warned Ghulam Rasool, a fruit dealer associated with the Bijbehara fruit mandi.

"A phased release is crucial to maintain demand and ensure fair returns for farmers."



**NEW RECRUITS OF THE BSF** take the oath during a passing-out parade at Humhama.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

## Kashmir's Jewel Losing Shine

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Once the pride of Kashmir's tourism and a floating symbol of its charm, Srinagar's houseboats, often called the "jewel in the crown" are quietly sinking into neglect as visitors are bypassing the lakes.

Houseboat owners while talking to KNO said, "Occupancy has dropped to as low as 10-15 percent this winter, leaving most rooms empty, heaters off and livelihoods adrift. We are watching the rush in Gulmarg and Pahalgam on television. But here, our boats are empty," said Ghulam Nabi, a houseboat

owner from Dal Lake. "It feels like tourists have forgotten that Srinagar exists," he added.

Notably, despite a packed tourist season in Gulmarg and Pahalgam, where hotels are running full, Dal and Nigeen lakes narrate a different story. The charm of the floating hotels, once popular with couples, filmmakers and other people from different parts of the world has faded amid changing travel trends and the winter chill.

"Tourists are preferring snow-covered resorts, which could be one of the reasons for the emptiness of Dal Lake," said a houseboat owner.

"Running a houseboat in winter is costly, with high expenses for heating, frozen water pipes and maintenance," said Manzoor Ahmad, who has been in the business for over decades. "When guests don't come, it's a double loss."

Pertinently, Srinagar's houseboats have long been the face of Kashmir's tourism, offering visitors a unique experience of living on the serene Dal and Nigeen lakes.

Once numbering over 3,000, only around 750 remain operational today due to decades of restrictions on repairs, declining water quality and shifting tourist preferences.

## Progressive Citizens Forum Demands District Status for Awantipora

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Progressive Citizens Forum on Saturday strongly pitched for granting district status to Awantipora, underlining the town's deep historical roots and its fast-emerging role as a major administrative, educational and institutional hub in south Kashmir.

Addressing a press conference, members of the forum said, "Awantipora occupies a prominent place in Kashmir's history, dating back to ancient times when it was the capital of Jammu & Kashmir and has in recent years witnessed unprecedented growth in terms of infrastructure, population and institutional presence."

Despite this expansion, they said, the town continues to function under administrative constraints that hinder efficient governance and timely public service delivery.

"Aurantipora, historically known as Awantipora, has been a seat of civilisation and culture for centuries. Today, it has transformed into one of the most impor-

tant institutional centres in the Valley," a forum member said. "The presence of premier institutions like AIIMS Awantipora and the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) has given the town national and international recognition."

The forum pointed out that apart from these major institutions, Awantipora hosts several government and semi-government offices, catering not only to local residents but also to people from neighbouring areas.

According to the members, the increasing population pressure and administrative workload have made it imperative to upgrade Awantipora's status.

"Despite fulfilling many parameters required for a district—such as population size, geographic importance and institutional concentration—Awantipora is still being administered under its existing framework, which causes delays in decision-making and public grievance redressal," another member said.

The forum said that granting district status would decentralise ad-

ministration, ensure faster implementation of development projects and make governance more accessible to the people.

District status will bring offices closer to the public, reduce dependence on distant district headquarters and help address day-to-day issues in a more efficient manner, the members said.

They further stressed that the move would also promote balanced regional development in the south Kashmir by creating new employment opportunities and boosting economic activity in the area.

Appealing to the government to acknowledge what they termed as "legitimate and long-pending aspirations" of the people, the Forum urged the authorities to initiate the process for granting district status to Awantipora at the earliest.

"This is not merely a demand, but a genuine public need rooted in history, growth and future potential. We hope the government will take a pragmatic and people-centric decision in the larger public interest," it said—(KNO)

## LG Sinha Unveils Poster of Anti-Drug Awareness Film



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday unveiled the poster of "The Last Dose", an awareness film on drug abuse produced by Khwaish Gupta Productions, at Lok Bhawan.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the entire team and conveyed his best wishes to them.

Khwaish Gupta, Founder of Khwaish Gupta Productions; Shivdeep Gupta and Priya Gupta, Producers of the film along with other team members were present at the unveiling ceremony.

Ph.No: 01952-234202

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, BARAMULLA ADDRESS: OLD DISTRICT HOSPITAL COMPLEX, BARAMULLA

### CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

1.	e-Tender Reference No. :	01 of 2025-26
	Date of Original Tender Notice :	17.12.2025
2.	Name of Work/Project :	E-TENDER FOR ANNUAL RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF COMMERCIAL LPG GAS CYLINDERS (19 KG) TO THE CMO OFFICE BARAMULLA issued by: Chief Medical Officer Baramulla
3.	Subject :	Retendering of SUPPLY OF COMMERCIAL LPG GAS CYLINDERS (19 KG) TO THE CMO OFFICE BARAMULLA due to Non-Receipt of Bids

The tender for the above-mentioned work/project was invited vide Tender Notice No. 01 of 2025-26 dated 17.12.2025, with the last date for submission of bids as 24.12.2025. No bids were received against the said tender. In view of the above, the tender process stands re-invited through fresh tendering (Retender).

#### Revised Tender Schedule:

Particulars	Details
Name of Work	Annual Rate Contract for Supply of 19 KG Commercial LPG Cylinders to CMO OFFICE BARAMULLA
Tender Type	Open Tender (Two-Cover System - Technical & Financial)
Estimated Cost	As per requirement
EMD (Earnest Money Deposit)	₹1500/- (Rupees One Thousand Five Hundred only) in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to CMO OFFICE BARAMULLA
Cost of Tender Document	₹500/- (Non-refundable) in the form of Demand Draft drawn in favour of CMO OFFICE BARAMULLA
Date of Publishing	26/12/2025
Bid Submission Start Date	26/12/2025
Bid Submission End Date	03/01/2026 up to 06:00 PM
Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid	05/01/2026 at 11:30 AM
Place of Opening	Of the Chief Medical Officer, District Baramulla

4. All other terms and conditions of the original tender document shall remain unchanged. The revised tender document, incorporating this corrigendum, can be downloaded from JKTenders portal at <https://jktenders.gov.in> from 26.12.2025 onwards. Bidders are advised to regularly check the official website for any further corrigendum/addendum.

**Note: This corrigendum is an integral part of the tender document.**

No:-CMOB/Acctt./E.tender/ 11830  
Date:- 26/12/25

DIPK-9583-25  
DT: 03/01/2026

Chief Medical Officer  
BARAMULLA

Cricket Hit by Political Tensions

# Indo-Bangla Series in Doubt

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The worsening diplomatic relations between India and Bangladesh could put bilateral cricket between the two nations in cold storage for some time as the BCCI is unlikely to tour the neighbouring country despite the announcement of an engagement by the BCB.

On Friday, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) said that a six-match white-ball series would be played in September. It even announced the dates, claiming to have consulted the BCCI.

As per the BCB's schedule, three ODIs will be played on September 1, 3 and 6, while the T20s will be played on September 9, 12 and 13 after the Indian team reaches Bangladesh on August 28.

The series was originally scheduled to be held last year but was called off indefinitely due to security concerns of the Indian board.

It is reliably learnt that the



BCCI is unlikely to play ball even this time, a big indication of it being its instruction to IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders to release pacer Mustafizur Rahman from the squad.

BCCI's reluctance to tour comes from the current volatile situation in Bangladesh, which has been in the grip of political

violence for the past six months.

As early as next month, Bangladesh are scheduled to play their T20 World Cup games in India and BCB's stance on that would be keenly watched in the wake of Rahman's ouster from the IPL on BCCI instructions.

If the situation gets any worse then a scenario similar to the

situation between India and Pakistan is not completely unimaginable.

India and Pakistan play all their ICC games at neutral venues due to frosty relations that have deteriorated further after the Pahalgalam terror attack last year.

The much-awaited Indo-Pak fixture of the T20 World Cup

will be played in Sri Lanka next month.

The relationship between India and Bangladesh has gone south after the ouster of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who fled to India in August last year following anti-government protests.

She was sentenced to death in absentia by a tribunal this year for her alleged role in a deadly crackdown during the agitation in which several students were killed.

Dhaka summoned Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma five times over various issues, while India summoned Bangladesh's High Commissioner Reaz Hamidullah once to express concerns over security in Bangladesh.

The transition, from what was widely regarded as an "India-friendly" Awami League government to Muhammad Yunus-led interim dispensation, significantly altered Bangladesh's diplomatic position.

## Siraj Makes ODI Comeback for NZ Series

**NEW DELHI:** Senior India fast bowler Mohammed Siraj on Saturday made a comeback to the ODI side for the three-match home series against New Zealand while batter Shreyas Iyer was included subject to fitness clearance.

Siraj, who was overlooked for the home series against South Africa, is back in the ODI setup. His new ball partner Jasprit Bumrah was expectedly rested from the series with the focus on the shortest format ahead of the T20 World Cup beginning next month.

Iyer, who was hospitalised during the ODI series in Australia in November for spleen laceration, will need to prove his match fitness in a Vijay Hazare Trophy game on January 6 to get fitness clearance from the Centre of Excellence (COE). He returns to the squad as vice-captain.

Star all-rounder Hardik Pandya was not cleared by the COE to bowl 10 overs in a match and therefore the selectors did not include him in the team for the series beginning in Vadodara on January 11. There is also little point in risking him with T20 showpiece around the corner.

The other two matches will be played in Rajkot and Indore on January 14 and 18 respectively.

"Shreyas Iyer's availability is subject to fitness clearance from BCCI COE," said the BCCI in a statement. "Hardik Pandya has not been cleared by the BCCI COE to bowl 10 overs in a match, and considering the ICC Men's T20 World Cup to follow, his workload is being managed," it added.



## Following BCCI Diktat, KKR Releases Mustafizur Rahman

Press Trust of India

**GUWAHATI:** Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman has been released by IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders after being instructed to do so by the Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) amid heightening diplomatic tensions between the two neighbouring countries.

KKR had acquired the services of the 30-year-old left-arter for Rs 9.20 crore from a base price of Rs 2 crore after an intense bidding war with Chennai Super Kings and Delhi Capitals at the players' auction last month.

The BCCI said KKR will be allowed to name a replacement player if required for the event scheduled to start on March 26.

"The BCCI has asked



Kolkata Knight Riders to release Mustafizur Rahman from its squad. They can ask for replacement, if needed. And upon request, BCCI will allow a replacement player," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told PTI here on Saturday.

Asked why the BCCI has asked Kolkata Knight Riders to do so, he replied,

"Because of recent developments all across."

In a statement, the franchise said it has released the player as instructed by the BCCI.

"Kolkata Knight Riders confirms that BCCI/IPL as the regulator of IPL has instructed it to release Mustafizur Rahman from the squad ahead of the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) season.

"The release has been carried out following due process and consultations, upon the instruction of the Board of Control of Cricket in India," KKR said in a statement.

In Sylhet, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Aminul Islam Bulbul announced an emergency meeting of the body to discuss the issue later tonight.

## Ladakh Launches New Sports Policy

LG takes pledges to take sports ecosystem to next level

Press Trust of India

**LEH:** Ladakh Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta on Saturday launched the Union Territory's sports policy, which seeks to establish a Sports Council for focussed talent identification and infrastructure development.

A key feature of the policy is the establishment of the Ladakh Sports Council, which will provide a strong institutional framework for coordinated development of sports, an official spokesman said.

He said the council will work closely with sports associations on infrastructure development, coaching support, financial assistance and long-term planning.

Launching the Ladakh



sports policy in presence of chief secretary Ashish Kundra, the Lt Governor said it provides a clear and structured roadmap for developing a strong sports culture from the school level to high-performance sports.

"The policy is based on the principle of 'scout, facilitate and recognize', focusing on early identification of talent, provision of quality infrastructure and coaching, and recognition of sporting achievements," Gupta said.

He said the launch of the policy is not merely the introduction of a new government document, but a firm commitment towards shaping the future of Ladakh's youth and giving a new identity to the region through sports.

The Lt Governor underlined that the policy adopts an inclusive approach, ensuring equal opportunities for all children irrespective of region, background or ability, with special emphasis on women athletes and para-athletes.

## Top Boxers for Elite Men, Women National C'ships

**GREATER NOIDA:** Top Indian pugilists, including world champion Meenakshi, Olympian Nikhat Zareen and several other World Boxing Cup medallists, will vie for honours in the Elite Men and Women National Boxing Championships to be held here from Sunday.

The competition, which will conclude on January 10, will see the men's and women's events being held simultaneously at the same venue, with nearly 600 boxers from across the country set to participate in 10 weight categories each.

Other prominent boxers, who will be in action in the women's section, are reigning world champion Jaismine Lamboria, Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain, world championships bronze medallists Pooja Rani and Parveen, former world champion Nitu Ghanghas and Asian Games bronze medallist Preeti Pawar.

Among men, World Boxing Cup Finals gold medalist Hitesh and Sachin, silver medallist Abhinash Jamwal, Asian Games bronze medallist Narender Berwal, and World Championships silver medallist Amit Panghal will be seen in action.

Each member association can send a maximum of 10 men and 10 women boxers, while athletes who participated in the World Boxing Cup Finals in Noida in November last year have received direct entry.

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