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After Venezuela, Trump Says, 'We Need Greenland'

Trans Asia News

London - US President Donald Trump has once again ignited international controversy by renewing his call for the United States to annex Greenland, declaring the vast Arctic island vital for

American national security. The remarks drew sharp rebukes from European leaders, Denmark and Greenland's own government, which dismissed the idea as a dangerous fantasy.

Speaking to reporters, Trump insisted, "We need Greenland from the standpoint of national security," reviving a proposal he has repeatedly floated in recent years. His comments came days after Denmark's prime minister urged him to "stop the threats" over the semi-autonomous Danish territory.

Greenland's Prime Minister Jens Frederik Nielsen



responded firmly, saying, "That's enough now," and stressed that the island's future would be decided solely by its people. "US control over Greenland is a fantasy," he said, underscoring the island's opposition to annexation.

Nielsen said, "No more pressure. No more insinuations. No more fantasies of annexation. We are open to dialogue. We are open to discussions. But this must happen through the proper channels and with respect for **More on P6**



An inferno engulfed structures on Srinagar's outskirts near Barzulla on Tuesday, with firefighters battling raging flames amid thick plumes of smoke. KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Indian Army Chief Visits UAE

Emphasises evolving global security landscape

Press Trust of India

New Delhi, Jan 6: Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Tuesday emphasised the evolving global security landscape and the changing character of modern conflicts, underscoring the importance of technology in today's warfare.

The Army chief is currently on an official visit to the UAE.

"General Upendra Dwivedi, COAS, today addressed officers of the UAE National Defence College (NDC). In his address, the COAS highlighted the evolving global security landscape and the changing character of modern conflicts, underscoring the impetus to technology in modern warfare," the Indian Army said in a post on X.

The Army chief emphasised the leadership role of senior military officers and also stressed the importance of collaborative engagements, including strong bilateral and multi-lateral defence **More on P6**

Trump's Greenland Remarks Rattle NATO Allies

Several European leaders pushed back Tuesday on US President Donald Trump's comments seeking an American takeover of Greenland. The leaders issued a statement reaffirming the strategic, mineral-rich Arctic island "belongs to its people." The leaders of France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom joined Danish Prime **More on P6**

NO MORE PRESSURE. NO MORE INSINUATIONS. NO MORE FANTASIES OF ANNEXATION. We are open to dialogue. We are open to discussions. But this must happen through the proper channels and with respect for international law."

J&K Introduces New Grant-in-aid Classification

Departments directed to provide component-wise details of projected funds

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir Government has decided that Grant-in-Aid expenditure will no longer be booked under a single head but classified into three distinct categories.

In a circular the Finance Department has intimated that the newly adopted heads are 031 -GIA (General), 035 -GIA (Creation of Capital Assets) and 036 - GIA (Salary).

The move comes after the Principal Accountant General,

J&K, advised the Union Territory Government to adopt this classification.

In two separate communications, the Principal Accountant General informed the Finance Department that booking expenditure against Grant-in-Aid under a single detailed head "028 - Grant-in-Aid" is not in conformity with the recommended classification structure.

"Accordingly, it has been recommended that expenditure on Grant-in-Aid be booked under distinct **More on P6**

Shut Down College, Shift Students Elsewhere: CM

Omar slams protests over admissions at SMVD College

Press Trust of India

Jammu - Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that the students admitted to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence had got it purely on merit, and denounced those who protested against it.

He also suggested shutting the institution and moving the students to other government medical colleges.

"Why are the people protesting again today? On what basis are they protesting? Those children worked hard



to get their seats. No one did them any favour, neither me nor the university. They passed the exams and got their seats.

"If you do not want to have them there, then adjust them somewhere **More on P6**

Civil Secretariat Jammu Sealed

Police on Tuesday sealed the Civil Secretariat in Jammu to foil any attempt of protest by the recently formed Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti, officials said. The protest call was linked to MBBS admissions at the SMVD Institute of Medical Excellence, with the Sangharsh Samiti alleging religious bias by the Shri Mata Vaishno **More on P6**

Baramulla Youth Found Dead, Family Cries Murder

Observer News Service

Baramulla: A 26-year-old youth was found dead here in North Kashmir on Tuesday.

According to the details body of Rayees Ahmed Mir was found at Delina, following which his family alleged murder.

Family members told reporters that Rayees was at home till late Monday night but was found dead in the

nearby market area this morning.

Alleging murder, the family demanded a thorough probe and stringent action against accused involved in what they termed a "planned killing." They urged the authorities to ensure justice for the victim.

Meanwhile, an official said that Police have taken the cognizance and investigations have been initiated to ascertain the cause of death

No Fare Hike Yet, Proposal Pending with Govt: RTO

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Regional Transport Officer Qazi Irfan on Tuesday said that no increase has been effected in transport fares so far, clarifying that any revision will only come into force after formal approval by the government.

The RTO said that the Transport Commissioner had held deliberations with transporter bodies from both Kashmir and Jammu divisions. During these discussions, a proposal

Statehood, Budget Session, Tourism

CM Outlines Key Challenges Facing J&K

Observer News Service

Jammu- Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday outlined the key challenges facing the region, including the demand for restoration of statehood, the upcoming Budget session of the Assembly beginning February 2, and the tourism season.

"I do not know what is going to happen this year. It's only been six days since the New Year started. Who knows what challenges we will face this year?"

"Last year, nobody was

expecting an attack like Pahalgam, or that there would be a situation like Operation Sindoor, or that there would be (heavy) rain in August-September, for which we are still suffering," Abdullah told reporters on the sidelines of a function here.

However, the government is preparing for everything, although he does not know what's in store for the future, Abdullah said.

"We are preparing for the main challenges, which you yourself have mentioned, including Jammu **More on P6**

Arms, Explosives Recovered in Kupwara

Observer News Service

Kupwara: Security forces on Tuesday recovered a cache of arms and explosives during a joint cordon-and-search operation in the Putusai area under Police Station Sogam in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said.

The operation was launched on the basis of specific intelligence inputs and was jointly conducted by troops of 47 Rashtriya Rifles, 31 Battalion of the Border **More on P6**

Kashmir Remembers a Prime Minister on Ice as Snow Drought Deepens

Arshid Mehraj

Srinagar- Abdul Rashid Shangloo was a teenager in Srinagar when he saw a jeep cross Dal Lake. The then prime minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad, used the stunt to show how strong winter could be in the valley.

Now in his mid-eighties, Shangloo can still hear the tires crunching on ice. He remembers the laughter, the thrill, and the way winter once seemed to command everything around it.

Today, he sits near the same lake during Chilai Kalan, the coldest part of winter, and



watches sunlight ripple across open water.

"It looks like another season," he said. "This doesn't feel like winter anymore."

That old stunt now seems

almost impossible.

In present-day Kashmir, the bright January sun shines on bare hillsides. Dal Lake doesn't freeze. Snow comes late, or sometimes not at all.

What once proved winter's strength now highlights how much it has changed.

"Kashmir is facing an ongoing snow drought," says Shabir Ali, an eco-activist. "Snowfall in the plains is scarce. In the higher mountains, it arrives late and melts fast. The absence of snow may not stop daily life immediately, but its effects build slowly, and last long."

Snow is Kashmir's natural water store. It settles in the mountains during winter and melts slowly in spring, feeding rivers, springs, farms, and hydropower stations.

Without it, water either rushes away too quickly or

doesn't arrive when needed.

"This winter didn't store enough snow," said Dr. Tanveer Dar, a hydrologist studying Himalayan water systems. "What people feel in spring and summer starts in winter."

Satellite monitoring by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development shows that large parts of the western Himalaya had fewer snow-covered days this season than usual. Several river basins feeding Kashmir saw sharp drops in snow persistence, a pattern repeated since the late 2010s.

In south Kashmir's Shopian district, **More on P6**

Jammu Teen Held for Links with Pak Handlers: Police

Observer News Service

Jammu: Punjab Police have detained a 15-year-old boy from J&K for allegedly sharing sensitive and strategic information with handlers based in Pakistan, officials said on Tuesday.

The juvenile, a resident of Bari Brahmana in Jammu, was presently staying in the border area of Sujanpur in Pathankot district. Acting on specific intelligence inputs, police detained him on Monday for allegedly being in contact with Pakistan military officers, operatives of the Inter-Services

Intelligence (ISI), and frontal organisations running terror modules across the border.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Pathankot, DS Dhillon said the boy had been in touch with Pakistani handlers for nearly a year and was providing information related to India's security. "His mobile phone contains contact numbers of anti-national elements and terrorists based in Pakistan with the intent to spread unrest in India," the SSP told reporters.

According to police, the teenager's phone contained sensitive information, **More on P6**

Cop on Duty Injured in Road Accident

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A police personnel was injured in a road accident near Sher e Kashmir Park in Srinagar on Tuesday when a car hit him during naka checking duty, officials said. According to officials, the accident involved an Alto car bearing registration number JK01AA 3022. The vehicle was being driven by a native of Buchwara, Dalgate. Officials said the car hit SGCT Farooq Ahmed, who was performing naka check-

ing duty at the spot. At the time of the incident, the police personnel was on official duty, an official said. According to KNT, the injured policeman was immediately shifted to SMHS Hospital for medical treatment. His condition is stated to be stable. Police said a case has been registered at Kothibagh Police Station under FIR No. 01/26 for offences under Sections 281 and 125(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Further investigation into the incident is in progress.

Work Begins on New GMS Gangbug Building

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Tuesday inspected the initiation of construction work on a new building for Government Middle School (GMS) Gangbug, a project aimed at strengthening educational infrastructure and addressing a long-standing demand of local residents. The DC conducted an on-site assessment of the works underway in the Gangbug area, reviewing the progress and scope of the project, which is expected to significantly improve learning conditions for students in the locality. The initiative seeks to provide better classrooms and upgraded facilities, thereby creating a more conducive academic environment. Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning

Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (West), Irfan Bahadur, and other senior officers accompanied the DC during the visit. Emphasising the importance of quality and timely execution, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure that construction adheres strictly to approved specifications. He also stressed the need for close monitoring of the project to ensure its completion within the stipulated time frame. Local residents, who accompanied the DC during the inspection, expressed optimism over the development. They said the new school building would go a long way in improving educational facilities for students of Gangbug and adjoining areas, ensuring better access to quality education and meeting the aspirations of the community.

Women in STEM

KU Faculty Member Secures SPARC Research Grant

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant academic achievement for the University of Kashmir (KU), faculty member Dr. Riffat John, Department of Botany, has been awarded a major research grant under the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) of the Ministry of Education, Government of India. Dr. John has secured the SPARC project titled "Unstructured but Essential: Understanding and Exploiting Intrinsically Disordered Proteins for Climate-Resilient Maize" under the Agri and Food Technologies theme. The project has been approved by the SPARC Apex Committee chaired by the Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India.



Vice-Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her message, congratulated Dr. John and said, "The award reflects the University's growing research footprint and its emphasis on meaningful international collaborations. Such initiatives strengthen interdisciplinary research and contribute to addressing region-specific agricultural and climate challenges." She further said that the University remains committed to supporting faculty-led research that aligns scientific inquiry with societal and environmental needs while fostering global academic engagement.



KO Photo Abid Bhat

Inflammable Scrap Fuels Massive Fire in Barzulla, Firemen Hurt

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A massive fire broke out on Tuesday in the Bulbul Bagh area of Barzulla in Srinagar, triggering panic in the densely populated locality and prompting a large-scale response from the Fire and Emergency Services Department.

Officials said the blaze erupted at a junkyard where scrapped vehicles and other discarded material were stored. Due to the presence of highly inflammable material, the fire spread rapidly, engulfing large quantities of scrap and sending thick plumes of smoke billowing into the air. Some nearby structures were also affected by the flames.

According to officials, including Assistant Director Aqib Husain and Mobilising Officer Aijaz Ahmad, two factories—foam and carpet units—were involved in the incident. Huge quantities of paint, thinner and plastic material stored at the site further intensified the

blaze, making firefighting operations extremely challenging. At least five firefighters sustained injuries while battling the flames under hazardous conditions.

Officials said the injured personnel were provided immediate medical assistance and their condition is stated to be stable.

According to KNT, soon after the incident was reported, multiple fire tenders were rushed to the spot from different parts of Srinagar. Firefighting operations were launched on a war footing to prevent the fire from spreading to adjoining residential areas. Police and other emergency teams were also deployed to manage the situation and regulate traffic and movement in the area.

No loss of life was reported till the filing of this report. However, officials said the assessment of property damage was still underway. The exact cause of the fire was not immediately known and will be ascertained after the blaze is fully brought under control and a detailed inquiry is conducted.

Authorities said efforts were continuing to completely douse the fire amid difficult conditions posed by the nature of the material involved.

SSP Traffic Warns Car Dealers Against Misuse of City Roads

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic, Srinagar City, Ajaz Ahmed on Tuesday issued a stern warning to car dealers and shopkeepers, asserting that public roads in Srinagar cannot be used for commercial activities or long-duration parking.

Speaking to reporters here, the SSP said traffic authorities have observed several car dealers illegally displaying vehicles on roads across different parts of the city, leading to traffic congestion and inconvenience to commuters. He cautioned that all such vehicles found occupying road space would be lifted and strict legal action would be initiated against the violators.

"Roads are meant for smooth movement of traffic, not for running businesses," the SSP said, adding that misuse of public roads would not be tolerated under any circumstances. Ajaz Ahmed also issued a clear warning to shopkeepers, particularly in busy city-centre areas such as Lal Chowk, against parking their personal vehicles outside their shops for the entire day. According to KNT, he said shopkeepers must use designated parking spaces or opt for public transport to commute to their places of business.

"They cannot occupy precious road space by parking their vehicles outside shops throughout the day," he said, stressing that such practices severely disrupt traffic flow and pedestrian movement. Clarifying the distinction between shopkeepers and shoppers, the SSP said customers are permitted to stop briefly to make

purchases and then move on. However, he underlined that shopkeepers are not allowed to block roads or footpaths by keeping their vehicles parked for extended hours.

Responding to public concerns about traffic challans, the SSP clarified that challans are not issued merely on the basis of photographs taken on mobile phones. He said the traffic police follow a proper legal procedure, and in most cases, paper challans are issued on the spot after due verification.

Reiterating the department's commitment to maintaining discipline on city roads, the SSP said strict measures would continue to be enforced to ensure smooth traffic movement. He appealed to the public to cooperate with traffic authorities in the larger interest of commuters and pedestrians.

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

<p>HIJRI CALENDAR 07 Rajab 1447</p>	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	6: 08
	ZUHR	12:35
	ASR	3: 57
	Magrib	5:39
	ISHA	7: 04

This Day In History

- 754 Pope Stefanus II arrives in Ponthion
- 1325 - Afonso IV succeeds Dionysius as King of Portugal
- 1558 - Calais, last English possession in France, retaken by French
- 1579 - England signs an offensive & defensive alliance with Netherland
- 1610 - Galileo Galilei discovers the first three moons of Jupiter: Io, Europa & Ganymede
- 1618 - Francis Bacon becomes Lord Chancellor of England
- 1622 - Germany & Transylvania sign Peace of Nikolsburg
- 1698 - Russian Tsar Peter the Great departs Netherlands for England
- 1790 - French Revolution: A major riot breaks out in Versailles as people demand lower bread prices
- 1822 - Liberia colonized by Americans
- 1904 - Marconi Co establishes "CQD" as 1st international radio distress signal
- 1915 - World War I: Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm approves strategic bombing of Britain, but forbids bombing London, fearing his relatives in the royal family might be killed
- 1922 - The Anglo-Irish Treaty is ratified by Dail Eireann by a 64-57 vote
- 1935 - French Foreign minister Pierre Laval and Benito Mussolini sign the Franco-Italian Agreement
- 1940 - Winter War: The Finish 9th Division defeats the Soviet forces on the Raate-Suomussalmi road despite being significantly outnumbered

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of ward has been wrongly written in his/her adhaar card Jalwah Afroz while her correct name is Aijwah Rabbani. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhar Centre within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Aayat Ullah Rubani
F/o Aijwah Rabbani
R/o Ramnagri Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card bearing no 94746381-5182 as Ghulam Rasool Seraj while my correct name is Gh Rasool Sheikh Mochi. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhar Centre within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Gh Rasool Sheikh Mochi
S/o Gh Ahmad Sheikh Mochi
R/o Ijara Baramulla fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card bearing no 792998509206 as Naziya Begum instead of Naziya Bano. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhar Centre within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Naziya Bano
W/o Fayaz Ahmad Ahangar
R/o Diver Yakhmanpora fko

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Tariq Ahmad Gadoo S/O Gh Mohd Gadoo R/O Zonipora, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of my mother Haleema begum who was born on 01-01-1960 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. 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.

Tehsildar
Executive Magistrate
Bomai fko

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoor) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of AB HAMID MALIK S/O MOHD SULTAN MALIK R/O BANGDARA Tehsil KREERI Dist. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 04/01/1971 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
KREERI

NORTHERN RAILWAY INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

Tender Notice No. 06/2025-26/94255685A Dated: 05.01.2026

Sr. Divisional Material Manager, N Rly., Store Branch DRM Office, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender N. No.	Description	Qty.	Due Date
1	94255685A	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 500 KVA Silent DG set complying CPWD Part-VII spec with latest amendment. Details specification as per attached "Annexure-A"	02 Nos.	05.02.2026

Note:- Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

45/26 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

از نیابت یومی

معاون:- درخواست منجابت محمد اشرف شام و ولد عبدل رحیم شام ساکنہ اوڈورہ بمراد عطائی OBC تحت 176 SRO بحق اولادان ریش اشرف، سلمان اشرف و عشرت اشرف

اشہار ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکنہ ایک درخواست بفرش OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بذمہ شام پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پوری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ واقعی شام ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور ساکن اوڈورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے۔ ساکنہ کا کیڈ بیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔

محمد اشرف شام ولد عبدل رحیم	مردوری	50 سال
حمود ونگم زوجہ محمد اشرف	گھر بیٹو کام	45 سال
اقبال اشرف پسر۔	زیر تعلیم	28 سال
سلمان اشرف۔۔	۔۔	25 سال
عشرت اشرف دختر	۔۔	18 سال
ریش اشرف پسر	۔۔	20 سال

سائل مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے اور کبھی بھی مبادا نہ دینی 5,000 روپے تک سے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی مزہ یا مزہاں ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمہ اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے مذہب یا مزہاں عدالت حد کو فزٹی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے یہ معاہدہ کوئی مذہب یا مزہاں قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO

از نیابت یومی

معاون:- درخواست منجابت غلام محی الدین انگری ولد عبدل خالق انگری ساکنہ اوڈورہ بمراد عطائی OBC تحت 176 SRO بحق اولادان خورشیدا احمد و ایجاز احمد

اشہار ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکنہ ایک درخواست بفرش OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بذمہ انگری پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پوری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ واقعی انگری ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور ساکن زانورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے۔ ساکنہ کا کیڈ بیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔

غلام محی الدین انگری ولد عبدل خالق	مردوری	50 سال
فاطمہ بیگم زوجہ غلام محی الدین	گھر بیٹو کام	45 سال
خورشیدا احمد ولد غلام محی الدین	زیر تعلیم	25 سال
ایجاز احمد پسر۔	۔۔	20 سال
عمری الدین پسر	۔۔	۔۔

سائل مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے اور کبھی بھی مبادا نہ دینی 5,500 روپے تک سے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی مزہ یا مزہاں ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمہ اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے مذہب یا مزہاں عدالت حد کو فزٹی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے یہ معاہدہ کوئی مذہب یا مزہاں قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO

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KO VIEW

A City Built on Detours

Srinagar has turned short trips into long ones. A road that worked yesterday narrows today. Another stretch stays dug up for weeks, with no clear sense of when it will open. People leave home early, already prepared for delays they expect every day.

Traffic tells a bigger story about how the city plans, communicates, and follows through.

Construction fills Srinagar for most of the year. Crews dig trenches, pour gravel, and block lanes. Soon after, another department arrives and opens the same road again. Water lines come after fresh paving. Power cables follow later. Each task runs on its own clock, and the city absorbs the impact.

For residents, detours shape daily life. A ten-minute ride stretches into forty. Emergency vehicles struggle to move. Shopkeepers lose customers who turn back instead of circling blocked streets. Workers arrive late and still take the blame.

Roads, drains, and cables all need work. But the pressure comes from planning.

Departments rarely align their schedules. Timelines shift without explanation. Signboards appear and disappear. Deadlines pass silently, with no updates.

Over time, this pattern wears people down. Many stop asking when a road will reopen because answers rarely stay true. Longer routes become routine. Daily plans shrink to fit the city's slow pace. Inconvenience settles in and starts to feel normal.

Urban planning should make movement easier. In Srinagar, it often does the opposite. Narrow roads and seasonal limits demand careful sequencing. Instead, projects stack on top of each other. Digging follows digging. Fresh paving gets torn up again.

Detours also carry hidden costs. Fuel burns longer. Tempos run short. Parents reach home late. Delivery work slows. These losses stay outside official records. No report counts the hours spent stuck in traffic.

Clear communication would ease much of this strain. Basic coordination would help even more. Finish underground work before laying roads. Share calendars across departments. Publish timelines that reflect real conditions and update them when plans change. These steps call for discipline rather than lofty ideas.

Other cities face similar pressure and explain disruptions better. They flag overlaps early. They guide drivers clearly. Srinagar often asks people to adjust without telling them what lies ahead.

People handle disruption when it feels purposeful. Repeated closures without clear reason drain confidence. When the same road shuts again and again, trust thins out.

A city earns faith by respecting people's time. Movement should feel planned than improvised. Srinagar needs fewer surprises and fewer dead ends.

For now, the city keeps circling itself. Roads should carry people forward, not push them into longer loops.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Elders Earn Rest

This piece explains why pensions belong to elders and why grown children must earn their own living.

Irshad Mushtaq

In many Kashmiri homes, retirement does not bring relief. Parents finish long years of work and begin receiving a pension. Instead of enjoying calmer days, they often remain responsible for running the household. Their pension becomes the main income, even when their children are fully grown.

A pension is not extra money. It is the result of decades spent teaching, working in offices, or serving the public. It reflects years of effort, sacrifice, and commitment. This income exists so elders can take care of their needs, make their own choices, and live with dignity.

Our shared moral values are clear. Parents deserve respect. Work deserves recognition. Money deserves care. When elders continue to support the entire family, this balance breaks. What begins as help slowly becomes dependence, and parents stay tied to duties they have already fulfilled.

Earning your own living changes how you see life. It teaches discipline, patience, and respect for money. People who work understand the value of each rupee. That understanding builds real appreciation for parents who carried families for years.

A parent's pension belongs to the parent. It is not family income by default. When children accept this, they grow stronger and more responsible. Independence does not weaken family bonds. It makes them healthier.

Basic money awareness in families also matters. When everyone understands budgeting and planning, responsibility spreads. Pressure on elders reduces. Parents keep control over their earnings, which protects their self-respect and freedom.

Kashmir now has a choice. Families can allow elders to rest with honour while young adults build their own lives. This balance turns respect into action and creates homes built on effort, gratitude, and shared responsibility.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Kashmir's Innovation Shift

Students are moving past memorization to hands-on learning, experimentation, and real problem-solving.



Dr. Radhika Mia

“What is happening at the University of Kashmir is rare. NexGen shows what is possible when institutions evolve in a place often described by what is missing. It reminds us that innovation can thrive when ideas meet support, and students are trusted to learn by doing.”

In November 2025, Kashmir Observer ran a sharp piece: The 2025 Nobel Prize Sends a Warning to Kashmir Universities. Its point was hard to miss.

Kashmir produces smart graduates, but its institutions do not encourage creativity, experimentation, or technological thinking.

Students memorize facts, classrooms favour the right answers over original thought, and exams reward recall over reasoning.

In such a system, innovation struggles.

The Nobel winners in Economics that year reminded the world that progress depends on institutions that allow new ideas, trial, and technological change. Without that support, talent stagnates.

Visiting NexGen IEDC at the University of Kashmir, however, painted a different picture. This hub is silently changing the story.

Dr. Irfana Rashid leads NexGen with clarity and focus. She has built a space where students and researchers can experiment, fail, and learn by doing. Her priority is creating systems that allow ideas to grow naturally.

Behind her, Er Abdul Rashid Bhat works to connect people, institutions, and opportunities. The university leadership, including Vice Chancellor Prof. Nilofer Khan, provides trust and support.

Innovation needs systems, patience, and room to learn from mistakes. What stood out was seriousness rather than ambition.

We met student founders and researchers working on real problems at different stages. Some had

early-stage ideas, others already run startups.

Curve Electric has raised Series A funding. DreamCabs, EcoBuddy, and Switch Electric focus on mobility, sustainability, and lithium-ion manufacturing.

These ventures operate in real markets, facing supply chains, funding, and technological constraints.

Deep-tech startups such as Ignition Dynamics are emerging too. These projects often fail without support like NexGen's.

Kashmir needs more initiatives like this. Every innovation hub benefits from someone like Dr. Irfana shaping an ecosystem.

Entrepreneurship in India is growing. Around 14% of students want to start ventures immediately after graduation, and more than 30% within five years. Numbers alone hide a deeper truth.

Entrepreneurship is essentially about testing, failing, learning, and trying again. Most universities still do not teach that.

Entrepreneurship in Kashmir, and much of the Global South, differs from Western models. Many markets do not exist. Founders build demand, supply chains, trust, and new habits at the same time.

A paper recycling project must teach people to separate waste, create collection systems, and process materials before thinking about products. Agriculture ventures may need to introduce entirely new crops to local diets.

Roland Fomundam of Greenhouse Ventures in Cameroon describes it: "Before producing bell peppers, we had to create a local

demand for them."

This work is unglamorous, demanding, and often lonely. It requires conviction, stamina, and focus. Meaningful innovation comes from this kind of effort.

Global institutions face pressure on social, economic, and environmental fronts. Communities strain, resources are tested, inequality grows.

Kashmir, with its intellectual capital and natural wealth, cannot repeat outdated educational models.

NexGen shows a different kind of leadership.

By building systems that nurture innovation, Dr. Irfana is shaping a culture where ideas are tested, failure is part of learning, and action replaces memorization.

Breakthrough ideas matter, but so does the ability to carry them through uncertainty, doubt, and slow progress. Students and founders are encouraged to ask: Does this solution solve a real problem?

Then comes the long work of implementing, iterating, and persisting without guarantees.

What is happening at the University of Kashmir is rare.

NexGen shows what is possible when institutions evolve in a place often described by what is missing.

It reminds us that innovation can thrive when ideas meet support, and students are trusted to learn by doing.

The author was the lead facilitator for the workshop on Design Thinking recently conducted at the University of Kashmir.

Letter to Editor

Contractual Jobs and Psychological Insecurity in Kashmir

In recent years, contractual employment has become the main form of public sector hiring in Jammu and Kashmir. This is especially clear in higher education, where colleges and universities depend on temporary and short-term staff to keep operations running.

While these arrangements are often called convenient, their long-term impact on workers' mental and social well-being is rarely considered.

For many educated youth in Kashmir, contractual jobs bring uncertainty, anxiety, and exhaustion instead of opportunity. Each academic year brings new advertisements, repeated interviews, and the same ongoing insecurity.

The Higher Education Department of Jammu and Kashmir hires lecturers, teaching assistants, physical training instructors, and librarians under "academic arrangement" or "need-based" contracts.

These appointments usually last only one academic year and end automatically, no matter the employee's performance or the institution's needs.

Many of these teachers are NET-qualified or hold PhDs and have taught for

years, but they remain legally temporary.

This uncertainty affects personal life as well.

Contractual staff often delay marriage, avoid taking loans, and rely on family support well into adulthood. Financial instability combined with social expectations creates stress, frustration, and depression.

The issue recently reached the courts when the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh stopped the University of Kashmir from replacing existing contractual teachers with new hires under the same terms.

The Court said that "hire-and-fire" practices undermine fairness and continuity, especially for work that is ongoing. This decision shows growing judicial concern about institutionalized job insecurity.

Earlier, contractual college lecturers across Kashmir staged pen-down strikes to protest low pay, unpaid winter salaries, denial of service benefits, and job uncertainty. Many were let go at the end of the academic year, only for colleges to reopen soon after.

This shows how the system relies on a workforce treated as disposable.

Unlike permanent employees, contractual workers have no guaranteed tenure, limited promotion opportunities, and often no wage parity, even when doing the same work.

The fear of non-renewal, replacement, or sudden policy changes adds a constant mental burden.

These employment practices increase stress in a place already affected by long-term socio-political uncertainty.

Kashmir's mental health system is underdeveloped, but policies continue to ignore the clear link between job insecurity and anxiety, depression, substance abuse, and burnout.

The Supreme Court of India has repeatedly said that when employees perform ongoing work and do duties similar to regular staff, the State cannot treat them as expendable forever. The Court has also affirmed that years of contractual service create legitimate expectations and that equal pay for equal work is not optional.

Still, on the ground, policies often

fail to follow this guidance.

Heavy reliance on contractual hiring reflects short-term thinking. While it may save money temporarily, it lowers loyalty, damages morale, and affects the quality of public education. Employees who worry about the future cannot fully commit to their work today.

Kashmir's education sector needs change. Clear tenure policies, regularization of long-serving staff, fair wages, and access to social benefits are essential for stable institutions and the well-being of society.

Kashmir's youth have talent and drive. What they lack is certainty. Until employment policies treat psychological security as part of economic planning, contractual jobs will continue to produce a generation that is employed but unsettled.

True development cannot rest on unstable foundations.

Sincerely,

Suhail Gaznavi
suhailadv13@gmail.com



When Literature Meets Journalism

Nine fifth-semester students from the English Department at Islamia College of Science and Technology stepped into the newsroom and discovered how words can carry the pulse of life. As part of their internship with Kashmir Observer under Samanbal, they transformed observation into narrative, and curiosity into chronicle. Their writing blends literary insight with journalistic practice, echoing the idea of Virginia Woolf that every life holds infinite detail waiting to be noticed. These nine pieces show their sensitivity to language, depth of observation, and growing confidence in reporting.

MY KASHMIR, MY SENTENCES

Maliha Manzoor

I open my eyes to the azan floating over Safa Kadal. The loudspeaker crackles like an old cassette, and I mouth the words before the muezzin finishes. Mama says I learned to speak by copying those vowels. My first lullaby was rain on tin roofs and my first alphabet was the cracks in our veranda tiles.

Dad brings bakery bread still hot. We tear it with fingers. I dunk my piece in pink tea until it swims. While I chew, Papa reads the newspaper aloud. I steal the sports page and fold a boat. I name it Hope and set it on the windowsill. The boat sinks in the drizzle. I write that line in my journal: Hope needs better paper.

College starts at ten but

I leave at eight because the bus believes in Indian stretchable time. If cops seal the road, I walk the by-pass and count apple crates. Each crate smells like October. I turn the smell into a sentence for my short story workshop: The month tasted like an orchard that refused to pay rent. My professor circles the line in red and writes: show, don't tell. I want to tell her that showing costs extra rupees and I am already late.

In the campus lawn boys play cricket with a taped tennis ball. I sit under the chinar and read Kamala Das. Every time the ball hits the bat I think of last year's firefight. Same crack, different game. I jot: The valley uses the same sound for fun and fear. The line feels too real, so I scratch it out. The

ink still bleeds.

Evening bus drops me at Lal Chowk. I buy two dozen eggs and a bunch of coriander. The vendor wraps them in yesterday's newspaper. I fold the paper, slip it into my bag, and promise to read it after dinner. I never do.

Back home, Mama hands me the kangri. I park it under my pheran and feel my knees jiggle. We eat around the copper plate, spoons clinking like tiny bells.

Night prayer done, I climb to the attic. I open the window and the cold slaps me awake. Jhelum below smells of copper and moss. I breathe in until my ribs rattle.

Then I shut the window, crawl under the quilt, and let the azan from the next dawn start drafting me all over again.

Painting Pain

Moazam Shakeel

I grew up in a house where no one shouted the bad news. We learned to hear the hum that lives under silence. When the hum grew too loud, we picked up small tools. A half-dry brush, a needle robbed from mom's sewing box, a pencil shorter than my little finger. These became our voice.

I watched my aunt dip the brush in black tea because real paint cost too much. She moved it across the back of an old school chart. The paper curled but she kept going. First came a grey lake, then a sky that looked ready to fall. She never told us whose funeral she saw in her head. She only said, "The paper can hold it, I can't."

When the picture dried she slid it under her mattress. Next week she painted another lake, this time with

a small red boat. The week after, the boat had two people inside. Each new sheet let her sleep a full night.

In the same house, my cousin stabbed wool with a hook needle. He pushed the thread through a torn shawl dad used to wear before the fire. Stitch by stitch, he copied the flower pattern grandma once danced in. The wool smelled of smoke and old sweat. He kept going. When the flower covered the burn hole, he wrapped the shawl around his shoulders and went outside for the first time since winter hit. The shawl stopped the wind from biting the raw skin of memory.

Words cost too much. Some stories cut the tongue before it moves. A boy from the next lane sprays big eyes on a shop shutter rolled down for good. The eyes look wet, as if they just cried the whole Jhelum river. He signs with one letter,

no name. Every passer-by stops, stares, feels the pull inside his own ribs. No one asks who painted. The eyes say everything.

A woman touches the grey lake painting hung on a tea stall rope. Her finger stops on the red boat. Tears crawl out before she can stop them. She wipes her face with the same hand and orders tea. She does not know the painter, but she feels the shared weather inside her coat. Two strangers, one picture, no talk, less alone.

We do not ask art to erase the past. We ask it to walk with us. A line of colour, a knot, a shaved curl of wood becomes a second skin. The hurt stays, wrapped now in something we can carry.

Each new piece sends a short note to the world: we still paint, stitch, draw. That note is enough to keep the heart beating until tomorrow.

I Still Sleep on Grandma's Voice

Rukhsar Khan

My granny's lap was my first country. I can still feel the map. The wool shawl smelled of pine smoke and yesterday's bread. The firm ridge of her thigh felt safer than any border. The pulse in her wrist tapped my cheek like a second heart saying, "I'm still here." When her fingers walked through my hair, every strand dropped its weapon and went to sleep.

Her lullaby owned no label. It told me the moon rowed a shikara across the Jhelum each night, that kingfishers stitched torn skies with indigo thread, that Allah counted every eyelash twice. Words came and left like cousins at Eid, but the tone stayed. It threw a rope across the dark and pulled me in. I thought I was only being rocked. I was learning how to live.

Years later a professor in a city classroom bragged that lullabies are older than paper. I laughed out loud because my body already knew. They travel skin to skin, the way rose scent lifts when widows open old trunks and memory escapes.

When curfew locked the lanes and gunfire cracked like bad drums, Grandma simply stretched the song. She made each syllable longer until the bullets sounded sloppy and far away. When typhoid burned my little brother, she sang the moon against the window until its silver cooled his brow. No doctor ever arrived that fast.

Then life sped up. Last week I visited my cousin in Delhi. Her toddler sat suctioned to a plastic chair, eyes on a dancing pineapple. My cousin spooned puree one-handed while scrolling Instagram. Both were quiet. Neither was held. The crying stopped, but so did the promise that someone larger will stay until the dark feels small.

I refuse to romanticize oil lamps or pretend we can row backward. I simply name what slips away when convenience replaces presence. The slow seconds when a human voice weighs itself against silence and wins. The heat that travels from one pelvis to another. The vow that you will not face the night alone.

Some evenings when traffic rattles my room window, I still hunt for that cracked Kashmiri note. I burrow under the blanket, squeeze my eyes shut, and wait. I carry the tune in my pocket now. Maybe one day I will sing it to a child of my own. Maybe I will just keep it for myself. Either way, the lap and the voice and the moon have already done their work.

My Jacket Is Sweating

Tabiya Manzoor

I wore my puffer jacket this morning and regretted it by the second corner. The sun hit like a torch. I unzipped, then carried the thing over my arm like a winter reject. People on the road were doing the same. Jackets open, scarves stuffed in pockets, everyone walking slow to keep cool. One uncle wiped his neck with a hanky and said, "Feels like April, no?" I just nodded, too warm to talk.

Dal Lake had no frost, no crunch, no kids slipping while their elders yelled. Just water sitting still, reflecting a sky that forgot it's supposed to chill us. I stood there unzipped, sipping juice from a box that should have been hot tea. My phone said above minus in Kashmir's chilling period. I refreshed it twice, same number. I gave up and squinted at the water like it might turn white if I stared hard enough.

Market was full of free arms. The orange guy shouted, "Sweet oranges, fresh today." I bought a box, popped one in, it tasted like June. No bite, no cold sting, just soft summer sugar in my mouth. I kept eating because what else do you do when winter tastes like spring.

Back home the window was open. My dad sat in a vest, scrolling news. I asked, "Should I light the fire?" He laughed without looking up. I dropped my jacket on the chair, it sat there puffing heat like it was angry at me. I joined dad by the window, sleeves rolled, waiting for a breeze that felt like January. Still waiting.

The Affairs I See

Aabiroo Mir

I live in Srinagar and I write stories. These days the stories that reach me are about husbands who sleep in other houses and wives who cry in the kitchen after the children have gone to school.

Last month my cousin called. She spoke in a whisper because her twelve-year-old son was in the next room. Her husband has been seeing a schoolteacher for two years. My cousin found the chats, the photos, the cheap hotel receipts. She asked me, "What did I do wrong?" I had no answer.

The boy knows something is wrong. He stopped bringing friends home. He flinches when the phone rings. I see the same look on three other kids in our lane. Their eyes are older than their faces.

People talk. They always talk. When the affair is exposed, the questions start: "Who is the woman?" "What was she wearing?" "Did she chase him?" Nobody asks why the man opened the door.

I am tired of this trick. A woman is not a snake charmer. A man is not a baby goat. Both walked into the room. Both are guilty.

Some say, "He was lonely, she did not cook well, the children took all his time." That is what marriage is. Running to someone else's bed is not fixing. It is breaking.

I write these notes in my diary so I do not shout in the market. I see the hurt spreading like damp on old walls. One day the wall falls. The children stand under the bricks.

I have no big plan. I only know we must stop calling betrayal a mistake. A mistake is adding salt twice. Choosing to embrace someone outside your home is a plan. Plans have results. The result is a cracked house and kids who trust no one.

Next time you hear the gossip, ask the simple question: who opened the door? Ask it twice. Ask it until both names are spoken. Only then will the cracks start to close.

The House My Mother Carried

Naqshab Hameed

I was born in a home that smelled of turmeric and tension. My mother stirred dinner with one hand and soothed my grandmother's mood with the other. While the men discussed the news, she moved like a shadow, picking up anger before it hit the floor. Nobody counted these motions, the same way nobody counts breaths.

When she asked to visit her own parents, the room cooled. "You left that house the day you married," my uncle joked, passing the salt. Everyone laughed, so my mother laughed too, but her spoon scraped the pot a little harder. The joke stuck to her skin like burrs. She carried it for days, a private rash.

Later, when my grandfather on my fa-

ther's side fell sick, the house turned to her. She learned the timetable of pills, the exact softness rice must reach for a sick stomach, the right story to tell him so he would finish the meal. When her own father fractured his hip, the reply came trimmed: "Your brother is there, stay with your husband's folks." She said okay, then scrubbed the balcony at dawn, erasing footprints only she could see.

If my father ever spoke of moving to a house closer to his office, relatives nodded at me as if I had hatched the plan inside my dollhouse. "These modern girls," they sighed, meaning me, meaning her. The whispers arrived before we did: she must have pushed him. She absorbed the gossip the way curtains

soak cooking smoke, holding it until the fibers stank, then washing it out alone.

Speaking up earned a faster answer. Her own mother, voice low over the phone, reminded her: "He gives you food, a roof. Complaining breaks threads stronger than you." The call ended, and the silence stayed.

When my cousin found out her husband was seeing someone in the city, we gathered in the living room. The elders served advice the way they served tea, hot and quick: "Think of the girls' future. Stay quiet." No one measured the temperature of her heart, still beating like a trapped bird against the ribs. My cousin nodded, because nodding is lighter than explaining. I keep thinking of Charlotte Perkins

Gilman's yellow wallpaper creeping around the woman trapped inside it. The pattern in our house is paisley, but it crawls the same way, over walls, over faces. Arundhati Roy once wrote that silence is the loudest sound. In our corridors it roars, yet everyone calls it peace.

My mother now teaches me recipes without measurements: a pinch of cumin, a fist of rice, a smile when guests arrive. She does not write down the rest: how to swallow words, how to iron a wrinkle of worry from my father's forehead, how to walk into a room and sense which emotion is missing.

This syllabus is oral, endless, handed mother to daughter like smuggled goods.

My Mountains Now Edit My Lines

Aayat Manzoor

I sit on the Dal embankment with my notebook open and count what is missing. Last year the water reached the third step. Today, the fourth step glints dry and the lake smells of exposed mud. I came to copy Mahjoor's line "the lake holds sky in its lap," but the sky has slipped and the lap has shrunk by forty metres since his day. I cross out "lap" and write "ribcage."

Wordsworth could trust daffodils. I cannot. The garden outside my hostel where Rasool Mir placed shy lovers now hosts an unbearable temperature. The tulip bulbs bake before they break soil, so romance rots underground. I replace "blossom" with "blister" and the poem still feels soft, so I add the exact reading from the weather station: 36.4 °C, 18% humidity, zero rain for thirty-one days.

My grandfather remembers skiing on Gulmarg slopes till May. I took the same slope last week and found brown grass at ten thousand feet. I write the sentence, delete "skiing," insert "dust." The line becomes: "We dusted the mountain face with our boots." The verb costs me nothing and tells the truth.

Glacier data from Kolahoi says the ice mass lost in thirty years equals four hundred and fifty million cubic metres. I translate that into stanzas: one million cubic metres per poem, four hundred and fifty poems of absence. I read the set aloud and the class hears a glacier dying in real time. Mahjoor wrote "the stream sings freedom." I record the same stream at noon: the decibel level of its trickle is lower than the generator next door. Freedom now hums on diesel. I write both sounds into the line, let them fight for space on the page, and leave the winner unclear.

I tried writing a love poem last night. Every metaphor tasted fake: stars washed out by LED floodlights, moon blurred behind smog, night air carrying the sting of burnt plastic. I ended with two lines: "I wanted to bring you flowers / but the market sold only plastic." The friend texted back: "At least you didn't lie."

I Was 15 and Clueless

Zohra Mehraj

I still remember the morning my 10th-grade marks dropped: 99%. By 6:30 every aunt, uncle and neighbour had phoned to shout, "Doctor banawge!" I grinned, nodded, and pictured the white coat. Nobody asked if I liked biology. Nobody mentioned money. Those details showed up later, like guests who arrive after the food is gone.

Two weeks later the neighbour aunty cornered Mom at the market. "Elite Academy costs three lakhs," she whispered. "Plus hostel. Don't worry, loans are easy." That night Dad stared at the ceiling fan instead of eating dinner. I Googled 'student loan' and felt sick. We had never paid more than eight

thousand for a school year.

I asked Google about free coaching. The answers were there, like YouTube teachers, state scholarships, open-source books, but I spoke only to relatives, so the answers stayed invisible. One Sunday I told Dad, "Maybe arts?" He exhaled so hard I heard it over the pressure cooker whistle. The next day I swapped the stethoscope dream for a blank timetable that said "Education, Sociology, Whatever."

Twelfth grade ended and the questions returned, louder this time. Law entrance? Expensive again. Hotel management? No idea what it is. B.A. English? "At least the fees are low," the clerk at Islamia College shrugged. I signed the form before he finished the sen-

tence. First lecture: Shakespeare sounded like code. I sat in the last row and pretended to take notes while I Googled "how to drop out."

Then a funny thing happened. A professor asked us to rewrite King Lear as a WhatsApp chat. My group made Goneril send voice notes. We laughed, pretended, and the class clapped. For the first time since I was fifteen, someone said, "Good job," and meant it.

The next assignment I volunteered first. By second year I was tutoring juniors for pizza money. Today I train schoolkids in spoken English and earn more than the average first-year medic. I still don't wear a white coat, but I pay my own rent and wake up curious instead of scared.

Here's the part I want every parent, teacher and uncle-at-dinner to hear: a fifteen-year-old cannot guess the price of a dream. Handing them a career brochure is a lottery ticket. Sit down, open the laptop together, search "free NEET material," search "arts scholarships," search "what can I do with math plus music." That ten-minute chat can save three years of regret tuition.

I got lucky, English worked out. My best friend from school wasn't. He accepted the engineering seat his dad picked, dropped out in second year, and started over at twenty-one. We laugh about it now, but we could have laughed sooner if someone had just asked, "What do you actually like doing?"

Women Don't Make a Fuss

Tanzeel Tariq

I want to tell you how women in Kashmir stay alive.

They wake up, boil water, sweep the porch while the street still smells of night smoke. If danger pops in the distance they keep the broom moving, because the floor will not clean itself.

Survival is the smell of dough sticking to their fingers. It is counting out rice for six when only four are home, because the other

two might walk in before the pot goes cold. It is keeping a smile ready at the door, the same way you keep a spare key under the flowerpot.

Years of confinement have taught them when to speak and when to keep the words inside. Silence is full of swallowed questions. They know which neighbour needs tea before she asks, which girl needs a safety pin for her school skirt, which man needs someone to sit beside him while he stares at the gate.

Tiredness sits on their shoulders like an old shawl that never comes off. Still they walk to the market, haggle over tomatoes, carry back news of who got out of jail and who did not. They trade sorrows the way other women trade recipes, cup to cup, so the mix does not spill.

And still they laugh. A toddler chases a chicken through the yard and the whole house cracks open with sound.

Change slips in soft as socks. A girl passes her ex-

ams and whispers, "I want to study law," as if the words themselves might be taken away. Another girl starts selling scarves online. Their courage tiptoes upstairs.

So when you ask what survival looks like, I will not point at a barricade. I will point at the woman who finishes the dishes, wipes her hands, and stands at the window waiting for her son. When she sees him turn the corner she lets out one long breath, then calls, "Tea is ready."

Expectation of higher bid cannot be reason to cancel auction process: SC

PTI

New Delhi, Jan 06: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said merely because the authority conducting the auction expected a higher bid than what the highest bidder had offered cannot be a reason to discard the entire process.

A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and R Mahdevan set aside an order of Allahabad High Court upholding cancellation of bid by Golden Food Products India for an industrial plot under Madhuban Bapudham Yojana in Ghaziabad measuring an area of 3,150 square metres.

The company alleged that despite being the highest bidder in the 2023 auction held by Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA), its bid was cancelled.

The GDA claimed in the auction process it has noticed that similar properties in the same scheme had received substantially higher prices than offered

by the company in its bid, the auction committee recommended cancelling the appellant's bid in order to conduct a fresh auction.

The bench while setting aside the high court orders of May 24, 2024 and July 15, 2024 and directed the company to re-deposit the earnest money preferably within four weeks.

It said within two weeks from the date of the re-deposit of the earnest money, the GDA shall make an order of allotment of the subject plot in favour of the company herein and take all consequential steps for concluding the auction process in favour of the firm.

"An auction process has a sanctity attached to it and only for valid reasons that the highest bid can be discarded in an auction which is otherwise held in accordance with law. If a valid bid has been made which is above the reserve price, there should be a rationale or reason for not accepting it," the top court said.



It added that the decision to discard the highest bid must have a nexus to the rationale or the reason.

"Merely because the authority conducting the auction expected a higher bid than what the highest bidder had bid cannot be a reason to discard the highest bid," the apex court said.

Referring to the case, the bench

said no other party had placed a bid higher than the company and there was no infirmity in the conduct of the auction.

"No other party had complained about the process of auction conducted by the GDA - respondent No.2. The bid offered by the appellant herein was the highest and above the reserve price. In the circumstances, the

said bid ought to have been accepted by GDA - respondent No.2 rather than cancelling the same without notice to the appellant herein. Hence, the cancellation of the bid submitted by the appellant herein is quashed," the top court said.

Justice Nagarathna said in court's view there cannot be any imprimatur of the Court to such

arbitrary cancellation of auction by an instrumentality or agency of the State in the absence of there being any fraud, collusion, suppression etc.

"Merely because the smaller plots measuring 123 to 132 square metres were auctioned and sold at a higher price as compared to the subject plot measuring 3150 square metres which is a large sized plot, could not have been the basis for cancelling the auction insofar as the subject plot is concerned," it said.

It said the demand for smaller plots being higher was sold at a higher price per square metre than the subject plot, where there was no demand for the subject plot as only two bidders participated in the auction.

"The bid of the appellant was above the reserve price. There was no other reason to cancel the auction sale of the subject plot. Therefore, GDA - respondent No.2 was under an obligation in law having accepted the bid offered by the appellant to

issue the allotment letter instead of cancelling the auction on the basis of irrelevant considerations that took place behind the back of the appellant," it said.

The top court said that the expectation of a higher bid in a subsequent auction cannot be a reason to cancel an auction held in accordance with law.

It said the company herein, as also all bidders would have, made all financial arrangements before making technical and financial bids in an auction.

"The technical bid of the appellant herein was accepted. There was no reason to decline the financial bid made by the appellant which was the highest bid. The financial bid was also over and above the reserve price.

"There was no reason attributed to the appellant for cancellation of the auction sale. In the circumstances, the appellant had a legitimate expectation to receive an allotment letter vis-à-vis the subject plot as it was the highest bidder," it added.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

After Venezuela, Trump

international law."

Earlier, Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen had said, "The US has no right to annex any of the three nations in the Danish kingdom."

Frederiksen added that Denmark "and thus Greenland" was a NATO member and covered by the alliance's security guarantee and said a defence agreement granting the US access to the island was already in place.

The Danish prime minister released her statement after Katie Miller - the wife of one of Trump's senior aides, Stephen Miller - posted on social media a map of Greenland in the colours of the American flag alongside the word "SOON".

Greenland, the world's largest island, occupies a strategically crucial position above the Arctic Circle, guarding the North Atlantic and Arctic approaches to North America. Its importance has grown as climate change melts Arctic ice, opening potential new shipping routes and intensifying competition among global powers, including the US, Russia and China.

The island is also rich in rare earth minerals - critical for smartphones, batteries, computers and other advanced technologies - making it increasingly attractive amid Western efforts to reduce dependence on China for such resources. However, mining remains difficult due to Greenland's harsh climate and strict environmental regulations.

The United States already maintains a military foothold in Greenland through the Pituffik Space Base, a key installation for missile warning, missile defence and space surveillance under a 1951 defence treaty with Denmark. Greenland also forms part of the strategically vital GIUK Gap, where NATO tracks Russian naval movements in the North Atlantic.

Despite its geopolitical significance, Greenland - home to about 56,000 mostly Inuit people - has long remained on the fringes of global attention. Now, as Arctic security and global trade reshape international priorities, the island has become a focal point of rising geopolitical tension, with its leaders making clear that sovereignty is not up for negotiation.

The back and forth over the future of Greenland comes in the wake of a major military operation against Venezuela on Saturday, seizing its president Nicolás Maduro and his wife and removing them to New York.

Trump later said the US would "run" Venezuela and US oil companies would "start making money for the country".

The situation has reignited fears that the US may consider using force to secure control of Greenland, a vast island in the Arctic - something the US president has previously refused to rule out.

Trump has claimed that making it part of the United States would serve American security interests due to its strategic location and its abundance of minerals critical to high-tech sectors.

The Trump administration's recent move to appoint a special envoy to Greenland prompted anger in Denmark.

Trump's Greenland

Minister Mette Frederiksen in defending Greenland's sovereignty in the wake of Trump's comments about Greenland, which is a self-governing territory of the kingdom of Denmark and thus part of the NATO military alliance.

"Greenland belongs to its people," the statement said. "It is for Denmark and Greenland, and them only, to decide on matters concerning Denmark and Greenland."

Stephen Miller, the White House deputy chief of staff, said Monday that Greenland should be part of the United States in spite of a warning by Frederiksen that a US takeover of Greenland would amount to the end of NATO.

"The president has been clear for months now that the United States should be the nation that has Greenland as part of our overall security apparatus," Miller said during an interview with CNN Monday afternoon.

His comments came after the Danish leader, together with Greenland's prime minister and other European leaders, firmly rejected Trump's renewed call for the strategic, mineral-rich Arctic island to come under US control in the aftermath of the weekend US military operation in Venezuela.

Trump has argued the US needs to control Greenland to ensure the security of the NATO territory in the face of rising threats from China and Russia in the Arctic.

"It's so strategic right now," he told reporters Sunday.

"Greenland is covered with Russian and Chinese ships all over the place," Trump said. "We need Greenland from the standpoint of national security, and Denmark is not going to be able to do it."

Miller wondered during his interview Monday whether Denmark can assert control over Greenland.

"What is the basis of their territorial claim?" Miller said. "What is their basis of having Greenland as a colony of Denmark?"

However, it was not necessary to consider whether the US administration was contemplating an armed intervention, he said.

"There is no need to even think or talk about this in the context that you are asking, of a military operation. Nobody is going to fight the US militarily over the future of Greenland," he said.

Denmark is moving to strengthen its military presence around Greenland and in the wider North Atlantic. Last year, the government announced a roughly 14.6 billion-kroner (USD 2.3 billion) agreement with parties including the governments of Greenland and the Faroe Islands, another self-governing territory of Denmark, to "improve capabilities for surveillance and maintaining sovereignty in the region."

The plan includes three new Arctic naval vessels, two additional long-range surveillance drones and satellite capacity.

Denmark's Joint Arctic Command is headquartered in Greenland's capital, Nuuk, and tasked with the "surveillance, assertion of sovereignty and military defence of Greenland and the Faroe Islands," according to its website. It has smaller satellite stations across the island.

The Sirius Dog Sledge Patrol, an elite Danish naval unit that conducts long-range reconnaissance and enforces Danish sovereignty in the Arctic wilderness, is also stationed in Greenland.

Security threats to the Arctic

In 2018, China declared itself a "near-Arctic state" in an effort to gain more influence in the region. China has also announced plans to build a "Polar Silk Road" as part of its global Belt and Road Initiative, which has created economic links with countries around the world.

Then-US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo rejected China's move, saying, "Do we want the Arctic Ocean to transform into a new South China Sea, fraught with militarisation and competing territorial claims?"

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said Russia is worried about NATO's activities in the Arctic and will respond by strengthening its military capability in the polar region. European leaders' concerns were heightened following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Indian Army

cooperation between India, the UAE and other regional partners to "achieve symbiotic outcomes and advance regional and global peace and security", it said.

On Sunday, the Army said that Gen Dwivedi's visit to the Gulf nation from January 5-6 underscores a shared commitment to deepen mutual understanding and enhance cooperation in areas of common interest.

The Army chief's trip to the UAE is taking place weeks after the UAE's Commander of the Presidential Guard, Major General Ali Saif Humaid Alkaabi, visited India.

Gen Dwivedi's visit also follows fast-paced developments in the Gulf region, including escalating tensions between the UAE and Saudi Arabia over the situation in Yemen.

"General Upendra Dwivedi, as part of his ongoing visit to the UAE, interacted with Major General Staff Yousef Maayouf Saeed Al Hallami, Commander, UAE Land Forces. Discussions focused on enhancing positive military engagement, training convergence and advancing bilateral defence cooperation between India and the UAE," the Army posted on X.

"The COAS also visited the Land Forces Museum, gaining insights into the rich history, traditions and military heritage of the UAE Land Forces," it added.

CM Outlines Key

and Kashmir becoming a state again. That is a challenge for us.

"The Budget session will start on February 2. We have to prepare and present the budget in front of the House. We have to get it approved by the House. That is another challenge.

"Our tourism season will start from March-April. We hope the season becomes successful. That is a challenge," Abdullah said.

Asked if the government is planning something for the daily-wagers seeking regularisation of service for a long time, the chief minister said he cannot say anything about it at this moment.

"What will happen in the budget, what won't happen, what will be discussed, and what won't be discussed - I cannot say anything right now. What is clear is that the budget will be prepared and presented in the House," he said.

Asked about BJP MLA Sham Lal Sharma's demand for separation and statehood for the Jammu region, Abdullah said they (the BJP) have already "separated" and "destroyed" Ladakh.

"Now, if they want to separate and destroy Jammu, they can do it. But why are they spoiling Jammu? Somewhere or the other, their politics has failed, and now they remember statehood for Jammu. When they did it in 2019 (bifurcate J-K into two UTs - Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir), why didn't they do it then?"

"On what basis (do they want to separate Jammu)? Based on religion? Why are they destroying Jammu and Kashmir? They say we (National Conference) do not take care of Jammu and Kashmir. But they are the ones who are destroying it," Abdullah claimed.

Asked about an update on the issue of reservation, he said, "Why are you asking me? The Lok Bhawan is just 2 km away. Go there and ask them. We have done our job."

"The Cabinet sub-committee has filed its report, which the Cabinet has approved. The Cabinet's decision has been sent to the Lok Bhawan. Now it is up to the lieutenant governor to approve it." -PTI

Shut Down College

else," he said.

Abdullah said no student would want to study at the university, considering the prevailing atmosphere, and that if he were their parent, he would be afraid of sending them there.

"By all means, the Union Ministry of Health should shift them to some other medical college of ours so that they can continue their education," the chief minister told reporters here.

Abdullah's remarks came in response to a series of protests by the BJP-supported Sangharsh Samiti, a recently formed conglomeration of various right-wing organisations.

The outfit was formed shortly after the admission for the inaugural MBBS batch of 50 students was completed in November through the NEET.

The batch includes 42 Muslim students, mostly from Kashmir, seven Hindu students from Jammu, and one Sikh.

"We do not want to send them to a place where so much politics is being done. Close that medical college. That medical college is not worth opening. Close it. And these children, adjust them in some other government medical college of ours," Abdullah said.

On the future of sports after the J&K U-16 cricket team created history by winning the Vijay Merchant trophy, he said his party, the National Conference, takes every game as it is.

"You should ask questions to those who connect the game with politics. When we look at the team, we do not look at the religion of the players. They do not see anything other than religion. When there were more Muslims in the football team, they had an objection to the football team. When the number of Muslims in the cricket team decreased, they had no objection to the cricket team."

"In everything, they bring religion. They bring religion into education. They bring religion into sports. They have crossed the limits by suggesting what to eat and drink. What is left now? Since they have no issue, they are now trying to separate Jammu," Abdullah said.

Earlier in a post on X, the NC leader congratulated the J&K U-16 cricket team on winning the Vijay Merchant Trophy for the first time.

"A historic BCCI title and a dominant victory that reflects the rising cricketing talent of Jammu & Kashmir," he wrote.

Civil Secretariat

Devi Shrine Board in the admission of non-Hindu students. The group has demanded rescission of the admission process or closure of the medical college, while also threatening escalation through signature campaigns and boycotts.

Officials said hundreds of police personnel,

led by senior officers, were deployed outside the Civil Secretariat to prevent any law and order situation. A police official said that no protesters would be allowed to come anywhere near the Secretariat premises.

Leaders of the Sangharsh Samiti have also alleged misuse of shrine funds and have sought intervention from BJP leaders and the LG. Right wing organizations have raised objections to the admission process, attempting to project it as a contentious issue.

However, the government has categorically stated that all admissions at the medical college have been carried out strictly on the basis of merit and not on the basis of religion. Officials reiterated that the selection process follows prescribed norms and regulations applicable to medical admissions.

Authorities said the situation remained under control, with security arrangements put in place as a precautionary measure to maintain public order in the high security zone. [KNT]

J&K Introduces

detailed heads, viz. GIA-Creation of Capital Assets, GIA-General, and GIA-Salary, as part of the exercise on Rationalization and Harmonization of Primary Units of Appropriation (PUA)/Object Heads (OH)," reads the Finance Department's circular.

The move is part of a rationalization and harmonization initiative aimed at achieving pan-India uniformity in the economic classification of government expenditure. The initiative will also facilitate comparability of identical classes of expenditure across Union Territories, State Governments, and the Union Government.

In a letter dated September 10, 2025, the Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General of India had written to J&K's Chief Secretary, advising adoption of a uniform object head structure for Grant-in-Aid aligned with that of the Union Government.

The Government has directed all Administrative Secretaries to furnish component-wise details of funds already projected under the head '028 - Grant-in-Aid' on BEAMS.

"In order to streamline financial discipline, all the Administrative Secretaries are accordingly requested to furnish the component-wise details of the funds already projected on BEAMS under the detailed head '028 - Grant-in-Aid,' so as to enable the Finance Department to make appropriate budgetary provisions for Grant-in-Aid under the newly introduced detailed heads in the Budget Estimates (BE) 2026-27," the circular adds - (KNO)

No Fare Hike

issue of outside vehicles being purchased by locals, the RTO said such vehicles are mandatorily required to be registered with the local transport office along with complete documentation. He pointed out that no objection certificates have a validity of only six months, but there are cases where vehicles brought from outside states have not been registered for two to three years, which constitutes a clear violation of rules.

He said the transport department has taken note of such cases and enforcement action will be taken to ensure compliance with registration norms.

Addressing traffic congestion in Srinagar city, the RTO said every effort is being made to ease pressure on roads. He said measures such as restricting the movement of e-rickshaws on major routes have already been implemented as part of a broader decongestion strategy.

"This is not a one time exercise. Traffic management is a continuous process, and further steps will be taken in coordination with the traffic department to improve movement in the city," he added. [KNT]

Arms, Explosives

Security Force (BSF) and 08 Sector Rashtriya Rifles. Acting swiftly on the inputs, the forces cordoned off the area and carried out a thorough search.

During the operation, security personnel recovered a significant quantity of arms and ammunition, including 34 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition, 18 rounds of 9 mm ammunition, one pistol magazine, one Pakistan-made hand grenade, four Chinese-made grenades and an ammunition pouch.

Officials said the recovery indicated an attempt to stockpile weapons in the area, which could have been intended for use in militant activities. The seized arms and explosives were taken into custody for further examination and legal proceedings.

The search operation was carried out in a coordinated and systematic manner, with the entire area being combed to rule out the presence of any additional arms, explosives or suspects. Security forces maintained heightened vigilance in and around the locality throughout the operation.

Police said a case has been registered and further investigation is underway to trace the source of the recovered arms and identify those involved in concealing the weapons. Officials described the recovery as a significant success in ongoing efforts to maintain peace and security in north Kashmir.

Jammu Teen Held

photographs, videos and espionage-related material concerning Indian Army locations. He was reportedly moving around strategic areas, including Punjab's Madhopur region, after travelling from Jammu and Kashmir.

Based on the findings, a case has been registered against him under various sections of the Official Secrets Act. The boy is currently being questioned, and further investigation is underway.

The SSP said preliminary investigation revealed that the teen became vulnerable through extensive use of social media platforms, where he allegedly fell into a trap laid by Pakistani agencies. "Pakistani agents created a clone of the boy's mobile phone. Being tech-savvy, he videographed important locations and collected sensitive information," Dhillon said.

Police further suspect that the handlers may have been receiving live feeds while the boy was recording videos of strategic installations, as his phone had allegedly been compromised. The juvenile is also believed to have been in contact with gangsters operating a terror module, officials said.

Warning about the potential threat, the SSP said, "Had we not apprehended him, he could have carried out any kind of activity in the future."

Authorities described the detention as a significant preventive action and said efforts are underway to identify the wider network involved and assess the extent of information that may have been compromised.

Kashmir Remembers

Majeed Khan checks a spring above his apple orchard almost every day. It once flowed well into summer. Last year, it dried up by late spring.

"When snow stays, water stays," he said. "Now we plan for less."

Many villages depend on such springs for drinking water.

A 2023 study by the Central Ground Water Board found Himalayan springs now lose flow earlier in the year, linked to lower winter snow and warmer temperatures.

"Women now walk farther for water," Khan continues. "Families store what they can."

Officials say weak snow winters are putting orchards under pressure, especially in south and central Kashmir.

"Hydropower projects are feeling the heat too," says a senior power department official. "Engineers rely on steady seasonal water flows. When snow melts too quickly or comes late, it becomes harder to plan early-season power generation."

Data from the India Meteorological Department shows minimum winter temperatures in the western Himalaya rising over recent decades.

Warmer air often turns snowfall into rain at mid-elevations. Rain runs off quickly, while snow doesn't stay to feed rivers later.

"One snowfall does not define a winter," said Aditi Mukherji, a climate scientist. "Snow has to stay on the ground to support water later in the year."

This climate change is also changing memories and identity in Kashmir.

Older residents recall winters when lakes froze solid and meditative calm filled the valley. Younger people know bright, cold days and bare hills in months that used to be ruled by snow.

In Srinagar, schoolteacher Nusrat Bhat said her students ask why winter feels different. "They feel it," she said. "They know something has changed."

Thinking back to that winter and Bakshi's bold stater on Dal Lake, Rashid Shangloo stares at the water and lets out a faint smile.

"We once trusted winter," he said. "Now we can only wait."

Over 50% of Children Aged 5-9 in J&K Have High Triglycerides

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: It is a concerning development for the people of Jammu and Kashmir that more than 50 per cent of children aged 5 to 9 years are found to have high levels of triglycerides, a type of fat in the blood.

According to the 'Children in India 2025' report by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 50.2% of children in this age group in Jammu and Kashmir have elevated triglyceride levels. Triglycerides are fats stored in the body and used for energy.

Speaking to KNO, doctors explained that while normal triglyceride levels are a part of healthy metabolism, unusually high levels indicate imbalances in how the body processes fats.

They said persistently elevated triglycerides in adults are known risk factors for heart disease, stroke, and metabolic disorders, and similar risks are present



even when such abnormalities are detected in childhood.

Dr Shahid Ahmad Bhat, a paediatrician, warned that children with high triglycerides are more vulnerable to obesity, insulin resistance, and early signs of cardiovascular disease later in life.

He added that elevated triglyceride levels often do not produce immediate symptoms but, if left untreated, can contribute to the early buildup of fatty deposits in arteries, narrowing blood flow and increasing the risk of heart

disease and stroke in adulthood. Other associated health issues include obesity, type 2 diabetes, pancreatitis, and more.

Doctors said that children are not immune to lifestyle-related diseases, as modern diets and sedentary habits are accelerating their risk of health problems traditionally seen in adults. Factors contributing to high triglycerides in children include increased consumption of sugar and deep-fried foods, more screen time, reduced physical activity, genetic

CHILDHOOD IS A CRITICAL PERIOD FOR ADDRESSING HIGH TRIGLYCERIDES, AS BLOOD VESSELS ARE STILL FLEXIBLE AND DAMAGE IS MINIMAL. Early intervention can prevent the development of serious health issues later in life,

predisposition, obesity, and overweight, they said.

Dr Murtaza Khan advised that to safeguard children's health both now and in the future, parents should promote the intake of fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins, while

reducing sugar, chips, deep-fried foods, refined carbohydrates, and sugary cereals. Encouraging more physical activity, routine health screenings, and fostering healthy habits are also crucial.

Dr Khan explained: "Childhood is a critical period for addressing high triglycerides, as blood vessels are still flexible and damage is minimal. Early intervention can prevent the development of serious health issues later in life. Although high triglycerides usually do not cause immediate symptoms, they serve as an early warning sign for heart disease, diabetes, fatty liver, and metabolic syndrome, and are highly reversible with lifestyle modifications if addressed promptly."

Doctors reiterated that childhood is the best time to normalise triglyceride levels because effective lifestyle changes can significantly reduce future health risks and promote overall well-being.

One Dead, Another Critical in South Kashmir Sand Mishap

A deadly accident in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Tuesday claimed one life and left another young man battling for survival after the two were allegedly buried under sand in the Achgoza area of Romshu.

Officials said the victims were identified as Arshid Ahmad Mir and Basit Shaikh, both in their mid-20s and residents of New Colony Pakharpora. The incident occurred when the duo was reportedly engaged by a sudden collapse of sand, leaving them with multiple and grievous injuries.

Local residents rushed the injured men to a nearby primary health centre at Keller, from where they were referred to SMHS Hospital for advanced medical care. Despite sustained efforts by doctors, Arshid Ahmad Mir succumbed to his injuries during treatment at the hospital. After completion of medico legal formalities, the body was handed over to his family for last rites, officials said.

According to KNT, the condition of the second injured youth remains critical, and he is currently under intensive medical supervision. Doctors said the next 24 hours are crucial. Police have taken cognizance of the incident and initiated proceedings to ascertain the exact circumstances that led to the accident. Further details are awaited.

The incident has cast a pall of gloom over the area, once again highlighting the risks associated with unsafe excavation and handling of loose earth in rural parts of the Kashmir Valley. (Observer News Service)

MLA Muntazir Mehdi Urges One-Time Waiver of Power Bills

Budgam MLA Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi has written separately to the Lieutenant Governor and the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, seeking a one-time waiver of previous electricity bills of domestic consumers in view of what he described as widespread public hardship.

In the letters, Mehdi said a large section of the population was facing severe financial distress due to rising unemployment, inflation and reduced household incomes, making it difficult for many families to clear accumulated electricity arrears.

He said unpaid electricity bills had become a source of constant anxiety for economically vulnerable households, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas, where income opportunities remained limited.

Referring to the region's climatic conditions, the MLA said Jammu and Kashmir experiences harsh and prolonged winters during which electricity is a basic necessity rather than a luxury. He said heating, lighting and essential household functioning depend heavily on uninterrupted power supply. (Observer News Service)

CPI(M) Protests Against US Actions in Venezuela

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) held a protest at Harisingh Park here on Tuesday against what it described as "US aggression" against Venezuela.

Kulgam legislator Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, speaking to reporters during the protest, said, "The whole world knows that American imperialism has declared a naked democracy against a sovereign country, Venezuela. This is not an ordinary incident. In our view, this is an international incident which is rarely seen in recent history. A sovereign country should be arrested by the elected president of that country. This is not an isolated incident."

"This is not an ordinary incident. In our view, this is an international incident which is rarely seen in recent history," he said.

The protest drew party workers and local supporters who highlighted opposition to what the CPIM termed as imperialist intervention. (Observer News Service)

Cath Lab at GMC Anantnag Emerges as South Kashmir's Lifeline

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The state-of-the-art Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory (Cath Lab) at Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag has emerged as a major boon for patients across south Kashmir and adjoining regions, significantly improving access to timely and advanced cardiac care.

An official at the GMC Anantnag informed KNO that the facility has completed more than 2,000 cardiac procedures in just eight months since becoming operational, marking a new chapter in the region's public healthcare delivery.

The growing capability of the Cath Lab was demonstrated on January 5, 2026, when the Department of Cardiology at GMC Anantnag performed eight primary angioplasties within a record time of 12 hours—from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm—for patients suffering from acute heart attacks. The achievement is being widely seen as a reflection of the rapid and robust development of the cardiology programme at the institution.

The average door-to-balloon time—a critical param-



eter in heart attack management—was maintained between 15 and 20 minutes, which is nearly 30 minutes faster than internationally accepted benchmarks, the official said, adding that early intervention within this time frame significantly reduces heart muscle damage and improves survival outcomes.

All the angioplasty procedures were conducted through the radial route (via the arm), which is now considered a safer and more patient-friendly approach as it lowers the risk of complications and enables faster recovery.

Despite the varied clinical profiles of the patients—ranging from young individuals to elderly and high-risk cases—all procedures were successful. Notably, every patient was stable and

discharged the following morning, underscoring the efficiency and quality of care provided.

Before the establishment of the Cath Lab at GMC Anantnag, patients from south Kashmir districts such as Anantnag, Kulgam and Shopian often had to rush to Srinagar or even outside Jammu and Kashmir for urgent cardiac interventions. This not only caused delays in treatment but also added to the emotional and financial burden on families.

With the Cath Lab now fully functional, GMC Anantnag is catering to a wide geographical catchment area, providing life-saving cardiac care to patients from Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian, Banihal, Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch and Rajouri.

Separate Jammu Will Face Ladakh's Fate: CM Omar

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Asserting that further division of Jammu and Kashmir on religious lines can have far-reaching consequences, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday castigated Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders for claiming that Jammu only may get statehood.

The Chief Minister, while responding to a query of a reporter about the claims of BJP leaders, said, "They have already spoilt Ladakh by making it a UT. If they now want to do the same to



Jammu, then let them do it." He said the Centre had "failed to effectively administer Ladakh after separating it from Jammu and Kashmir."

"They couldn't control Ladakh. Why are they now trying to spoil Jammu?" Abdullah asked, adding that

such statements reflected political failure. "Somewhere their politics has failed. That is why they are now talking about the statehood for Jammu," he said.

As per KNO, the Chief Minister also questioned why the idea was not implemented earlier. "When all this was being done in 2019, why didn't they do it then?" he said and cautioned against any attempt to redraw political boundaries on communal grounds. "On what basis do they want to separate Jammu? On the basis of religion?" he asked.

Kashmir Reports 11 Fire Incidents in Past 24 Hours

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Fire and Emergency Services personnel attended 11 fire incidents across various districts of the Kashmir region in the past 24 hours, officials said on Tuesday, adding that no loss of life was reported.

According to the Fire and Emergency Services Department, all incidents

were brought under control through prompt and coordinated action, preventing major damage to life and property.

In Bandipora district, a fire broke out in a cowshed at Rawalpora Matipota in Ajas. In Srinagar, dry grass caught fire near Royal Spring Golf Course at Lalit Ghat, while one room of a three-storeyed residen-

tial house was affected by fire at Wazirbagh near LD Bagh.

In Ganderbal's Safapora area, a single-storey GCI-made shed was damaged in a fire at Pehlipora. Budgam district reported two incidents—forest trees were affected by fire at Wazirbagh in Char-e-Sharief, and a fire involving a gas cylinder was reported at Soibagh.

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email: xened-2@jk.gov.in
e-NIT No: ED-II/20 of 2025-26 Dated: 02-01-2026

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCCL), e-bids are invited from reputed Contractors having Valid A-Class Electrical Contractor License or equivalent license issued by Chief Electrical Inspector of J&K/PDD/Relevant issuing authority/ registered Firms/Bidders enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways for the following work

1	Name of the Work	CREATION OF 1 MVA SUB STATION INCLUDING LAYING OF HT AND LT NETWORK FOR E-BUS CHARGING STATION BAY AT BATMALOO
2	Position of Funds	Available with the Intending Department (SSCL)
3	Estimated Cost	Rs 97.00 Lacs
4	Authorization of Work	Accorded by SSCL

The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of Downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 05-01-2026, 10:00 AM
B	Clarifications Start Date	05/01/26, 11:00 AM
C	Clarifications End Date	07/01/26, 04:30 PM
D	e-Bid Submission (Start) Date & Time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	07/01/26, 4:30 PM
E	e-Bid Submission (End) Date & Time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	29/01/26, 02:30 PM
F	Online e-Bid Opening Date & Time	31/01/26, 02:30 PM
G	Venue of Opening of Technical & Financial e-Bids	Office of the Executive Engineer, KPDCCL, ED-2 nd , Rajbagh, Srinagar
H	Cost of e-Bid Document (e-challan/TR)	Rs. 2000/- (Rupees Two Thousand Only) (Non-Refundable)
I	Amount of EMD/Performance Security Deposit	EMD for Rs 194000/- (Rupees one lac ninety four Thousand Nine Only) to be furnished and uploaded by all bidders for tender participation and Performance Security Deposit for an amount equal to 5% of the value of contract (to be furnished by L1 only)

- The bidders need to submit the proof/Cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through e-Challan/Treasury Receipt pledged to Executive Engineer, KPDCCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar to be Credited to M.H-0801-Power payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the e-Challan/Treasury Receipt must be enclosed along with the e-Bids. No Demand Draft shall be accepted. Further, No Bidder shall be exempted from depositing Cost of e-Bid document even if agency/bidder is MSME.
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee for tender participation by all bidders, pledged to the Executive Engineer, KPDCCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar. No interest would be payable on EMD/Performance Security deposited with the Department. No Bidder shall be exempted from depositing of Earnest Money even if agency/bidder is MSME. The e-Bids of the bidders not submitting the certified copies of above mentioned documents at S.No. (1) and (2) in scanned form shall be liable to be rejected.
- Hard Copy of original instrument of EMD needs to be submitted only by the lowest tenderer instantly after opening of e-NIT and must be pledged to the Executive Engineer, KPDCCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar. The same must be submitted to this office within 03 days positively for award of contract.
- The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder's representative will be required to be produced.
- The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.
- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday/closed day for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.
- All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD. Also, Signed and Stamped Copy of SBD is required to be uploaded.
- To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate' (DSC) Class-III (b) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.
- Hard Copy of requisite documents shall be required to be submitted only by the Lowest Tenderer with original Performance Security and e-Challan/Treasury Receipt instantly after opening of e-NIT pledged to Executive Engineer, KPDCCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
- The Name of the Work/Job along with e-NIT reference should be superscripted in Bold letters on the envelope and the Name/Firm of the Lowest Bidder should be clearly written on the cover.

It may be noted that the hard copy should be an exact replica of the uploaded offer documents by the Lowest Tenderer. Documents uploaded on the website shall be treated as final.

11. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.
No: ED-II/ 93-99/TS
Dated 02-01-2026

DIPK-NB-2949-25
DT: 06/01/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
KPDCCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B) DIVISION SHOPIAN

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

CIVIL WORKS SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (upto Rs.2.50 Crores)

NIT No: 69/7774-83/RnB/SPN/e-Tendering/2025-26 Dated: 03-01-2026

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

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head of Account	Adv Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs)	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion	Cost of T/ Doc (Rs.)	AAA No. Date	TS No. Date
1	C/o tile lane with edge wall NHO Ab Rashid Kumar to H/o Mohd Yousuf Kumar at Bongam Shopian	Constituency Development Scheme	1.975	3950/-	DEE	20 days	200/-	191-DDCS of 2026 Dated-01-01-2026	101/TS/RnB/Spn of 2025-26 Dated-03-01-2026.
2	C/o lane from back-side of land of Ab Rashid Najar to old fruit at Arhama Shopian	Constituency Development Scheme	4.856	9712/-	DEE	30 days	200/-	191-DDCS of 2026 Dated-01-01-2026	101/TS/RnB/Spn of 2025-26 Dated-03-01-2026.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03-01-2026
2	Document downloading Start Date.	04-01-2026
3	Document Downloading End Date.	12-01-2026
4	Bid submission Start Date.	04-01-2026
5	Bid Submission End Date.	12-01-2026
6	Date & Time of opening of Bids (Online)	13-01-2026

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of e-Challan/treasury challan / Demand Draft deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian.

The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the Bid cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

The date and time of opening of Financial Bids of a responsive bidder shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.

4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:
a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract. 6(A). Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

6.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

6.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

6.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

6.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original documents related to the bid shall be submitted by L1 before issuance of Allotment in his favour.

6.6 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents EMD, tender documents fee in terms of soft copies and all other documents required as per NIT with technical bid. No document (s) which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained for technical evaluation in the form of hard copy. However in case of any clarification the bidders will have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises. Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

6.6(a) Bidders should note that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract has been awarded are found forged/fake/not genuine at any time, the contract shall be cancelled and the contractor/bidder shall be recommended for blacklisting and debarred from taking part in tendering in PWD/Other Departments for a period of one year in the first instance, besides the performance security deposited for the said work shall be forfeited.

The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

8. All bidders have to submit Bid Security money as per the circular of Finance. Non submission of bid security money/EMD shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

No: NIT/7774-83
Dt: 03-01-2026

Sd/-
Camp Clerk

Sd/-
A.A.O

Sd/-
Technical Officer

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
(R&B) Division Shopian

DT: 06/01/2026

Vijay Merchant Trophy for Plate Group

J&K Wins First BCCI Title, U-16 Lifts Trophy

Press Trust of India

SURAT: The Jammu and Kashmir Under-16 team clinched the Vijay Merchant Trophy Plate Group title, the Union Territory's first-ever BCCI crown, after defeating Mizoram by an innings and 182 runs on the third day of the final here on Tuesday.

J&K won the four-day match with one day to spare. J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah congratulated the J&K U-16 cricket team on winning the Vijay Merchant Trophy for the first time.

"A historic BCCI title and a dominant victory that reflects the rising cricketing talent of Jammu & Kashmir," said the 'X' handle of the J&K Chief Minister's Office.



J&K took a first-innings lead of 300 runs, piling up 400 all out in 95.1 overs, in reply to 100 all out made by Mizoram, who batted first.

Captain Smagey Khajuria made 102 off 174 balls for J&K with the help of 15 fours and one six while Athrav Sharma scored 92 not out off 137 balls, smashing 17 fours and one six.

J&K bowlers then bundled Mizoram out for 118 in 42.4 overs in the northeastern state's second innings on the third day of the match.

Sanil Singh (3/15), Jaskaran Singh (2/8) and Hammaad Firdous (2/22) starred with the ball for J&K.

In Mizoram's first innings also, Sanil and Jaskaran had taken three wickets apiece.

The Vijay Merchant Trophy U-16 Elite competition is being held from January 4 to 28.

ISL to Start Feb 14, All Clubs to Participate

NEW DELHI: Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday announced that the Indian Super League, which was on pause due to lack of a commercial partner, will start on February 14.

The ISL will feature all 14 clubs. The I-League, which was also on pause, will be held "around the same time" with all 11 clubs in participation.

"There was a lot of speculation regarding ISL, but today the government, the football federation and 14 clubs, including Mohun Bagan and East Bengal, had a meeting, and we have decided that ISL will start February 14. All clubs will participate," Mandaviya announced.

Joining him at the long-awaited resolution table was under-fire All India Football Federation (AIFF) President Kalyan Chaubey, who took over the explaining part after the minister's announcement.

The ISL will feature 91 matches on a home and away basis, the logistics of which are still being worked out.

The I-League will be a truncated event with 55 matches.

"A Rs 25 crore central pool has been made for only the conduct of the ISL. 10 per cent of this fund will come from AIFF; 30 per cent will be from a commercial partner, but since we don't have one right now, the AIFF will pitch in with that contribution," Chaubey said. (PTI)

CM Omar Inaugurates Two-Week Ski Training Course



Observer News Service

JAMMU- Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday inaugurated a 14-day integrated ski training course at world-famous tourist destinations in the Kashmir valley.

He said that 500-600 students in the 12-18 age group will be provided certified skiing training this year while also promoting winter tourism in these destinations.

Some popular skiing locations in the valley include Gulmarg, Sonmarg and Doodhpathri.

The Integrated Ski Training Course will offer comprehensive and affordable programmes for learning skiing,

focusing on foundational skills such as gliding, snow ploughing and turns.

"Chief Minister today virtually inaugurated the 14-day Integrated Ski Training Course covering Gulmarg, Sonmarg and Doodhpathri, aimed at placing these destinations firmly on the skiing map," the Office of the Chief Minister, J-K, said on X.

Meanwhile, Abdullah also released the official calendars of the Tourism Department and the J-K Cable Car Corporation.

The calendars feature stunning photographs of destinations across both the Jammu and Kashmir divisions, highlight key achievements and aim to boost tourism promotion.

Omar Slams Removal of B'desh's 'Fizz' From IPL

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday questioned the removal of Bangladeshi cricketer Mustafizur Rahman from the IPL, asking whether forcing out an individual player would improve the situation in Bangladesh or strengthen India-Bangladesh relations.

He warned that the move could instead further deepen mistrust instead of helping improve the situation for the minorities in the neighbouring country.

Bangladeshi pacer Rahman has been released by IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders after being instructed to do so by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) amidst heightening diplomatic tensions between the two countries.

"What is the fault of that poor player? I agree that our relations with Pakistan are very bad. What did the people of Bangladesh do to us? All our relations with the people of Bangladesh were good. They are still good. Bangladesh did not spread terrorism in our country. They did not destroy us. We had close relations. Now that player has been sent out," the chief minister told reporters on the sidelines of an official meeting here.

Harsh Winter, Unyielding Spirit Budgam Girls Begin Trekking Camp at Pahalgam



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Directorate of Youth Services & Sports, J&K, District Budgam, under the directions of the Director General, Youth Services & Sports, Ms Anuradha Gupta, JKAS, organised a trekking camp for girls of all age groups from District Budgam to the famous tourist destination of Pahalgam, amid harsh winter conditions.

The trekking camp was formally flagged off by the Deputy Commissioner of Budgam, Dr Bilal Mohi-Uddin Bhat, IAS, in the presence of the District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO) of Budgam and other concerned officials.

The trekking camp is scheduled to be held from 06-01-2026 to 11-01-2026. The programme aims to promote adventure sports, physical fitness and overall personal development among the participants. All necessary arrangements regarding safety, medical care and logistics have been put in place to ensure the smooth conduct of the camp.

The initiative highlights the continued commitment of the Youth Services & Sports Department, District Budgam, towards encouraging girls' participation in outdoor and adventure activities even during challenging winter conditions.

Vijay Hazare Trophy

UP in Quarterfinals; Vidarbha, Bengal, Baroda in 3-way Tie

RAJKOT: Abhishek Goswami hit a fine century as Uttar Pradesh produced a sensational batting effort to storm into the quarterfinals of Vijay Hazare Trophy with a 54-run win over Vidarbha in a crucial Group B match here on Tuesday.

Sent in to bat, Uttar Pradesh posted 339/5 with Goswami slamming 103. The opener was ably supported by scintillating fifties from Priyam Garg (67), Dhruv Jurel (56) and Rinku Singh (57).

In reply, Aman Mohhadde came up with a fighting 147 but Vidarbha could manage 285 for 9 in 50 overs with Kuldeep Yadav (3/52) taking three wickets.

Uttar Pradesh thus continued their flawless record to top the table with 20 points, followed by Vidarbha, Bengal and Baroda -- all tied at 16 points with one match to go.

Aman Rao's double ton dents Bengal's hopes
US-born Aman Rao underlined his prowess as a big hitter with a scintillating double century as out-of-reckoning Hyderabad thrashed Bengal by 107 runs in a Group B match to dent the latter's quarterfinal hopes.

The 21-year-old Rao, who was signed by Rajasthan Royals at the IPL auction, smashed 12 fours and 13 sixes en route to his 200 not out from 109 balls, achieved in just his third List A appearance, to take Hyderabad to a commanding 352 for 5.

It was the second double century of this edition of the tournament, after Odisha's Swastik Samal had struck 212 against Saurashtra in December last. (PTI)

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