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Census 2027 Preparations Begin In J&K

» 30-Day Houselisting Window To Be Decided Soon

» New Reserved Categories To Get First Comprehensive Count

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir has geared up for Census 2027, with the Union Territory-level Census Coordination Committee expected to soon decide on a 30-day window for houselisting operations (HLO) between April 1, 2026, and September 30, 2026.

Amit Sharma, Director of Census Operations and Director of Citizen Registration for the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, said that Jammu & Kashmir is expected to decide shortly on the timeline for conducting houselisting operations. "The census coordination committee will decide on a 30-day window between April 1 and September 30, 2026," he said, adding that houselisting operations will be undertaken between

June 1 and June 30 in Ladakh.

The UT level coordination committee for census is headed by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo. It is expected to decide on a 30-day window for HLO in its next meeting.

Sharma explained that houselisting operations constitute Phase 1 of the census exercise.

He further said that Phase 2—the population enumeration exercise—will be undertaken in September 2026 in snow-bound areas of Jammu & Kashmir and in February 2027 in the plains of the Union Territory.

"The population enumeration exercise will be undertaken in September 2026 across Ladakh, keeping in view its classification as a snow-bound region," he added.

The census holds significance for Jammu & Kashmir for two reasons: it will reveal the exact population of reserved categories, and it will serve as the basis for the next delimitation of Assembly and Lok Sabha segments.

For the first time, the Papadis, Paddaris, Gadda Brahman, and Koli tribes-added to the Scheduled Tribe list of Jammu & Kashmir in 2024—will be enumerated as separate tribes.

The census | **More on P6**



A slower rhythm of life unfolds at Dargah Ghat, offering a quiet contrast to the hurried pace beyond its steps. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

Icy Conditions Persist In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A cold wave continued to grip Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Friday, with several places recording sub-zero temperatures, while Dal Lake and Wular Lake froze at multiple locations due to persistent freezing conditions, officials said.

According to details, south Kashmir's Pulwama and Shopian recorded the lowest minimum temperatures at minus 8.0 degrees Celsius and minus 8.2 degrees Celsius respectively, both marginally colder than the previous day. Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.7 degrees Celsius, slightly higher than Thursday's minus 6.0 degrees, though still well below the seasonal average.

Qazigund saw the mercury dip to minus 6.3 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 7.8 degrees Celsius. Other areas, including Gulmarg at minus 6.8 degrees Celsius and Sopore at minus 7.6 degrees Celsius, also remained | **More on P6**

Drone Drops Put Borders On Alert

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir have stepped up vigilance along the International Border (IB) and the Line of Control (LoC) following a series of incidents that have raised concerns over cross-border smuggling and other hostile activities, officials said.

The heightened alert is aimed at strengthening border security and preventing any infiltration attempts or ceasefire violations, particularly during the ongoing holiday period. Sensitive frontier areas in north Kashmir, including Gurez, | **More on P6**

We Have To Avenge Our History, Make India Great: Doval

Says Every Conflict In World Is Born Out Of Security Concerns

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: New Delhi: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Saturday said India must strengthen itself not only at its borders but across all domains, including the economy and social development, to respond to a long history of attacks and subjugation.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue as the guest of honour, Doval told an audience of around 3,000



young delegates from across the country that India's past should serve as a lesson and a source of resolve. Invoking freedom fighters Mahatma Gandhi, Subhash Chandra Bose

and Bhagat Singh, the 81-year-old former Intelligence Bureau director recalled the sacrifices that led to independence.

"You are lucky that you were born in an independent India. I was born in a colonised India. Our ancestors fought for independence and went through so many trials and tribulations," Doval said. He noted that Bhagat Singh was hanged, Bose spent his life in struggle, and Gandhi undertook satyagraha to secure freedom for the country. | **More on P6**

Drug Peddler Booked Under PSA

Agencies

Srinagar: Police in Zainapora Shopian have booked a man under the Public Safety Act in connection with a narcotics-related case, officials said on Saturday.

The detainee has been identified as Parvaiz Ahmad Ganie, son of Mohammad Ramzan Ganie, an inhabitant of Itoo Mohalla, Zainapora. The police said that the accused was earlier involved in FIR No. 89/2024 registered under Sections 8 and 20 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Zainapora.

The police said that after examining the case records and activities | **More on P6**



J&K Pushes Ayush Into Mainstream Healthcare

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is strengthening the integration of Ayush systems into mainstream healthcare, with the government reviewing steady progress in service delivery, infrastructure creation and public outreach under the National Ayush Mission.



Ayush Directorate and other concerned agencies.

Officials informed the Chief Secretary that all 523 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs dedicated to Ayush services have been fully operational across J&K since March 31, 2025. These centres are providing wellness interventions, outpatient services and preventive healthcare based on Ayush principles.

On | **More on P6**

Startup Kashmir Brings Founders Together To Spotlight Incubation Centres

At a Srinagar gathering, founders, students and experts debated how incubation centres can shape the valley's young startup ecosystem.

Syed Sammar Mehdi

Srinagar: On a Saturday in Srinagar, a room filled with young founders, students and first-time entrepreneurs came together to discuss a question that is gaining traction in Kashmir's emerging startup scene: How do local ideas grow into viable businesses?

The discussion unfolded at Startup Kashmir's Saturday Mentorship Program, a daylong



session focused on the role of incubation centres in supporting early-stage startups.

The event drew participants from different parts of the valley and reflected a broader effort to build a stronger entrepreneurial ecosystem in a region where access to guidance,

funding and networks often remains limited.

The chief guest, Dr. Saad Parvaiz, director of the Greenovator Incubation Foundation and a senior figure at the Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre at the National Institute of Technology Srinagar, laid out what incubation centres can offer young founders.

"Most | **More on P6**

SMALL INCOMES, BIG INDEPENDENCE

How Quiet Seasonal Livelihoods Power Rural Women's Income

Saqia Muzafar

Srinagar: As winter tightens its grip over Kashmir, Saleema, 55, is selling the last sacks of charcoal she prepared after the apple season ended earlier this year. Stored in a corner of her home, the charcoal is sold to neighbours and familiar buyers who arrive through the day.

The earnings are modest, but carefully counted.

"I sell one sack for only Rs 300, but this is my own



earning," Saleema said. "It may not be much, but it helps me

buy what we need without asking anyone."

Across rural Kashmir, women engage in a range of seasonal, home-based livelihoods that become more visible as winter approaches. Carried out within villages and largely from home or fields, this work follows patterns women have long been familiar with.

From collecting and selling fallen apples, locally known as giraan, to making charcoal and drying winter produce, these activities form an informal economy that | **More on P6**

OBITUARY

Kashmir Bids Farewell To A Beloved Gynaecologist

Thousands of births, decades of care, and a legacy that shaped generations of doctors and women in Kashmir.

Fiza Masoodi

Srinagar: Kashmir on Saturday paid a massive tribute to Dr. Farhat Hamid, a beloved gynaecologist whose work brought thousands of lives into the world. She practised through years



when the valley saw more deaths than births, and many of the children she delivered arrived in times marked by loss. With her passing, a long

chapter in Kashmir's medical and social life came to a close.

The news of her death spread quickly through hospital corridors and medical colleges, along neighbourhood lanes and into prayer rooms, settling into homes where women remembered her voice and families recalled the moment she placed a newborn into their arms.

Dr. Farhat, a senior gynaecologist and obstetrician and former professor at Government Medical College Srinagar, had spent decades | **More on P6**



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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION-IIND, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR

TENDER NOTICE e-NIT No STD-II / 62 of 2025-26 Dated 08-01-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, e-Tender (In Two Cover System) is hereby invited from AAY BEE and CEE Civil Contractors/registered firms enlisted with PWD/CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency for "Carrying out fencing, compound walling and land development of the premises of the proposed 1 x 10 MVA, 33/11 KV Receiving Station at Sail Beerwah Budgam."

Table with 5 columns: SNO, Description of Work, Earnest Money (In Rs), Estimated Cost (In Lacs), Last date of submission of e-bid

- 1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.

Table with 2 columns: A-J, Description of Work, Details

- 3. The bidders need to submit the proof/Cost of e-Bid document as stated above through e-Challan/Treasury Receipt pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-II, 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.

- 11. Rajbagh, Srinagar only from the bidder who is declared L1 after opening of financial bids. b. The date and time of opening of financial bids shall be notified on web site http://jktenders.gov.in. This is conveyed to the qualified bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The financial bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same web site at the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

he name of the bidder and e-NIT no. shall be clearly written on the cover. Other details can be seen in the dding documents. Any other information regarding e-tendering process can be had from the office of the executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

No: STD-II/10192-94/Ts DDKP-NB-2987/25 Dated: 10-01-2026

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written in my 12th Marks Card as Ajaz Mohd Mir S/o Ali Mohd Mir while my correct name is Ajaz Ahmad Mir S/O Ali Mohd Mir. 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 office of the Board of School Education Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Ajaz Ahmad Mir S/O Ali Mohd Mir fko

Public Notice

I have lost my passport. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the Passport Office Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Umar Mohamad Parry S/o Ghulam Mohammad Parry R/o Bun Makham Magam bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Jabeena Bano while my correct name is Jabeena Begum. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Jabeena Begum W/o Mohammad Mustafa Lone R/o Yadipora Palthallan Tehsil Pattan fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his/he adhaar card as Umar Majeed Gojree while his correct name is Mohammad Umar Gojree. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Abdul Majeed Gojree F/o Mohammad Umar Gojree R/o Wanigam Payeen Tehsil Pattan fko

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division, Srinagar.

Gist of Notice Inviting e-Tender e-NIT No's. MICD/49 of 2025-26 dated: 10-01-2026.

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division Srinagar, invites e-tenders on Item Rate basis in two cover system, for the below mentioned work from Authorized System House/Partner of OEM of 6.6/11KV VCB's, Motor Protection relays etc or A-class Electrical Contractors authorized by the System House/Partner of OEM. The cover 1st shall contain Qualification Criteria, General Terms & Conditions and Technical Specifications. The cover 2nd shall contain the BOQ.

Table with 7 columns: e NIT No., Name/Particulars of the work, Name of Division, Quantity, Cost of document/tender fee (In Rs.), Earnest money (In Rs.), Validity of Rates

Position of funds: Available

Accorded Vide Superintending Engineer Mechanical Circle I & F.C Department Srinagar's order No: - 44-MCO of 2022-23 Dated: - 23.12.2022. Key/critical Dates:

Table with 2 columns: 1-6, Details of dates and times for tendering process

Each tender should be accompanied with an Bid declaration Form/Cost of tender document in the form of as detailed above, pledged to the Executive Engineer MICD Srinagar In absence of Bid declaration form, the Tenders shall be rejected outright. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website http://jktenders.gov.in. Any information regarding the tenders can be had from this office on all working days.

DIPK-9939/25 dated: 10-01-2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mech. Irr. Const. Division, Srinagar.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SHEEP HUSBANDRY OFFICER KULGAM

Email: dshok-ash@jk.gov.in

Subject: - Disposal of Ten (10) Government Rams of District Sheep Husbandry Organization Kulgam-reg.

Reference: Director Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir's No. DSHK/Tech/culling/2026/13001-11, dated 08-01-2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office intends to auction ten (10) Govt Rams on 13-01-2026, bearing brand No's 7N-47, 14W-14, 7T-187, KR-276, KR-397, KR-256, KR-367, 7P-177, KR-426 & 7O-166 at below mentioned places from 10:30 am to 3pm. The interested persons/parties are informed to participate in the event on the scheduled date, time and venue.

The terms and conditions shall be laid on spot and the successful bidder shall have to pay the amount on spot (in cash) in one go at the time of auction, against a proper Govt. receipt.

Table with 4 columns: S.No, Venue, Date, Time

Sd/- District Sheep Husbandry Officer Kulgam

No: DSHOK/Tech/2025-26/2803-12 DDKP-9903/25 Dated: 10/01/2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Fathers name Late BASHIR AHMAD MIR S/O AB AHAD MIR R/O DOLIPORA WAGOORA. Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040011000 wants to be registered on my JAVID AHMAD MIR S/O BASHIR AHMAD MIR R/O DOLIPORA WAGOORA if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained Name....JAVID AHMAD MIR fko S/O ... BASHIR AHAMAD MIR R/O ...DOLIPORA

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that we the parents of our ward namely Muhammad Bin Sajad, studying in Class 3rd in Green valley Educational Institute Ellahibagh Buchpora Srinagar under Registration number 10239, Roll no 23, Section Blue are applying for the correction in his father's name. The correction is as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Fathers Name, To

Anyone having any objection may contact Office of the Green Valley Educational Institute Ellahibagh Buchpora Srinagar within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after this period Sajad Ahmad Shah & Nazima Ashraf R/o 40 -New colony Nigeen Hazratbal Srinagar Contact Number 9419054200.

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that we the parents of our ward namely Safwah Sajad, studying in Class 8th in Green valley Educational Institute Ellahibagh Buchpora Srinagar under Registration number 7896 Roll no 14 Section yellow are applying for the correction in her father's name. The correction is as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Fathers name, To

Anyone having any objection may contact Office of the Green Valley Educational Institute Ellahibagh Buchpora Srinagar within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after this period. Sajad Ahmad Shah & Nazima Ashraf R/o 40 -New colony Nigeen Hazratbal Srinagar Contact Number 9419054200

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that we the parents of our Ward namely Hafsa Bint Sajad, studying in Class 9th in Green valley Educational Institute Ellahibagh Buchpora Srinagar under Registration number 7480, Roll no 01, Section Purple are applying for the correction in her mothers name. The correction is as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Mothers name, To

Anyone having any objection may contact Office of the Green Valley Educational Institute Ellahibagh Buchpora Srinagar within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after this period

Sajad Hussain Handoo & Sabina Ashraf R/o Shah Mohalla, Awanta Bhawan, 90-foot Road, Soura, Srinagar Contact Number 9419086206

از نیابت یومی

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب محمد شفیع خواجہ ولد عبدالرحیم خواجہ ساکنہ سلیو تحصیل رینگیر برادر اجرائی EWS سرٹیفکیٹ بحق تانیہ شفیع تو شیر شفیع

اشتہار ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سالانہ ایک درخواست بغرض EWS سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بار سے میں پنواری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن 6 دھ پڑا میں رہائش پذیر ہے ساکن کا کنڈ 6 افراد پر مشتمل ہے اور کنڈ کی سالانہ آمدنی زرعی غیر زرعی سے منگ 96,000 روپیہ تک ہے ساکن کے پاس 15 ایکڑ سے کم رقبہ ساکن کا مکان رہائشی 200 SQ Ground ہے کم سے کم رقبہ تعمیر شدہ موجود ہے ساکن کا رہائشی فلیٹ 1000 sq فٹ سے کم ہے ساکن کا مکان ریشی از بیرون میوہل حدود میں واقع نہیں۔ ساکن کے کہہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 8 لاکھ سے کم ہے ساکن، RBA OBC, ST, زمرے میں نہیں آتا ہے۔

سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کد اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزر یا عترض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمہ اخبار سراسر دان کے اندر اندر اپنے مندرجہ عترض و دال حد اکوٹری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعا کوئی مندرجہ عترض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ فKO نائب تحصیلدار

از نیابت یومی

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب محمد اشرف گنائی ولد عبدالغنی گنائی ساکنہ تریچہلی ہاڑ تحصیل زنگیر برادر اجرائی EWS سرٹیفکیٹ بحق اولاد ان ازل اشرف و ناظر النام

اشتہار ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سالانہ ایک درخواست بغرض EWS سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بار سے میں پنواری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن 6 دھ پڑا میں رہائش پذیر ہے ساکن کا کنڈ 6 افراد پر مشتمل ہے اور کنڈ کی سالانہ آمدنی زرعی غیر زرعی سے منگ 6,000 روپیہ تک ہے ساکن کے پاس 15 ایکڑ سے کم رقبہ ساکن کا مکان رہائشی 200 SQ Ground ہے کم سے کم رقبہ تعمیر شدہ موجود ہے ساکن کا رہائشی فلیٹ 1000 sq فٹ سے کم ہے ساکن کا مکان ریشی از بیرون میوہل حدود میں واقع نہیں۔ ساکن کے کہہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 8 لاکھ سے کم ہے ساکن، RBA OBC, ST, زمرے میں نہیں آتا ہے۔

سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کد اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزر یا عترض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمہ اخبار سراسر دان کے اندر اندر اپنے مندرجہ عترض و دال حد اکوٹری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعا کوئی مندرجہ عترض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ فKO نائب تحصیلدار

از نیابت یومی

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب فیاض احمد بٹ ولد غلام رسول بٹ ساکنہ گوری پورہ زنگیر برادر اجرائی EWS سرٹیفکیٹ بحق حانیہ فیاض

اشتہار ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سالانہ ایک درخواست بغرض EWS سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بار سے میں پنواری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن 6 دھ پڑا میں رہائش پذیر ہے ساکن کا کنڈ 5 افراد پر مشتمل ہے اور کنڈ کی سالانہ آمدنی زرعی غیر زرعی سے منگ 96,000 روپیہ تک ہے ساکن کے پاس 15 ایکڑ سے کم رقبہ ساکن کا مکان رہائشی 200 SQ Ground ہے کم سے کم رقبہ تعمیر شدہ موجود ہے ساکن کا رہائشی فلیٹ 1000 sq فٹ سے کم ہے ساکن کا مکان ریشی از بیرون میوہل حدود میں واقع نہیں۔ ساکن کے کہہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 8 لاکھ سے کم ہے ساکن، RBA OBC, ST, زمرے میں نہیں آتا ہے۔

سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کد اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزر یا عترض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمہ اخبار سراسر دان کے اندر اندر اپنے مندرجہ عترض و دال حد اکوٹری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعا کوئی مندرجہ عترض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ فKO نائب تحصیلدار

از نیابت یومی

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب محمد رمضان ریشی ولد عبدالاحد ریشی ساکنہ میہر زولاری برادر اعلائی RBA تحت 176 SRO بحق اولاد ان دانش رمضان در قیہ رمضان

اشتہار ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض RBA سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بار سے میں پنواری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن واقعی میہر زولاری تحصیل یومی میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکن کا کنڈ پڑیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے محمد رمضان ریشی ولد عبدالاحد ریشی مزدوری 54 سال 6000 راج پنکھ زچہ محمد رمضان گھر یو کام 50 سال رقیہ رمضان دختر زیتیم 27 سال شہو از رمضان -- 23 سال دانش رمضان -- 22 سال ساکن مذکورہ RBA سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے خواہاں ہے اور کنڈ کی مہوار آمدنی 6000 روپیہ تک ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کد اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزر یا عترض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمہ اخبار سراسر دان کے اندر اندر اپنے مندرجہ عترض و دال حد اکوٹری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعا کوئی مندرجہ عترض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ فKO نائب تحصیلدار

Repeated Dog Bite Incidents Trigger Fear in Habba Kadal

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Inhabitants of the Babapora area in Habba Kadal, Srinagar have made a fervent appeal to the Srinagar Municipal Corporation to intervene urgently and save them from the growing menace of stray dogs, citing repeated biting incidents and increasing fear among the population.

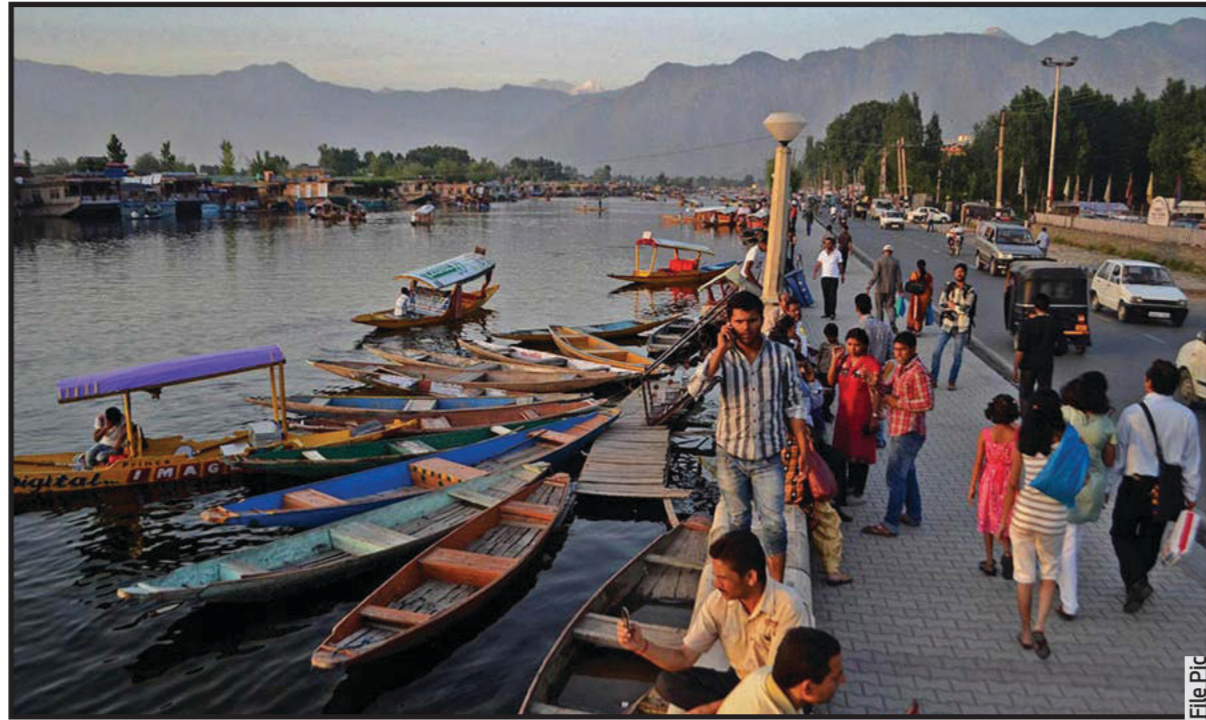
Locals said that the number of ferocious dogs in the area has risen sharply, leading to frequent attacks on pedestrians. They said people are finding it difficult to venture outside their homes, especially during early morning and evening hours, due to the constant threat posed by aggressive dogs roaming the locality.

They said the dogs chase people indiscriminately, irrespective of age, causing panic among children, elderly persons and women.

People are finding it difficult to venture outside their homes, especially during early morning and evening hours, due to the constant threat posed by aggressive dogs roaming the locality"

They added that several dog bite incidents have already been reported in the area, creating an atmosphere of fear and insecurity.

According to KNT, the inhabitants urged the Srinagar Municipal Corporation to take immediate steps to depopulate ferocious dogs and ensure the safety of the public. They said the issue has persisted for a long time and despite repeated complaints, no effective solution has been implemented so far.



Crackdown on Unregistered Homestays, Hotels in Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police on Saturday said that in coordination with Tourist Police Station Srinagar, conducted a verification and inspection drive across the city to ensure compliance with statutory norms by homestays, hotels, and guest houses. In a statement, police said that during the drive, several establishments were found operating without valid registration from the competent authorities.

These included hotels Essar, ABC Residency, Gani, and Aksa, and homestays Al Habib, Golden Moon, and Divine Holiday Fines were im-

Srinagar Police have advised all owners and operators of homestays, hotels, and guest houses to strictly comply with the prescribed legal requirements and ensure timely registration with the concerned authorities to avoid legal action

posed on the violators for operating without mandatory registration. Additionally, preventive action under Sec-

tions 126/170 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) shall be initiated against the owners of all such unregistered establishments.

Srinagar Police have advised all owners and operators of homestays, hotels, and guest houses to strictly comply with the prescribed legal requirements and ensure timely registration with the concerned authorities to avoid legal action.

Such verification and enforcement drives will continue in the future to ensure adherence to regulations and to promote safe, lawful, and responsible tourism in the district, reads the statement.

Mental Health Screening Camp Held at Chaterhama



Observer News Service

Srinagar: A preventive care and mental health screening camp was organised at the Anganwadi Center, Chaterhama (Buzuma), with the support of Help Poor Voluntary Trust and KASHMER.

The camp focused on early screening for non-communicable diseases such as hypertension and diabetes, along with the assessment of mental health concerns among community members, particularly in underserved areas. Over 30 local residents participated in the initiative.

Medical teams from

the Mobile Medical Unit and Happy and Healthy Minds conducted comprehensive health checks, including basic medical examinations and mental well-being assessments. Participants received counseling on lifestyle modification, stress management, and the importance of regular health check-ups.

The camp also aimed to raise awareness about early warning signs of mental health issues and informed attendees about available support and referral services, reinforcing the importance of timely care and community-based health interventions.

Illegal Chemical Dump Exposed in Arampora

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A major tragedy was narrowly averted late Saturday evening in the Arampora area of Qamarwari Srinagar after a fire broke out in a residential structure that was illegally being used for hazardous commercial activities, officials said.

According to the Fire and Emergency Services, a fire call was received by the State Fire Control Room at around 8.58 pm. Fire tenders from Fire Station Safakadal, along with reinforcements from the Fire and Emergency Services Headquarters, were immediately dispatched and reached the spot within minutes.

On arrival, fire personnel discovered that a single storey residential house had been unlawfully converted into a commercial unit. The premises were being used for refilling fire extinguishers and for dumping large quantities of Mono Ammonium Phosphate powder.

Officials said hundreds of thousands of plastic barrels were also stored inside the house, located in a densely populated residential locality, posing a serious threat to nearby inhabitants.

The attic portion of the structure was found engulfed in flames. Fire-fighting operations were launched without delay, and after a sustained and coordinated effort, the blaze was brought under control, preventing it from spreading to adjoining residential houses.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the illegal operation had been functioning for several years. A person from Punjab, involved in the refilling of fire extinguishers along with his father, informed officials that the activity had been going on for the past five to six years. He further stated that the refilling and sealing process was carried out at another unit located in Chanapora.

Authorities have initiated a detailed probe to examine safety violations and fix responsibility for the illegal storage and commercial use of hazardous material in a residential area.

The firefighting operation was conducted under the overall supervision of Deputy Director Fire and Emergency Services Command Srinagar, Dr Mir Aqib Hussain, with effective on ground mobilization and coordination by Mobilizing Officer Aijaz Ahmad Shah.knt

DC Reviews Rollout of Major Citizen-Focused Health Initiatives

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo chaired a detailed review meeting to assess the progress of key citizen-centric health programmes being implemented across the district.

Held at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, the meeting brought together senior officers of the district administration and health department, including the Chief Planning Officer, Chief Medical Officer, medical superintendents of major hospitals, the District Tuberculosis Officer and all Zonal Medical Officers of Srinagar.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed zone-wise progress on the generation of Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) IDs, enrolment of eligible beneficiaries under the Ayushman Vay Vandana Yojana for senior citizens, and the implementation of tuberculosis (TB) control and surveillance measures.

JLNM Hospital Hosts CME on Breast Cancer Awareness

Observer News Service

Srinagar: JLNM Hospital conducted a one-day Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme on Breast Cancer Awareness on Saturday with the theme "Early Diagnosis = Saving Lives". The event saw participation from around 100 doctors from across Srinagar.

The CME featured expert speakers from Oncology and allied specialties including Dr. Nazir Ahmed Khan, Dr. Hakim Ajaz Ahmad, Dr. Sheefa Haq, Dr. Hanifa Akhtar, and Dr. Abdul Wahid Dar, who shared their insights on the importance of early diagnosis in breast cancer detection.

Speaking on the occasion, Medical Superintendent Dr. Muhammad Tariq Jan said, "Under the able patronage of Director Health Services Dr Jehangir Bakshi, we are glad to host this event and shall be carrying forward with more of these in future. We are confident that today's event has sensitized the participants regarding the significance of Breast cancer early diagnosis"

Organizing Secretary Dr. Irfan Rasool Gadda, Senior Oncologist at Rainawari Hospital, who has the distinction of starting a full-fledged Oncology ward at JLNM Hospital, highlighted the hospital's achievements, stating, "We have



instituted cancer chemotherapy to around 200 patients in 2025, with most of it being free of cost. We have a fully functional oncology ward and plan to expand services under the guidance of Director Health Services."

The event was part of JLNM Hospital's academic activities and aimed to raise awareness about the significance of early diagnosis in breast cancer detection. The interactive sessions saw active participation from the audience, with experts addressing queries and sharing valuable insights.

The event was hosted by Dr Noushiba and Ms Sarah, while Dr Altaf Khan and Ms Gousia proposed the vote of thanks.

Public Notice

I Syed Zahooh Ahmad Farooqi want to change my name in my adhaar card bearing no 5107 5110 1978 from Zahooh Ahmad Peer (old name) to Syed Zahooh Ahmad Farooqi (new name) . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned centre within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. jvd

Public Notice

I Hilal Jan want to change my name in my adhaar card bearing no 7905 9249 9735 from Hilala Jan (old name) to Hilal Jan (new name) . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned centre within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. jvd

Public Notice

I have lost my provisional cum character certificate at somewhere bearing registration No N17441720060 . Now i am applying for its duplicate certificate if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of JKBOSE srinagar / Govt Higher Secondary School KREERI. within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained Name...ARBEENA TARIQ D/O ...TARIQ AHMAD MIR Session....Annual Regular 2020 R/O ...SALOOSA District.... Baramulla fko

Public Notice

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my son the name is entered as MAHIR ISLAM while his actual name is MAHIR UL KUMAR. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact DISTRICT HOSPITAL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that. REYAZ AHMAD KUMAR F/o MAHIR UL KUMAR R/o MACHIBAGH KARGAM PALACHITHI BUDGAM CELL. 9906886911 mcb

Public Notice

In my Driving license my name is wrongly written as Mohammad Asgar Kanth instead of Mohd Asgar Kant. Now I am applying for the correction of the same .if any body has any objection he/she may contact the concerned authorities within a week.After that no objection shall be entertained. inf

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of "DEE Class" Contractor card . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of SE R&B Divison Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Rayees Tariq S/o Tariq Ahmad Bhat R/o Kanth Bagh Magam bmg

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS	
FAJR	6: 08
ZUHR	12:36
ASR	4: 01
Magrib	5:45
ISHA	7: 08

This Day In History

- 1055 - Theodora is crowned Empress of the Byzantine Empire.
- 1158 - Vladislav II of Bohemia becomes king
- 1599 - Jacob van Neck's fleet leaves Bantam, Java in modern day Indonesia with 1 million pounds of pepper and cloves and a further half a ship full of nutmeg, mace and cinnamon
- 1693 - Mt Etna in Sicily erupts with estimated 7.4 magnitude, most power Italian earthquake, killing around about 60,000
- 1787 - Titania & Oberon, moons of Uranus, discovered by William Herschel.
- 1838 - 1st public demonstration of telegraph message sent using dots & dashes at Speedwell Ironworks, Morristown, New Jersey by Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail.
- 1861 - Mexico City captured by Juarez (Lib) in War of Reform
- 1861 - Alabama secedes from the Union (US Civil War)
- 1865 - Battle of Beverly, West Virginia, Confederate forces attack Union post.
- 1879 - Zulu war against British colonial rule in South Africa begins.
- 1923 - French & Belgian troops occupy Ruhr to collect reparations.
- 1924 - A republic is proclaimed in Greece; King George II is deposed and Eleutherios Venizelo is named Prime Minister of the Greek National Assembly.
- 1942 - Japan conquers Kuala Lumpur, Malaya.
- 1943 - US & Britain relinquish extraterritorial rights in China.
- 1959 - Hanif Mohammad completes 499 runs for Karachi, then 1st class cricket world record.
- 1964 - Panama ends diplomatic relations with US.
- 1972 - East-Pakistan becomes independent state of Bangladesh
- 1978 - Soyuz 27 links with Salyut 6 & Soyuz 26 (1st time 3 spacecraft link)
- 1984 - NASA space shuttle STS 41-B moves to launch pad
- 1989 - 140 nations agree to ban chemical weapons (poison gas, etc)
- 1990 - 200,000 demand return of Lithuania's independence
- 1991 - Soviets storm buildings in Vilnius to block Lithuania independence
- 1992 - Algeria's President Chadli announces his resignation
- 1993 - British Airways ends one of the longest libel actions in its history
- 1993 - Independent presidential candidate Ross Perot publicly returns to politics
- 1994 - Hyderabad score 6 for 944 against Andhra Pradesh in Ranji Trophy
- 1994 - Irish government announces end of a 20-year broadcasting ban on IRA
- 1996 - Haiti becomes a member of the Berne Convention copyright treaty
- 1996 - Space Shuttle STS 72 (Endeavour 10), launches into space
- 1997 - Telstar 401 Satellite Fails
- 2003 - Washington right wing Jaromir Jager scores his 10th career hat-trick and adds 4 assists for 7 points and his 1,200th NHL point in a 12-2 win against Florida; Jager has 20+ goals in each of his 13 NHL seasons
- 2013 - 29 people are killed and 12 are injured after a bus veers off a mountain road in Doti, Nepal
- 2013 - 46 people are killed and 12 are missing after a landslide buries a village in the Yunnan province, China
- 2016 - FIFA Ballon d'Or: Barcelona forward Lionel Messi wins his record 5th award with 41.33% of the votes; American midfielder Carli Lloyd is Women's World Player of the Year
- 2018 - In China's first significant #MeToo moment Beihang University in Beijing fires a professor for sexual misconduct
- 2018 US President Donald Trump causes worldwide controversy when it is reported he called African countries "shitholes" during immigration meeting
- 2018 - YouTube issues sanctions against vlogger Logan Paul after he posted footage of suicide victim's body in Japan in December

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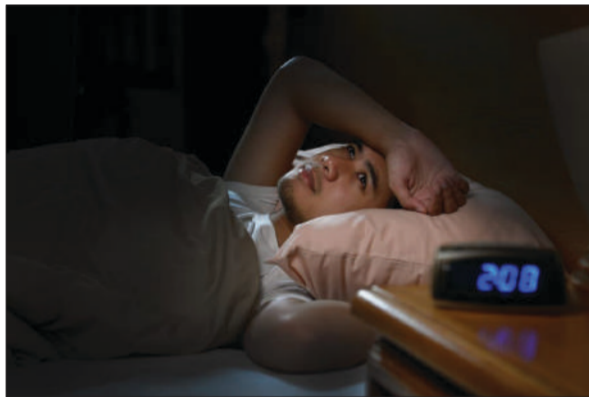
KO VIEW

Kashmir Moves Awake

The valley sleeps little and thinks more. Every night reminds us that tomorrow is already here, crowding our minds and hearts.

Saiqa Sona Ullah

The city stays awake all night. So do we. Between glowing billboards and the nonstop noise of traffic, tomorrow already feels close. It pushes in without asking. The crowd is not only on the roads. It fills our heads, weighs on our bodies, and follows us into bed. Sleep, which once felt natural, now comes in short bursts or not at all. Mornings start with alarms that cut too deep. Nights end with thoughts that refuse to slow down. Messages buzz, deadlines stack up, and the world moves faster than our breath. There is no pause button. The future keeps knocking, louder every day. Our minds feel packed. What once felt calm now feels busy. Worries circle like traffic at rush hour. Old memories, regrets, and expectations collide without warning. We try to juggle everything at once, hoping calm will show up on its own. It never does. The brain works best when it focuses on one thing, instead of the overload we throw at it. Sleeplessness is not a small problem. It shows what happens when



“ We can keep pace without losing the part of us that feels, questions, and cares. Nights may shrink. Minds may stay busy. Hearts may beat faster. Awareness keeps us grounded. ”

life keeps pulling us forward before we catch up. The body speaks too. Muscles ache. Headaches sit behind the eyes. Tiredness sinks deep. Still, the pace stays the same. We keep going with coffee and screens, choosing alertness over rest just to stay functional. Our bodies turn into alarms that never stop ringing, proof that even if tomorrow feels packed, we still live inside it today. Technology tightens the grip. Phones light up. Messages arrive without end. Social media pulls us into other people's lives while our own slip into the background. We stay connected all the time, but closeness feels thinner. The mind runs ahead while the soul waits its turn. The screen makes the world feel smaller, but daily life feels heavier and harder to hold. We try to adjust. We download apps, follow sleep routines, and chase productivity plans. They help for a while. Then the pressure returns. The future does not slow down for hacks. Thinkers like Michel Foucault saw this coming. He spoke of a time shaped less by long journeys and more by networks, side by side moments, and constant intersections. Life no longer unfolds in a straight line. It stacks, overlaps, and crowds itself. No guide exists for living when every second feels packed with duties, ideas, and fears. We move like explorers in shifting ground, drawing maps we rarely get time to follow. The hardest truth is this crowd does not only come from outside. It lives inside us. Ambition, fear, and the urge to keep up ride along in our minds like daily commuters. In this inner city, sleep turns into something rare. Still, something strange happens in wakeful nights. Philosopher E. M. Cioran wrote about insomnia as a state where one thought or feeling takes over and shapes the night. In those hours, the mind strips life down to its core. One idea grows louder, deeper, harder to ignore. It brings discomfort, but also clarity. Staying awake can feel like a small act of defiance. It pushes back against a future that wants to rush past the present. Even when tomorrow crowds in, part of us stays alert. It watches, thinks, and holds on. Awareness does not fix everything, but it keeps us from disappearing into the noise. We may never control the crowded tomorrow. But we can learn how to move through it. We can keep pace without losing the part of us that feels, questions, and cares. Nights may shrink. Minds may stay busy. Hearts may beat faster. Awareness keeps us grounded. Sleepless in a crowded tomorrow, but awake enough to know who we are.

The author is a nursing graduate and can be reached at saiqsona12@gmail.com.

Hills Turned Hollow

I have seen the hills of Pulwama and Budgam turned into pits. Clay, sand, and gravel are being taken without control, leaving orchards ruined, soil lost, and communities ignored.



Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat

“ Kashmir's karewas are being destroyed under our watch. The orchards, the soil, the water table, and the lives of people who live near them are paying the price. Restoring them is not optional. It is urgent. The Mining Department and government institutions must take action now, not just for the land but for the people who rely on it and the history it carries. ”

I am writing this from Anand, Gujarat, far from Kashmir, but my mind keeps returning to the landscapes I know. The karewas of Pulwama, Budgam, and other districts are being cut apart. These plateaus, formed over two million years ago, have shaped the valley's soil, orchards, and history. Now they are being stripped of clay, sand, and gravel. The damage is massive and mostly illegal. In Zadoora, Newa, Tumchi Nowpora, and Parigam villages of Pulwama, and in Pallar, Gowherpora, Kultreh, Nagam, and Hyathpora in Budgam, the land has been carved into pits. Hundreds of acres of agricultural and horticultural land have been affected. Orchards struggle as the water table drops. Dust fills the air, covering the soil and the leaves of the trees. The noise of machinery has become constant for local residents. Mining has become normal in the valley, often without legal clearance. Some operations run under Disposal Permits issued by the Mining Department, but these permits violate the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act of 1957. Environmental clearance, required for clay and sand extraction, has not been obtained for these sites. No approval from the J&K Environment Impact Assessment Authority exists for the Zadoora mining operations. The authorities remain silent while the land is destroyed. The scale of destruction is enormous. In Zadoora and Tumchi Nowpora, 500 to 700 kanals of land have been excavated. In Gowherpora and Rangeen

Kultreh, 400 to 600 kanals show the scars of mining. Heavy machinery has left the land uneven and prone to erosion. Mining often occurs at night, making enforcement difficult. Along with clay and sand, gravel is extracted from state land, damaging soil that once supported orchards. The economic loss is staggering. The Pulwama Geology and Mining Department has collected 26 lakhs in compensation. Meanwhile, the loss to the state is estimated at 80 to 100 crores. Environmental damage makes this figure even higher. Karewas are unique geological formations formed during the Pleistocene period, when Kashmir was a lake. As water drained, clay deposits hardened into these plateaus. They hold geological and archaeological history that is millions of years old. Mining destroys them and erases a part of Kashmir's identity. The damage extends beyond public land. Private farms have been affected. Apple, almond, and plum trees in Zadoora, Kultreh, Gowherpora, and other areas have suffered severe damage. Air and dust pollution have threatened public structures, including the Primary Health Center in Gowherpora. Local panchayats, whose land has been mined, have not received compensation. The law requires compensation to go to local governance bodies, but this has not happened. There are also risks to human safety. Villages located below damaged karewas face potential mudslides and flash floods during heavy rain. The soil is loose, and heavy rain

could wash away orchards and homes. Restoration of these areas is pressing to prevent disasters similar to those seen in Uttarakhand. In Budgam, farmers such as Mohammad Maqbool Dar, Riyaz Ahmad Dar, and Asif Aziz report their plum orchards have been affected by dust and soil loss. Hundreds of trees, once thriving, are now struggling. The land has become uneven and unstable, and air pollution adds to the challenge. So far, the government has failed to act. Farmers need compensation for their losses. Environmental compensation should be applied to institutions responsible for illegal mining. Panchayats should receive their rightful share. The karewas need immediate restoration through proper landscaping. Third-party damage assessments are required to document the full extent of destruction. Mining authorities must enforce the law and prevent further damage. I have walked these lands. I have seen the scars left by heavy machines. I have spoken to farmers watching their orchards deteriorate. These are ancient plateaus, the memory of Kashmir's natural and human history. If authorities continue to ignore illegal mining, these landscapes, and the communities that depend on them, will be permanently changed.

—
Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow and Chairman Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement. He can be reached at bhatrajamuzaffar@gmail.com

Elders First

Giving elders recognition and care is practical, ethical, and culturally important for Kashmir.

Irshad Mushtaq



“ Kashmir's future depends on honoring those who built the present. Respecting elders, recognizing their contributions, and protecting their independence is essential. This ensures that every generation thrives while keeping the knowledge and care of elders alive in homes and hearts. ”

and peaceful life. Asking elders to cover family needs long after retirement reduces their security and can weaken the lessons of hard work for younger generations. Letting elders enjoy the fruits of their labour benefits them and teaches children the value of independence. Families can improve this situation by learning and teaching financial literacy. Understanding savings, invest-

ments, and long-term planning reduces overdependence on elders. It also helps younger members take responsibility for their future while showing gratitude for their parents' efforts. Society and state can help too. Banks can design low-risk financial products for retirees. Awareness campaigns can encourage families to balance spending while securing elders' comfort. These steps honour seniors and prepare younger generations to thrive independently. Elders connect history to the future. They teach compassion and judgment. True wealth is measured in respect, care, and family bonds. Society thrives when elders feel valued and young people learn responsibility. Respecting elders is practical and ethical. It protects their financial security, strengthens family bonds, and teaches independence to the young. By valuing elders, Kashmir can become a society where every generation understands its role in sustaining family, culture, and shared prosperity. Elders deserve security, recognition, and the freedom to live the life they earned. By giving respect and financial fairness, we preserve the wisdom, love, and traditions that shape strong families and communities. Kashmir's future depends on honoring those who built the present. Respecting elders, recognizing their contributions, and protecting their independence is essential. This ensures that every generation thrives while keeping the knowledge and care of elders alive in homes and hearts.

The author is a Srinagar-based financial advisor.

A Kashmir Scientist at the Center of Global Brain Research

Raised in Kashmir, trained globally, Dr. Durafshan Syed explains how complex movement emerges from simple brain circuits, a core question in neuroscience.

Aashiq Hussain Andrabi

From a classroom in Kashmir to neuroscience labs in California, Dr. Durafshan Sakeena Syed's journey shows how far curiosity can travel.

Trained at the University of Kashmir and now based at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Durafshan works on a question most of us never think about: how the brain tells the body what to do, and how one movement leads to the next.

Durafshan is an Assistant Project Scientist in the Simpson Lab at UCSB, where she studies how neural circuits control coordinated movement.

Using the fruit fly as a model, she looks at how different parts of the brain work together to move legs, switch actions, and manage more than one task at a time.

Her research has uncovered inhibitory circuits that control rhythmic leg movement during grooming and identified brain pathways that start specific motor actions.

Her scientific roots are firmly in the valley. She completed her Master's degree in Biotechnology at the University of Kashmir before moving to Bengaluru for her PhD at the National Centre for Biological Sciences.

There, she studied how motor neurons connect to muscles in precise patterns that make walking possible.

That work helped link how the nervous system develops with how it functions later in life.

After moving to the United States,

at a time when more students from Kashmir are looking beyond borders for science and research, Durafshan's work offers a clear example of how training in the valley can lead to meaningful work on the global stage.

In this interview with Kashmir Observer, Dr. Durafshan talks about her journey, her research on the brain and movement, and what it takes to build a career in science across continents.

Your academic journey began at the University of Kashmir. What first pulled you toward biotechnology and the life sciences?

I was always curious about life. Biology fascinated me early on. At one point, I had to choose between mathematics and biology. I chose biology, even though I enjoyed math.

Looking back, that divide feels artificial. Science does not work in silos.

The biotechnology program at the University of Kashmir was new at the time, and that excited me.

We had committed teachers who took their work seriously. Later, when I worked alongside students from top institutes at NCBS, I realized our training matched up well.

One teacher who left a deep mark on me was Prof. Mahboob Ul Husain. Beyond concepts, he explained how discoveries happened, why experiments were designed a certain way, and what they changed in the field.

That approach made science feel



interviews, I joined NCBS as a Junior Research Fellow. That phase opened my eyes.

Biology suddenly felt vast. Until then, my training focused on genetic engineering and protein folding.

During my interview, Prof. Veronica Rodrigues asked if I had worked with fruit flies. When I said no, she smiled and said that was perfect: "We could start from scratch."

That moment stayed with me. At NCBS, I saw students from physics and chemistry backgrounds doing well in biology. It showed me that curiosity matters more than labels.

Fruit flies offered something special. Their brains are small but capable of complex behaviour. We can control genes and neurons precisely and directly link brain activity to action.

That clarity convinced me this was the right system to study the nervous system.

Your PhD work uncovered how motor neurons connect to specific muscles. What was that process like?

Motor neurons are remarkable cells. They start in the nervous system and extend all the way to muscles. They are not placed randomly. Their position reflects which muscles they control.

I focused on how this organization forms. I found that different Semaphorin molecules guide motor neurons to their correct targets. Neurons born at different times follow different signals.

When we disrupted these signals, neurons connected to the wrong

muscles, and the flies showed clear movement problems.

Seeing a straight line from a molecular signal to wiring to behaviour was deeply satisfying.

How did this developmental work prepare you for later behaviour-focused research?

Studying how neurons form gives you a mental map of the nervous system. That knowledge becomes powerful when you study behaviour.

Later, during my postdoctoral work, I screened for neurons involved in grooming. Since I understood leg motor neuron organization, I could identify specific neurons in large brain datasets and predict their roles.

At NCBS, Prof. Vijay Raghavan encouraged independence. At UCSB, Prof. Julie Simpson supported ambitious, cross-disciplinary projects.

Together, these environments shaped how I approach research today.

Your work shows inhibition plays a central role in movement. How does that work?

Most actions come in sequences. The brain has to decide what happens first and what follows.

We found inhibitory neurons that control alternating leg movements. They switch between flexion and extension in a precise pattern. If these neurons stay active or inactive for too long, coordination breaks down.

Inhibition is not about stopping movement. It sets timing and order. It allows actions to flow smoothly

instead of clashing.

Has connectomics changed how you see the brain's wiring?

Connectomics gives us a full map of connections, but structure alone does not explain function. Each neuron connects to many others. Behaviour experiments help us identify which links matter.

We found descending neurons that trigger specific actions. When we traced their connections, we saw clear pathways from sensory input to muscle control.

One striking finding was that inhibitory neurons follow spatial patterns linked to movement. This suggests parts of behaviour are built into the system from early on.

How does fly research connect to human movement disorders?

Before fixing a system, you need to understand how it works. Many movement principles stay consistent across species.

Flies allow precise testing. We can change one neuron and see what happens. Those insights guide work in larger systems and offer clues about motor disorders.

How do you manage large teams working on complex datasets?

Training matters. We worked with undergraduate researchers and gave them strong foundations. We paired students, encouraged discussion, and held regular meetings.

I focused on explaining why each step mattered. That builds ownership and care. When people understand the purpose, quality follows.

How has mentorship shaped your own thinking?

Mentorship sharpens clarity. Students ask honest questions. They notice gaps. Teaching forces you to explain ideas simply.

Working with diverse students has pushed me to rethink assumptions and design better experiments. It improves the science.

What can help students in Kashmir connect with global science?

I grew up seeing my father support students with limited resources. That experience stayed with me.

Today, access has improved. Groups like JKScientists offer mentorship. Universities can help students find research projects and fellowships.

Travel grants, conferences, and international collaborations open doors. Reaching out matters more than people think.

Was there a moment when unexpected results changed your thinking?



I WANT TO UNDERSTAND HOW ACTIONS CONNECT. How does the brain manage transitions and coordinate multiple limbs at once? My long-term goal is to link circuits to behaviour in a way that explains flexibility and coordination across actions.

Yes. During a grooming study, activating certain neurons reduced grooming. Silencing them also reduced grooming. That seemed wrong.

Looking closer, I saw these neurons controlled timing, rather than action strength. They had to switch on and off correctly.

That insight reshaped the project and revealed how coordination truly works.

What question drives your work now?

I want to understand how actions connect. How does the brain manage transitions and coordinate multiple limbs at once?

My long-term goal is to link circuits to behaviour in a way that explains flexibility and coordination across actions.

— The interviewee is a senior journalist based in Pulwama, Kashmir.

I GREW UP SEEING MY FATHER SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH LIMITED RESOURCES. That experience stayed with me.

Today, access has improved. Groups like JKScientists offer mentorship. Universities can help students find research projects and fellowships. Travel grants, conferences, and international collaborations open doors. Reaching out matters more than people think.

Durafshan joined UCSB as a postdoctoral fellow and later took on her current role.

Along the way, she led research projects, helped build tools to track behaviour and brain connections, and guided undergraduate students working with large datasets.

alive and pushed me toward research.

Moving from Kashmir to NCBS was a big step. What led you to choose fruit flies as your main model for studying the brain?

Between the entrance exam and

Remembering Farhat Gilani

I never knew him closely, but his poetry, warmth, and wisdom left an imprint that will stay with me forever.

Syed Majid Gilani



FOR FARHAT, POETRY WAS NEVER JUST WORDS ON PAPER. IT WAS TRUTH, DEVOTION, AND DISCIPLINE. Beyond being a poet or author, he was a man who valued people, tradition, and grace. His life felt like a careful balance of learning, humility, and care for those around him.

I still remember the day I stood at the shrine of Hazrat Syed Mirakh Shah Kashani at Shalimar.

My eyes fell on a Persian poem etched on the wall. It was written by Farhat Gilani in memory of one of Mirakh Sahib's Khalifas.

I read the lines slowly, letting them sink in, and something stirred deep inside me.

That moment gave me a sense of connection to the culture, faith, and stories that shaped us.

This poem revealed the soul of its creator.

I never knew Farhat Gilani closely. Our meetings were few, short, and marked by simple moments. But even in those brief encounters, and from what others said about him, I could see a man of learning, kindness, and understated elegance.

He never commanded attention, but there was something in his presence that stayed with you.

Born Syed Mohammad Aslam Gilani, he was the son of Maulana



Syed Mubarak Shah Gilani, the Persian scholar and poet known as Fitrat Kashmiri.

Farhat grew up in Khanqahi Moulla, in a home alive with po-

feelings, and faith.

His name, Farhat, means freshness and solace, and he lived up to it.

He was many things: a poet, playwright, translator, broadcaster, news anchor, and television personality. He carried each role with care and compassion.

Through all of it, he enriched Kashmir's literary and spiritual life with clarity, respect, and sensitivity.

His words had a gentle honesty that drew people in.

I remember his Naatiya Kalam, often broadcast on radio and TV. These were heartfelt expressions of devotion, humility, and longing, delivered with sincerity that touched anyone who listened.

Off the page, Farhat Gilani was as remarkable as in his writings.

He was warm, composed, and treated everyone with kindness. He valued relationships deeply and often reminded younger people to honour elders, cherish family, and hold on to moral principles.

To him, bonds between people

were sacred, guiding lights in a life that could easily lose direction.

I recall one winter morning in 2018, visiting him at his home in Fitrat Abad, Sheikhpora. He handed me a handwritten biography of my great-grandfather, Maulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani, penned by his own father, Fitrat Kashmiri.

That gesture spoke volumes about his reverence for family, heritage, and generosity.

Beyond being a poet or author, he was a man who valued community and culture. His life felt like a careful balance of learning, humility, and care for those around him.

Men like Farhat Gilani don't fully leave us. They live on through their words, the lessons they share, and the memories they leave behind for anyone willing to pause and remember.

— The author is a government officer and a storyteller. He writes about family, moral wisdom, and the simple truths of everyday life.

TCI Max releases heritage calendar highlighting Kashmir craft, poetic philosophy of Sheikh-ul-Alam (RA)

Observer News Service

Srinagar, Jan 10: TCI Max on Saturday released a Kashmiri heritage calendar in Srinagar that brings together the region's landscapes, artisanal traditions, and the poetic philosophy of Sheikh-ul-Alam Nooruddin Noorani (RA), offering a visual and cultural record of the Valley across the year.

The wall calendar is themed around Kashmir's seasonal rhythm, traditional craftsmanship, and the enduring

influence of Sheikh-ul-Alam (RA), the 14th-century saint-poet whose verses remain central to Kashmiri cultural thought.

Each month pairs imagery of Kashmiri shawls and craft traditions with selected couplets attributed to Sheikh-ul-Alam (RA), presenting poetry as a living cultural presence rather than a historical reference.

The calendar's design draws on traditional motifs such as paisleys, chinar leaves, almond blossoms, and the tree of life,



commonly found in Kashmiri textile and decorative arts. A recurring focus throughout

the calendar is the shawl as a cultural object – from raw Pashmina fibre to intricate

weaving techniques – positioned alongside Sheikh-ul-Alam's verses that speak of simplicity,

ethics, labour, and harmony with nature.

TCI Max Marketing Manager Nisar Ahmad Bhat said the calendar seeks to foreground Kashmir's intellectual and artisanal heritage through a contemporary visual format.

"This edition brings together craft and poetry of Sheikh-ul-Alam (RA) as interconnected expressions of Kashmiri identity," Bhat said. "The shawl becomes both an artistic medium and a metaphor, while Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani (RA)'s

words continue to guide cultural memory."

The company said the calendar is intended not merely as a date-keeping tool but as a year-long visual archive that highlights Kashmir's craftspeople, aesthetic traditions, and philosophical legacy.

TCI Max said it hopes the initiative will encourage wider appreciation of Kashmiri craftsmanship and support the continuation of traditional skills and cultural narratives across generations.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Census 2027

will also provide data on Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in J&K for the first time.

According to details, 20 castes/communities are included in the Central list of OBCs for J&K, while 41 are listed in the State (UT) list. In J&K, OBCs are entitled to 8 percent reservation in government jobs.

More importantly, the census will form the basis of the next delimitation of electoral constituencies in the Union Territory, as laid down in the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

The law stipulates that there cannot be any readjustment of Assembly and Lok Sabha seats in the UT until the figures of the first census conducted after 2026 are released.

The last delimitation exercise in Jammu & Kashmir was completed on May 5, 2022.(KNO)

Drone Drops Put

Uri, Karnah and Tangdhar, as well as key sectors in the Jammu region, have been placed under intensified monitoring.

Along the IB, Border Security Force personnel are conducting round-the-clock patrolling, backed by digital surveillance and other precautionary measures. Officials said troops have been directed to maintain strict dominance over vulnerable stretches and remain prepared to respond swiftly to any security challenge.

Officials said that the increased deployment follows recent recoveries linked to cross-border smuggling. In one such incident, the Border Security Force recovered an arms and ammunition consignment dropped by a Pakistani drone near the IB in Samba district.

The packet, found in the Regal forward area during routine surveillance, contained two pistols, three magazines, 16 rounds of ammunition and a grenade. A BSF spokesperson said the consignment was suspected to have been intended to fuel disruptive activities in the border belt, adding that its timely recovery averted a potential security threat. Additional surveillance measures have since been put in place.

In another incident, a suspicious pigeon was caught in the forward village of Kharah in the Akhnor sector close to the LoC. The pale grey bird, bearing red and yellow rings on its legs inscribed with "Rehmat Sarkar" and "Rizwan 2025", was found by a 13-year-old local boy. Officials said markings were also found on the bird's wings. The pigeon has been handed over to Pallanwala police for further investigation.

Meanwhile, Jammu Police have continued their crackdown on narco-terror networks under Operation Sanjeevani. Officials said Rohit Kumar alias Makhana, a key accused, was arrested on January 3 in R.S. Pura, leading to the recovery of a pistol, a magazine and live rounds from his residence.

Police said investigations are underway to trace the cross-border and inter-state links involved in the supply of arms and narcotics, as security agencies maintain heightened alertness along the border.

We Have To

"Revenge is not a good word, but it can be a huge force," the NSA said, adding that India must "avenge our history" by becoming strong and self-reliant in every sphere, not only in terms of border security but also in the economy and social development.

Calling the participants leaders of the future, Doval underlined the importance of strong leadership, which he said was evident under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Quoting Napoleon Bonaparte, he remarked that leadership can determine the strength and direction of a nation.

Reflecting on India's past, Doval said the country had been a progressive civilisation that did not attack others, but paid a price for not being sufficiently self-aware on matters of security. "History taught us a lesson. Did we learn that lesson?" he asked, warning that forgetting history would be "tragic for the country."

Doval also spoke at length about the nature of global conflicts, asserting that security concerns lie at their core. "Conflicts do not happen because people enjoy violence. They happen because nations seek to protect themselves and impose their terms for security," he said, adding that India too must be driven by a powerful instinct to protect itself.

Beginning his address on a lighter note, Doval said he was initially taken aback by the invitation to speak to such a young audience, joking that most of them were at least six decades younger than him. Despite the age gap, he said he wished to share lessons from his lived experience.

Among his key messages to the youth were the need for decisiveness, conviction and perseverance. "Dreams do not make a life. They give direction to it, and they are not fulfilled in a day," he said, stressing that decisions must be proven right through sustained effort.

"Motivation is temporary, but discipline is enduring. Do not quit. Tenacity is very important," he added.

Urging young Indians to focus on science, technology and innovation, Doval said performance, not propaganda, delivers results. "Innovate and achieve silently. No message is more powerful than performance," he said, concluding with a call for patience and quiet determination in national progress.

Icy Conditions

under freezing conditions.

In the Jammu region, temperatures dropped in several areas compared to the previous day. Jammu city recorded a minimum of 3.6 degrees Celsius, while Bhaderwah registered minus 2.8 degrees Celsius. Samba and Rajouri recorded minus 1.6 degrees Celsius each. Katra, however, saw a slight improvement, with the minimum temperature settling at 5.2 degrees Celsius.

Ladakh continued to reel under severe cold conditions, with Drass remaining the coldest place at minus 24.6 degrees Celsius. Nyoma recorded minus 20.3 degrees, Padum minus 19.6 degrees, and Leh remained steady at minus 14.4 degrees Celsius. Hanle saw a further drop to minus 17.0 degrees, while Kargil and Nubra Valley recorded minus 13.7 degrees and minus 13.5 degrees respectively.

The prolonged cold led to the freezing of parts of several water bodies across the Valley. Srinagar's Dal Lake was partially frozen, while Wular Lake, the largest freshwater lake in India, froze at multiple spots, restricting the movement of locals and tourists due to thick ice.

Kashmir is currently in the midst of "Chillai-Kalan", the harshest 40-day winter period, which began on December 21 and will continue until January 30. During this phase, temperatures often plunge sharply and the chances of snowfall are considered highest. However, the plains of the Valley have not witnessed any snowfall so far this season.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department said no significant weather activity is expected in Jammu and Kashmir until January 21. It added that light snowfall may occur at isolated higher reaches on January 22 and 23, while minimum temperatures are likely to rise by one to two degrees Celsius after January 10. Dense fog is also expected at a few places in the Jammu division over the next five days.

Drug Peddler

of the accused, the detention was ordered under the Public Safety Act by the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir. The detention order was issued vide Order No. Div. Com-K/04/2026 dated January 9, 2026.

Following the issuance of the order, police completed all legal formalities and shifted the detainee to Kot Bhalwal Jail in Jammu, where he has been lodged for preventive detention.

Police sources said the move was aimed at preventing the individual from engaging in activities considered prejudicial to public order and safety, particularly in relation to drug trafficking and its impact on society.

The police reiterated their commitment to taking strict action against those involved in the narcotics trade and said such measures would continue to safeguard the youth and maintain law and order in the area. [KNT]

Ayodhya: Kashmiri Man

and intervened immediately, following which he was detained by temple security staff and handed over to the local police. Some sources claimed that the man raised slogans when he was stopped, he added.

Investigators are questioning the man to ascertain his intent and are also verifying his travel details, including the purpose of his visit to Ayodhya and whether anyone else was involved, the official said.

During preliminary checks, police found items such as cashews and raisins in his possession. Police sources said the man told investigators that he was travelling to Ajmer.

Senior police officers and intelligence agencies are also reviewing the security arrangements at the Ram Mandir complex in the wake of the incident. The district administration and the Ram temple trust have so far declined to comment. -PTI

Startup Kashmir

first-time entrepreneurs do not fail because their ideas lack merit," he told the audience. "They struggle because they lack structure, mentorship and access to the right support systems."

Dr. Parvaiz described incubation centres as hubs that bring together technical advice, business mentoring, infrastructure, market connections and links to investors.

For founders starting out, he said, these resources can be difficult to secure on their own. He also broke down the different models of incubation operating in India. These include university-led incubators, government-backed

programs, sector-focused centres and private incubation initiatives.

Each model, he said, plays a distinct role, depending on the type of startup and its stage of growth.

Funding was another major focus of his address.

Dr. Parvaiz outlined options ranging from idea-stage grants and proof-of-concept support to seed funding and early investments. Incubation centres, he added, often serve as intermediaries that connect startups with public and private funding agencies.

When asked whether startups from Kashmir can compete on a global stage, Dr. Parvaiz urged patience. He acknowledged the region's talent and creative energy but stressed that global ambition must rest on strong local foundations. "The immediate task is to build a sustainable ecosystem here," he said. "Strong fundamentals and relevance to real problems matter more than fast expansion."

Earlier, Shahid Ansari, the chief executive of Startup Kashmir, framed the mentorship program as part of a larger mission. He described the platform as an effort to build confidence, awareness and skills among young entrepreneurs in the valley.

Too many ideas fade early, he said, because founders work in isolation. "Incubation centres reduce early risks and help founders make better choices," Ansari told participants. "They improve the chances that a startup will survive and grow."

The session opened into a candid exchange during an interactive segment. Several founders raised concerns about limited awareness of existing incubation centres in Kashmir. Despite multiple initiatives, many aspiring entrepreneurs remain unaware of where to seek support.

Participants pointed to weak outreach, limited communication and insufficient engagement at the community level. They called for closer ties between incubators, local platforms and educational institutions to ensure that information reaches students and early-stage founders.

J&K Pushes Ayush

infrastructure, it was reported that the 50-bedded Integrated Ayush Hospital at Chawalgam in Kulgam district has been completed and is fully functional. The hospital recorded an outpatient footfall of more than 12,800 patients during 2024-25 and over 5,500 patients during the current financial year up to December. Funds have also been approved for allied works, including landscaping, development of a herbal garden and manpower support.

The meeting was informed that construction of another 50-bedded Integrated Ayush Hospital at Billawar in Kathua district has achieved around 80 percent physical progress and is expected to be completed by March 2026. A 10-bedded Integrated Ayush Hospital at Gadhri Garh in Jammu has also been made operational, with thousands of patients availing outpatient services over the past two years. Additional funds have been sanctioned for expansion and staffing of the facility.

Reviewing public health programmes, officials said targets under several Ayush initiatives have been exceeded. More than 59,000 people have been screened under the programme for prevention and management of osteoarthritis and other musculoskeletal disorders, with nearly 49,000 patients receiving Ayush treatment. Programmes focusing on maternal and neonatal health, school health, palliative care and geriatric care have also been scaled up through dedicated units across districts.

The meeting was also apprised that Ayush outreach has expanded to remote and underserved areas through mobile medical units and other community-based interventions. Wellness activities delivered through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs have reached lakhs of beneficiaries through yoga sessions, consultations, medicine distribution, non-communicable disease screening and awareness campaigns.

On the financial front, officials said expenditure under the National Ayush Mission crossed 71 percent during 2024-25. For the current financial year, over Rs 37 crore has been on-boarded through the SNA-SPARSH system, with overall expenditure expected to exceed 80 percent by the end of March 2026.

Progress in Ayush educational institutions was also reviewed, including government colleges of Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathy. Discussions focused on strengthening infrastructure, filling teaching and non-teaching posts and introducing new academic courses to build human resource capacity.

Future proposals discussed at the meeting included setting up a Government Homeopathic Medical College at Kathua, establishing

Integrated Ayush Hospitals in remaining districts, developing a Government Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital in Baramulla and expanding tele-consultation services through e-Sanjeevani.

Emphasising timely completion of projects and effective use of funds, the Chief Secretary said Ayush has a crucial role in preventive, promotive and holistic healthcare. He directed officials to sustain momentum and ensure that Ayush services are accessible, affordable and seamlessly integrated into the broader public health system across Jammu and Kashmir.

How Quiet

allows women to earn on their own terms and manage their own income.

"The income from farm produce usually goes to the men in the family," Saleema said.

"These small things, like making charcoal from twigs or selling fallen apples, are our own work. We work hard for it, and whatever we earn from this stays with us."

Kitchen Gardens as Income Spaces

Kitchen gardens form another important source of income for rural women during this period. Vegetables grown around homes are sold locally, adding to household cash reserves.

"I grow all kinds of vegetables in my kitchen garden, including kidney beans, chillies, leafy greens, and garlic," said Naseema Akther, a resident of Tiken village in Pulwama district. "I do not depend entirely on my husband for money."

She said she has saved nearly 10,000 from selling vegetables grown at home. "With this income, I buy household essentials and things for myself. Sometimes, I also support my husband and children with this money," she said.

Different Villages, Similar Patterns

While the nature of work varies by location, the pattern remains consistent across rural areas. In apple-growing belts, women collect and sell fallen fruit once orchards are cleared. In other regions, charcoal making and the sale of dried winter produce dominate the season.

"After harvesting apples, we cut branches and collect dry leaves and residues. That is when we start making charcoal. This work begins in autumn and continues during winter," a woman from Shopian said.

"These activities are repeated every year, we know what sells and when."

The scale of earnings differs from household to household, depending on the availability of raw material, demand, and local networks.

Managing Their Own Earnings

Women said they usually decide how the money they earn is spent. The income is commonly used for groceries, fuel, electricity bills, medicines, school-related expenses, and other household needs during winter.

"This money is for the house," said a woman who sells eggs and dried vegetables. "We keep it with us and use it when needed."

Several women said household expenses are often planned around earning seasons, knowing that opportunities for cash generation reduce during the colder month.

Officials at the Hub for Empowerment of Women at the Social Welfare Office in Pulwama said seasonal livelihoods play a significant role in women's economic participation.

An official from the department said economic independence depends on access to income-generating opportunities. "While government and private jobs exist, there is a lot of saturation. Many rural women earn their livelihood from home-based activities," the official said.

She added that the focus is on strengthening household-level income sources. "Kitchen gardens, orchards, fallen apples, and charcoal making use resources already available at home. This makes it easier for women to earn without additional burden," she said.

Knowledge Passed Down

Much of the work women engage in is learned informally within families. Techniques for drying vegetables, identifying usable fallen apples, and making charcoal are passed down over generations.

"My mother taught me how to dry vegetables and store them," said Jameela Akther, a woman from Kulgam engaged in seasonal selling.

Several women said younger family members observe and assist, though not all intend to continue the work. Some said daughters help during peak seasons but prefer education or salaried jobs in the future.

"This work has always been there," Jameela said. "We learned it by watching our elders."

For many women, income-generating work is carried out alongside household responsibilities. "We do this work in between everything else," said Naseema. "There is no fixed time. Sometimes we work early, sometimes late. Whatever needs to be done at home comes first, then we do this."

Women involved said the lack of fixed hours

allows flexibility but also stretches the workday, particularly during months when daylight hours are short.

While these small seasonal incomes do not transform lives, they offer something many women value deeply. The ability to earn, decide, and spend independently, even in limited amounts, gives them a measure of control within otherwise constrained circumstances.

Kashmir Bids

serving the people of Jammu and Kashmir. She trained and mentored generations of doctors, many of whom now staff hospitals and clinics across the region.

Her reputation as a skilled clinician was matched by her care as a teacher, shaping students in patient care and cure.

Even after retiring from the medical college, Dr. Farhat continued to see patients at her clinic in Barbar Shah, Srinagar, offering specialised care in women's health.

Families trusted her for the calm assurance she brought into moments of fear. Colleagues say her presence defined an empathetic era in Kashmir's medical history.

Prof Shahnaz Taing, former head of the Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, described her as exceptional in both skill and character. "I have not met a more humble, kind, and caring person, not just towards colleagues and students, but towards everyone she came in contact with," she said.

Prof Iqbal Saleem, head of the Department of General Surgery, remembered her bond with patients and trainees alike. "She was a people's obstetrician and gynaecologist who brought countless lives into this world with her patient friendly approach," he said. "A soft spoken, diligent teacher who shaped and mentored countless doctors and specialists."

Many doctors described her as part of a golden period at GMC Srinagar.

Prof Abdul Wahid said she was "more than a gynecologist" and that her personality shaped the careers of many. "She remained a very popular teacher. Her mannerism and humility were exemplary. She treated every patient with empathy and personal touch," he said, adding that her death was a big loss to society.

Patients remembered her less through titles and more through moments.

Yusuf Jameel, a senior journalist and her former neighbour at Press Colony in Srinagar, recalled how Dr. Farhat delivered two of his three daughters through cesarean surgery. The third birth left a memory he still carries.

"After the surgery, Dr. Farhat personally carried the newborn out of the operation theatre and gently placed her in my arms," he said. "With a playful smile, she asked if I knew whether it was a boy or a girl. I told her I knew she was Fatima Zahra. I still remember the surprise on her face."

Stories like his circulated widely after her death.

Women wrote about feeling safe in her care during moments filled with fear. Families recalled her patience, clarity, and the reassurance she offered in their traumatic period. Many said she treated every patient as though the outcome mattered to her personally.

Friends spoke of a woman whose care extended far beyond medicine.

Writer Nighat Hafiz remembered her as a sibling in every sense. "For me, she was Farti Baji, a sister who played the sister act more than expected from sisters by blood," she said.

Reflecting on her passing, Nighat added, "She expired exactly as she wished, congruent with her personal life. May Allah receive her with the same affection in paradise."

Others recalled her clarity of thought and strength of character.

Politician Zafar Iqbal Manhas described her as "bold in vision, progressive in thought, humane at heart, and a highly professional and competent gynecologist."

Many said women felt reassured simply knowing Dr. Farhat was present during childbirth.

Senior journalist Khursheed Wani recalled meeting her at her clinic years ago. "She was very warm and gentle," he said, remembering her husband Abdul Hamid and their long association.

Messages offering prayers and condolences continued to arrive from doctors, former students, patients, and families she had treated.

Dr. Farhat's career unfolded during decades when Kashmir lived through deep uncertainty and loss. Hospitals bore witness to tragedy even as life continued in maternity wards. Babies were born under her supervision during years when the valley struggled to count its dead.

"Those births stood as acts of faith in the future," said Sadaf Shah, a lecturer in Srinagar, "guided by a doctor who believed her role extended beyond the procedure itself."

Her death leaves an absence that colleagues say will be difficult to fill.

Despite Nutrition Schemes, Anaemia Remains Widespread Among J&K Children

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Over 72% of children under the age of five are suffering from anaemia in Jammu and Kashmir, one of the highest rates in the country.

Experts warn that this alarming trend poses serious risks to the growth, immunity, and development of the region's youngest population.

As per the 'Children in India 2025' report by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, accessed by KNO, 72.7 per cent of children, including 73.9 male and 71.4 females, are anaemic in J&K which includes 73.5 per cent in rural areas and 70.1 per cent in urban areas.

Doctors termed it a serious public health concern. They explained that when a child is anaemic, their blood lacks enough healthy red blood cells or haemoglobin needed to carry oxygen throughout the body. This leads to fatigue, weakened immunity, delayed

growth, impaired brain development, lowered learning ability, and increased risk of infections.

Dr Shabeena Shah, a child specialist, said the most common cause of anaemia worldwide and in India is nutritional deficiency, especially iron deficiency. "Young children have high iron needs for rapid growth, but many diets do not supply enough iron or other vital nutrients like folate and vitamin B12," she said, adding that Iron Deficiency Anaemia (IDA) is the predominant form responsible for a large share of anaemia cases in toddlers and young children.

According to the doctor, a diet too reliant on staple grains without enough iron-rich foods (like leafy greens, lentils, eggs, meat, fortified cereals) worsens this deficiency. She said the children whose mothers are anaemic themselves are more likely to be anaemic. Low maternal iron stores during pregnancy limit the amount of iron the baby re-

BREAST MILK CONTAINS IRON THAT IS EASILY ABSORBED BY INFANTS, HELPING PROTECT AGAINST ANAEMIA IN EARLY INFANCY. However, after 6 months, iron stores from birth get depleted, and complementary foods need to be introduced. If the complementary diet lacks iron-rich foods, anaemia risk rises,"

ceives before birth and through early infancy, Dr Shah added.

Dr Showkat Hussain, another doctor, said that after six months of age, breastmilk alone

isn't enough to meet a baby's iron requirements. He said that if complementary foods aren't introduced properly or are low in iron, the risk of anaemia increases. He added that parasitic infections like hookworm and other gastrointestinal infections can cause blood loss and reduce nutrient absorption, contributing significantly to anaemia.

Dr Hussain added that inclusive breastfeeding for the first six months provides optimal nutrition and helps build immunity. "Breast milk contains iron that is easily absorbed by infants, helping protect against anaemia in early infancy. However, after 6 months, iron stores from birth get depleted, and complementary foods need to be introduced. If the complementary diet lacks iron-rich foods, anaemia risk rises," he added.

Doctors said that inadequate complementary feeding, such as giving mostly watery cereals or liquid foods without iron enrichment, can worsen anaemia.

They added that eating fried or junk foods does not directly cause anaemia, but it contributes indirectly by displacing nutritious foods in a child's diet, providing empty calories with little iron, vitamins, or minerals.

Doctors called for introducing iron-rich complementary foods after six months, such as meat, eggs, green leafy vegetables, lentils, beans, pair iron foods with vitamin C-rich foods (like citrus fruits, tomatoes) to improve iron absorption and avoid overreliance on packaged snacks and fried foods.

They said the government programmes, such as Anaemia Mukht Bharat and Mission Poshan 2.0, provide iron and folic acid supplements for children and mothers.

The weekly iron supplementation and fortified foods can substantially reduce anaemia prevalence, the doctors said, adding that routine deworming and immunisation help reduce anaemia caused by parasites and infections.

Three SIM-Less Phones Recovered from Inmate at Kot Bhalwal Jail

JAMMU: Three Mobile phones without SIM cards were recovered from an inmate lodged in the high-security central jail here on Saturday, officials said.

The recovery of cellphones from the luggage of Rohit Kumar alias 'Makhan', a resident of R S Pura, who was arrested last year on the charges of drug peddling, was made from Kot Bhalwal jail, the officials said.

They said Kumar was on remand to the Gandhi Nagar police station in connection with the case.

During questioning, he revealed the presence of the mobile phones and accordingly, a joint operation by police, jail staff and CISF personnel was conducted, leading to the recovery, the officials said.

One of the phones was found damaged, the officials said, adding that further investigation is underway. (PTI)

Robust Security Arrangements in Place for R-Day: SSP Sopore

SRINAGAR: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sopore Iftikhar Talib on Saturday said that security arrangements ahead of Republic Day are being finalised to ensure smooth celebrations across the police district.

SSP Talib, as per KNO said the police, along with the civil administration, are finalising the arrangements for January 26. The main function will be at Khushal Stadium. He urged people to attend the event in large numbers.

Speaking on the sidelines of a sports event, the SSP also warned against unauthorised VPN usage. He said the district administration has banned VPN use, and the authorities are strictly implementing it.

"Any violations will be dealt with seriously. We have already initiated action against identified individuals using VPNs," he said.

Talib added that the ongoing efforts to engage youth would continue throughout 2026. "We don't want to be just a law enforcement agency; engagement and public outreach are our aim. That's why we are organising events, be it sports, cultural, or any other," he said. (Observer News Service)

Security Stepped up Across Jammu Ahead of Republic Day

JAMMU: Security arrangements have been significantly intensified across the Jammu region ahead of Republic Day, with multiple search and combing operations launched in sensitive areas to prevent any untoward incident.

Officials said joint teams of security forces are conducting extensive search operations in forest areas of Samba, Kathua and Udhampur districts. The operations are aimed at tracking suspicious movement and flushing out any potential threats in the run-up to the national celebrations.

In Jammu city, police have stepped up checking at key entry and exit points. Vehicles are being thoroughly frisked, luggage is being inspected and identity cards of commuters and passengers are being verified. Officials said additional checkpoints have been established at strategic locations to further strengthen the security grid.

Security agencies said the heightened measures form part of a routine but robust security drill ahead of Republic Day, especially in view of recent incidents involving drone activity and recoveries near the International Border. Coordination among various security and intelligence agencies has been further enhanced to ensure round-the-clock surveillance. (Observer News Service)

Satoora Tral Residents Protest Electricity Tariff Hike

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Residents of Satoora, Tral in South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Saturday staged a protest against what they termed as an "unjust and arbitrary" hike in electricity tariffs.

Protesters, according to KNO, alleged that their monthly power bills have increased nearly fourfold over the past one year.

They assembled in the area, raising slogans and demanding immediate installation of electricity meters to ensure fair billing.

The protesters said that despite consuming the same amount of electricity, their bills have witnessed a steep and unexplained rise, pushing many households—especially daily wagers and economically weaker families—into financial distress.

"We used to receive electricity bills ranging between Rs 400 to Rs 600, but now the same households are being charged Rs 1,800 to Rs 2,000 without any justification," said a local resident. "How can poor families afford such inflated bills when there has been no

increase in usage?"

They said that if PDD is going to increase tariff as per its will then it must install meters in the area so that people can use power as per their will and submit a fee accordingly.

Women residents also expressed concern over the growing burden on household finances. "Electricity has become a luxury for us. Either we pay the bills or manage basic necessities. The government keeps talking about relief for the poor, but on the ground, we are being crushed by rising tariffs," said a woman protester.

The residents warned that if their demands are not addressed, they would intensify their agitation. "We are not against paying bills, but they should be based on actual consumption. Install meters and charge us fairly," another local said.

Meanwhile, the protesters urged the district administration to intervene immediately, stating that unchecked tariff hikes without proper metering are breeding resentment and hardship among the people of Satoora Tral.

ACB Arrests Patwari for Demanding Bribe

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Acting on a complaint, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday said it has arrested a Patwari from Budgam for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of rupees 10,000 / 30,000 for issuance of a revenue extract and bank lien certificate.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, the Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau received a written complaint wherein the complainant has alleged that he had applied before the concerned Revenue authorities for issuance of Revenue extract and bank lien certificate for the said property situated at Rakh Soothu BK Pora for Bank Guarantee. For getting these documents he approached the concerned patwari of Halqa Rakh Soothu, namely Riyaz Ahmad Khan, but instead of processing the case in due manner, the concerned patwari demanded a bribe of rupees 10,000 /

30,000 before he would prepare and provide the required documents.

The statement reads, the complainant, stating that he is against corruption, has approached ACB Srinagar seeking legal action against the accused official. On receipt of the complaint, discreet verification was conducted, which confirmed the demand of bribe by the accused public servant.

"Accordingly, Case FIR No. 02/2026 U/S 7 PC Act 1988 was registered at Police Station ACB Srinagar and investigation was taken up. During the course of investigation, a trap team was constituted which laid a successful trap and caught the accused Riyaz Ahmad Khan, Patwari Halqa Rakh Soothu, Budgam red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe amount of ₹10,000 from the complainant."

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

Police Arrest 4 Drug Peddlers in Awantipora & Budgam

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Jammu and Kashmir Police have arrested four drug peddlers in Awantipora and Budgam; and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a police party led by SHP Police Station Awantipora arrested two drug peddlers during naka checking at Padgampora near the CRPF Camp. The accused have been identified as Mahasif Wani, son of Masrat Wani, resident of Fateh Kadal, Srinagar; and Sahil Khokhar, son of Mohd Ashraf, resident of Pindobal Kokernag. During the search, approximately 650 grams of Bung Chura were recovered from their possession.

In Budgam, a police party from Police Station Budgam at a checkpoint estab-

lished near Ompora Railway Flyover intercepted a vehicle bearing registration number JK01J-4450 with two persons on board. During the search, heroin and charas-like substances were recovered from their possession. They have been identified as Bilal Ahmad Khan, son of Abdul Majeed Khan, resident of Bathar Budgam; and Irshad Ahmad Kuchay, son of Ghulam Mohammad Kuchay, resident of Munipappy Budgam. They have been arrested and shifted to a police station where they remain in custody. Vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized, the statement reads.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and further investigation is underway.

Police remains committed to eradicating the drug menace and urges the public to cooperate by sharing any information related to drug trafficking, the statement further reads.

PIB Organises Media Workshop 'Vartalap'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Press Information Bureau (PIB) Srinagar, in collaboration with the District Administration Budgam on Saturday organised a Media Workshop 'Vartalap' in Budgam to sensitise the media fraternity about the provisions, objectives and implementation framework of the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025.

As per KNO, the programme was inaugurated by the District Development Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion. About 45 journalists from District Budgam participated in the day-long workshop.

Addressing the participants, the District Development Commissioner Budgam said that the role of media is critical in translating complex policy reforms into understandable information for the common people.

He stated that well-informed reporting significantly contributes to transparency, accountability and effective implementation of government programmes at the grassroots level.

The DDC emphasised that the Viksit Bharat-GRAMG Act,



2025 represents a transformative shift in rural employment policy and requires active engagement of the media to ensure that its objectives and benefits reach rural households in a timely and accurate manner.

He also stressed the need for fact-based, development-oriented journalism, particularly in the context of welfare legislations impacting livelihoods and rural infrastructure.

Director, Press Information Bureau Srinagar, Qazi Salman in his welcome address highlighted the transformational shift and positive reforms introduced under the Viksit Bharat-GRAMG framework.

He underlined the crucial role of the media in creating awareness about the Act and ensuring accurate dissemination of information to the public.

The workshop featured two

technical sessions covering the operational aspects of the VB-GRAMG.

Syed Jaasirah Syedain, Block Development Officer spoke about the various generic aspects and features of the scheme, while Tafheem Shah, Block Development Officer, discussed its various pillars and how the scheme is incorporating technological intervention.

Each session was followed by an interactive question-and-answer segment, enabling meaningful engagement between journalists and resource persons.

Chief Planning Officer, District Budgam, Javid Ahmad Najar said that the media needs to disseminate news that holistically benefits society at large. The media has to be considerate and help make the execution process more convenient, he added.

Fire Incidents on Rise in Kashmir Valley

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Fire & Emergency Services Kashmir Range responded to multiple fire incidents across various districts of the Kashmir Valley during the last 24 hours, officials said on Saturday.

Officials said prompt and coordinated action by fire service personnel helped control the fires in time and prevented further damage in several cases. However, residential houses, cowsheds, sheds and other

structures were damaged in different incidents.

In Kupwara district, a double-storey residential house was damaged in Mukam Shah Wali, Drugmulla, while a forest fire was reported from Shehla area. In Anantnag district, a cowshed was damaged in Magam, Srigufwara, and a double-storey residential house along with a cowshed suffered damage in Kawarri Gam. Another incident in Bagwani, Sallar involved an electric transformer catching fire.

Movement Restored on Bandipora-Gurez Road

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: Authorities on Saturday restored vehicular movement on the Bandipora-Gurez road following snowfall that had rendered the stretch slippery and unsafe for travel.

Officials said traffic has been permitted only in one direction, from Bandipora to Gurez, keeping in view the prevailing road and weather conditions. They said commuters must strictly adhere to the cut-off timing issued by the Traffic Control Police.

As per the advisory, the cut-off time from Tragbal has been fixed at 2 pm, after which no vehicle will be allowed to proceed towards Gurez. The decision has been taken to ensure the safety of travellers amid the risk posed by slippery stretches and possible fresh snowfall.

Officials cautioned motorists to drive slowly, maintain lane discipline and avoid unnecessary travel. They also advised commuters to remain in touch with traffic authorities for updates, as road conditions may change depending on weather developments.

Schools to Reopen from Jan 12 in Jammu Summer Zone

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Amid widespread speculation on social media regarding a possible extension of winter vacations, officials clarified on Saturday that all private and government schools in the Summer Zone of Jammu will reopen as scheduled from January 12, with no further extension of the winter break.

Officials stated that the teaching faculty had already resumed their duties and were directed to attend schools on Saturday. They confirmed that teachers are present in their respective institutions, while students are expected to join classes from January 12 as per the existing academic calendar.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION BARAMULLA
e-mail, ID: xenhd.bla@jk.gov.in

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: - EXTENTION OF CRITICAL DATES OF e-NIT Nos. 89 of 2025-26 Dated: - 01-01-2026.
Reference: -Tender IDs: - 2026_PWDJK_299629_1

Due to inadequate response in reference to above cited e-NIT, the Critical Dates are extended as under:

S. No	Description	Re-Scheduled date
1	Date of Downloading	01-01-2026 (06:15 PM) to 14-01-2026 (06:00 PM)
2	Date of uploading	01-01-2026 (06:15 PM) to 14-01-2026 (06:55 PM)
3	Due date of opening of tender	15-01-2026 (01:00 PM)

No: M&HDB/TS/4080-82
Dated: - 09-01-2026
DIPK-9899-25
DT: 10/01/2026
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION ANANTNAG KMR.

FINAL NOTICE

Miss Firdosa Akhter
D/O: Late Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh
R/O: Nandapora Khanabal
No: 11048-51
Dated: 08-01-2026

Subject: Final Notice for furnishing response regarding Compassionate Appointment under SRO-43 of 1994.

This is to bring to your notice that despite previous communications, no response has been received from your end regarding the submission of the required documents viz, dependency certificate, legal heir, income certificate. In light of the above, you are hereby given a final opportunity to furnish your response along with the requisite documents within (07) days positively from the date of issuance of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that you are no longer interested in availing the said benefits, and further action as per rules shall be taken accordingly.

As such, you are advised to treat this matter with urgency and submit your written response to this office within the stipulated time frame.

Sd/-
DIPK-9915-25
DT: 10/01/2026
Executive Engineer
PW(R&B) Division Anantnag

Frankfurt, Dortmund Settle for Thrilling Bundesliga Draw

AP

FRANKFURT: Second-placed Borussia Dortmund twice surrendered a lead and looked like losing to a stoppage-time winner but it came back to score in the last minute and draw at Eintracht Frankfurt 3-3 in a thrilling Bundesliga clash.

The first league match of 2026 was a riveting advert for German football but both sides will rue their ability to hold a lead.

The draw left Dortmund in second place, eight points behind leader Bayern Munich and four above Bayer Leverkusen and Leipzig. All three have a game in hand.

Frankfurt missed a chance to move into fifth and remained in seventh spot, equal on points with Stuttgart.

The game started encouragingly for the visitor with Maximilian Beier side-footing home Julian



Ryerson's inviting cross from the right flank after 10 minutes.

But on a chilly night at Deutsche Bank Park, the home fans were warmed by their team's reaction. Can Uzun equalized from the penalty spot after Serhou Guirassy was adjudged to have fouled Robin Koch.

Dortmund took the lead again midway through the second half when Felix Nmecha's deflected shot trundled in off the far post.

And Frankfurt came back three minutes later. Arnaud Kalimuendo's defense-splitting pass sent Younes Ebnoutalib through on goal and he kept his cool to hammer the ball past Gregor Kobel.

Frankfurt took the lead for the first time in the second minute of injury time when Mahmoud Dahoud scooped in a shot but four minutes Carney Chukwuemeka bundled home a loose ball with almost the last kick of the game.

Gujarat Giants Beat UP Warriorz by 10 Runs in WPL

NAVI MUMBAI: Australian batter Phoebe Litchfield's commanding knock of 78 off just 40 balls went in vain as Gujarat Giants beat UP Warriorz by 10 runs in a high-scoring Women's Premier League match here on Saturday.

Sent in to bat, captain Ashleigh Gardner struck a scintillating 65 before Georgia Wareham played a late cameo of 27 not out off just 10 balls as Gujarat Giants posted an impressive 207 for 4.

That total proved to be enough despite a stunning counter-attacking innings from Litchfield who kept the Warriorz in the hunt. But her departure in the 16th over virtually ended Warriorz's valiant resistance. She hit eight fours and five sixes during her knock. At the end, Warriorz ended at 197 for 8, falling short by 10 runs.

Asha Sobhana made a late charge with an unbeaten 27 off just 10 balls with the help of three fours and two sixes, but that turned out to be too late in the day.

For Gujarat Giants, Australian Georgia Wareham grabbed two wickets for 30 runs with her leg-spin, to add to her stunning cameo with the bat earlier in the day.

Renuka Singh and Sophie Devine also got two wickets each while Gardner and Rajeshwari Gayakwad took one apiece.

Warriorz began their chase of 208 on a shaky note with opener Kiran Navgire getting out in the fifth ball from Renuka. But captain and the other opener Meg Lanning (30 off 27 balls) and one-down Phoebe Litchfield steadied the innings with a 70-run stand for the second wicket. (PTI)

Lindsey Secures Second World Cup Downhill Win

ZAUCHENSEE (AUSTRIA): Lindsey Vonn showed again on Saturday she is the standout downhill racer in this Olympic season.

Vonn won her second World Cup downhill in four races this season, raising expectations in this remarkable comeback racing at age 41 with her right knee rebuilt using titanium implants.

The United States star was 0.37 seconds faster than Kaja Vickhoff Lie in tricky, overcast conditions. Vonn was jumping up cheering in the leader's box when her teammate Jacqueline Wiles raced into third place, 0.48 back.

On a shortened course that took her fewer than 67 seconds to complete, Vonn still clocked 130 kph (81 mph) for one of the fastest speeds any woman racer will hit this season.

"I knew what it was going to take to win today," she said. "It was a sprint, and I had to give it everything I had; I definitely had to risk a little bit."

Vonn crossed the finish line with a look of determined satisfaction, punching the air with her right fist and nodding with short, sharp movements of her head.

Vonn extends World Cup records
With each victory, Vonn extends her record as the oldest race winner in the 60-season history of the World Cup circuit. Her 84th career win on the circuit was her record-extending 45th in downhill.

The United States star later made a family video phone call alongside her coach Aksel Lund Svindal, the men's downhill champion at the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics where Vonn took bronze in the women's race. (PTI)

NZ Lean on Jamieson, Hand Debut to Clarke

Press Trust of India

VADODARA: New Zealand stand-in captain Michael Bracewell on Saturday said he would lean on all-rounder Kyle Jamieson to lead the pace attack and confirmed an ODI debut for 24-year-old Kristian Clarke in the first match against India.

The top two ranked ODI teams India and New Zealand will face-off in the opening match here on Sunday.

"We have Kyle Jamieson, who's been around the game a long time and has plenty of experience. I'll be leaning a lot on him as captain to lead the bowling attack. He's a very skilful bowler," Bracewell told the reporters here on the eve of the match.

"We're still working through the last of our



(playing) XI, but I can confirm that Kristian Clarke is making his debut tomorrow (Sunday) so it's an exciting chance for him.

"We're really excited about how he's been bowling in domestic cricket in New Zealand and also in the build-up over here."

New Zealand, however, have some of their front-line batters available on this tour, and Bracewell said batting was their "strong" suit.

India Finalise ODI Preps as Siraj Trains with Rohit

Press Trust of India

VADODARA: Former India skipper Rohit Sharma offered batting tips to Mohammed Siraj, while Rishabh Pant briefly needed treatment after being hit during net practice as India put the final touches to their preparations for the three-ODI series against New Zealand starting here on Sunday.

Rohit was waiting outside the net when Siraj, who was in early, could not connect while trying to hoick the ball. The India opener then gave some tips to the pacer who only had a batting stint in the nets during India's optional training session here on Saturday, with other members also turning up for Saturday's nets.

India vice-captain Shreyas



Iyer, having captained Mumbai in their narrow one-run loss to Punjab on Thursday in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, batted in partnership with KL Rahul, while Pant and Ravindra Jadeja also had a hit in the nets.

Each of the three, Siraj, Iyer and Pant were busy playing for their respective state teams in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, with the matches on January 8 being their most recent appearance.

Zaman Khan Faces Scrutiny Over Bowling Action in BBL

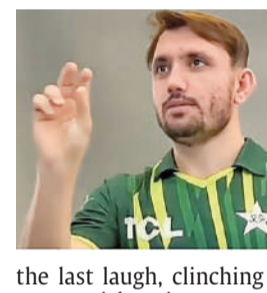
Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Pakistan's young fast bowler Zaman Khan came under scrutiny over his slingshot bowling action during a Big Bash League match on Saturday.

Australia great David Warner, who scored 82 for Sydney Thunder, was seen repeatedly questioning Zaman's action and raising the issue with the on-field umpire after facing the pacer.

Zaman, who has joined Brisbane Heat as a replacement for injured Pakistan captain Shaheen Shah Afridi, endured a difficult outing in his first match of the season, conceding 32 runs in three overs.

Despite the concerns raised during Zaman's spell, Brisbane Heat had



the last laugh, clinching a seven-wicket victory.

Former Australian international Usman Khawaja, Warner's long-time opening partner, anchored the chase with a brisk 78.

The episode evoked memories of a similar controversy involving another Pakistan fast bowler, Muhammad Hasnain, who faced questions over his action during a previous Big Bash season after objections were raised by Marcus Stoinis.

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