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Government of India

CBC 35101/13/0078/2526

Trump: Back US Greenland Takeover Or Face Tariffs

Agencies

Copenhagen: President Donald Trump suggested Friday that he may punish countries with tariffs if they don't back the US controlling Greenland, a message that came as a Congressional delegation met Danish and Greenlandic lawmakers in Copenhagen and sought to lower tensions.

Trump for months has insisted that the US should control Greenland, a semiautonomous territory of NATO ally Denmark, and said earlier this week that anything less than the Arctic island being in US hands would be "unacceptable."

"I may put a tariff on countries if they don't go along with Greenland," he said Friday, without providing details. "We need Greenland for national



security."

He had not previously mentioned using tariffs to try to force the issue. Earlier this week, the foreign ministers of Denmark and Greenland met in Washington this week with US Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio. | **More on P10**



Life by the canal: Women go about their daily chores on the chilly banks, as winter tightens its grip across rural Kashmir. KO photo by Abid Bhat

Kashmir's Higher Reaches Receive Snowfall

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The higher reaches of the Kashmir Valley received fresh snowfall on Friday, while minimum temperatures across Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh recorded a rise compared to the previous day, officials said.

Officials said that fresh snowfall was reported from higher altitude areas including Gulmarg, Sonamarg, and parts of north Kashmir such as Gurez Valley and Razdan Top. Snowfall was also reported from several other elevated areas across the Valley.

An independent forecaster said snowfall was very likely over the higher reaches of Kupwara and Bandipora, including Razdan Top, Gurez and Tulail Valley, as well as Ganderbal areas such as Sonamarg and its surroundings and the Sonamarg-Drass axis. Snowfall was also expected in Anantnag areas including Pahalgam, Chandanwari. | **More on P10**

LG, CM Greet People On Shab-e-Meraj

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday greeted the people on the auspicious occasion of Shab-e-Meraj, praying for peace, harmony, and prosperity across Jammu and Kashmir.

In his message, the Lieutenant Governor extended his greetings and best wishes to the people, saying the sacred occasion should inspire harmony and kindness. "On the auspicious occasion of Shab-i-Miraj, I convey my greetings and best wishes to all. May this pious occasion guide | **More on P10**

Universities 2.0 Must Go Beyond Degrees: LG Says Campuses Lead Innovation & Social Change'

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said it is the era of "Universities 2.0" and called upon higher education institutions to look beyond degrees and transform campuses into epicentres of creative solutions, innovation, and social transformation.

The Lieutenant Governor made these remarks while chairing the 89th meeting of the University Council of University



of Jammu at Lok Bhavan. He emphasised that universities must emerge as powerhouses

of ideas and talent, capable of addressing real-world challenges and societal needs.

"Universities must step up and lead innovation, build skills, and help solve society's toughest problems," the Lieutenant Governor said, stressing the need for regular revision of academic curricula to incorporate Artificial Intelligence and cutting-edge information technology.

The meeting was attended by Minister | **More on P10**

'Artists, Gen Z Entrepreneurs to Shape India's Future'

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that artists and Gen Z entrepreneurs will together forge India's future, asserting that the alliance between art and business has the power

to build a vibrant and developed society. The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the valedictory session of the International Painting Workshop organised by Anandam: The Centre of | **More on P10**

AI-Driven Nations Will Have Competitive Edge: PM

Urges Startups to Lead Deep Tech World in 10 Years

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said India has full faith in the innovation and confidence of its startups, and added that the nation should lead globally in startup trends and technology in the coming decade.

A nation that is forward-looking on Artificial Intelligence (AI) will have a competitive advantage, Modi said.

Speaking at a mega event marking a decade of the



flagship programme 'Startup India', Modi asked the founders and entrepreneurs to work on new ideas and solve problems, all the while keeping a sharp focus on quality products.

"Our goal should be that in the coming 10 years, India will lead the world in new startup trends and technology," Modi said.

The PM said | **More on P10**

25-Yr-Old Gets 14 Yrs' Jail For Assault On Minor

M Ahmad

Srinagar, Jan 16: A Fast Track Court for POCSO cases here on Friday sentenced a 25-year-old man to 14 years' simple imprisonment and imposed Rs 15,000 fine for sexual assault on a minor, while also awarding Rs 5 lakh as victim compensation for the survivor's rehabilitation.

Presiding Officer Umi Kulsom had held the convict, S A Sheikh, a resident of Srinagar, guilty under Section 4 of the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act and Sections 363 and 376 of the IPC on December 30 last.

The court ordered 14 years' imprisonment under POCSO, 10 years under Section 376 IPC (rape), and | **More on P10**

Iran Tensions J&K Students Fly Home From Iran After MEA Travel Advisory

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Amid escalating tensions in Iran, around 100 medical students from Jammu and Kashmir are returning home through commercial flights, sources said on Friday.

According to details available with the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO), most of the students are currently at Shiraz Airport and are travelling to India via Air Arabia flight G9-214 from Shiraz to Sharjah,



followed by a connecting Air Arabia flight G9-463 to Indira Gandhi International Airport. The flight is scheduled to land in New Delhi | **More on P10**

Peaceful Pro-Iran Demonstrations In Valley

KO Web Desk

Peaceful demonstrations were held after congregational Friday prayers in several areas of Srinagar, Pulwama, Baramulla and Budgam on Friday in support of Iran, officials said. In Srinagar, | **More on P10**

Haj 2026 Booking Deadline Extended Till Jan 25

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Union Ministry of Minority Affairs has extended the deadline for completing Haj 2026 booking formalities through Haj Group Organisers (HGOs) and private tour operators till January 25, 2026, providing relief to thousands of pilgrims who were unable to meet the earlier cut-off.

According to an official circular issued by the Haj Division of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, the extension has been

granted following multiple representations from pilgrims and other stakeholders seeking additional time to complete mandatory procedures.

The ministry clarified that the extension is final and has been granted in the larger public interest to avoid inconvenience to intending pilgrims.

During the extended period, provisionally selected pilgrims have been asked to complete all remaining formalities. These include finalising the booking process, submitting | **More on P10**

This Is About Trust, Not Selling J&K: CM To Travel Fraternity

Calls For Partnership To Project J&K As All-Season Destination

Observer News Service

Mumbai: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday called for a renewed partnership with the travel fraternity to project Jammu and Kashmir as a safe, vibrant, and all-season tourism destination.

Addressing travel agents, tour operators, and representatives of travel associations from



Maharashtra and Gujarat during an outreach programme in Mumbai, the Chief Minister said the interaction was not aimed at selling Jammu and Kashmir as a tourist destination, but at strengthening | **More on P10**




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DIPK-10152/25



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PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) ATEEB BASHIR (new name) ATEEB BASHIR LONE. In future I will be known as (new name) ATEEB BASHIR LONE. If anybody is having any objection, he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

x

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) AREEB BASHIR (new name) AREEB BASHIR LONE. In future I will be known as (new name) AREEB BASHIR LONE. If anybody is having any objection, he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

x

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Abida while my correct name is Aabida Banu. 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..

Aabida Banu W/o Farooq Ahmad Dar R/O Nazneenpora Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card bearing no: 64537427432 AS Musooda Jan while my correct name is Musada Jhan. 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..

Musada Jhan. D/o Mohd Maqbool R/O Taper Waripora Tehsil Pattan fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My DOB has been wrongly written in my passport bearing no J7217018 as 04-06-1952 while my correct DOB is 07-04-1953. 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 Passport Office Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained..

Ghulam Nabi Dar bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my name in my Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No :-8780 7927 6075 has been wrongly mentioned as Safeena Begum instead of Sakeena Begum. Now I am applying for its Correction as per Domicile Certificate vide Certificate No-DOM/1910/23Feb2024/154624563 record. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.



Sakeena Begum W/O. Javid Ahmad Mir R/O :- Siphanie Yaroo fko Tehsil :- Langate Distt :- Kupwar. Pin Code:- 193302 J&kashmir

اطلاع عام

ہرخاص وعام کو بیدار شدہ شہزادہ سلطانہ کے گھنٹے اپنے دکان بنانام ہرخاص وعام کو بیدار شدہ شہزادہ سلطانہ کے گھنٹے اپنے دکان بنانام ہرخاص وعام کو بیدار شدہ شہزادہ سلطانہ کے گھنٹے اپنے دکان بنانام ہرخاص وعام کو بیدار شدہ شہزادہ سلطانہ کے گھنٹے اپنے دکان بنانام

رؤف احمد تانترے ولد عبد اللہ احمد تانترے ساکنہ فال پھل بڈگام فون- 6005428361

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC THE JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION CERTIFICATES-KD, NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR

ATTENTION PLEASE I have passed /appeared in SSE/HSE-I/ HSE-II (Class 10th,11th,12th) under Roll No. 117031273, 217001707,317010035 Session year 2021,2024,2025. Through the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the School records against my fathers and mothers name as ABDUL HAMEED SHEER JOGRI, DAIZY instead of ABDUL HAMEED SHEER GOJREE AND ROHEE JAN. Now i have applied for correction / rectification of error in the Jammu & Kashmir board of School Education, New campus Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Deputy Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.



This is published for the information of the general public. The Correct particulars be recorded as under: Name: JAVAID HAMEED, Fathers Name: ABDUL HAMEED SHEER GOJREE, Mothers Name, ROHEE JAN Date of Birth: 24-02-2007, Residence:- Dadaampora Budgam. Cell: 9622667390 mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK-0420080001114 issued in favour of Reyaz Ahmad Hajam Parentage Abdul Rashid Hajam Whereas an application has been received by one Reyaz Ahmad Hajam Parentage Abdul Rashid Hajam wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as RIYAZ AHMAD HAJAM Which needs to be changed as REYAZ AHMAD HAJAM. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir mcb

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

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

This office has received a written application from Waseem Habib Gojri S/o Habibullah Gojri R/O Zoonipora Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of Son Waseem Habib Gojri born on 15-01-1997 as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar Executive Magistrate Bomai fko

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

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

This office has received a written application from Shabir Ahmad Lone S/O Gh Mohd Lone R/O Tujar Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of wards Namely Farhan Shabir 25_10_2015 Sehrih Shabir 17_02_2014 as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar Executive Magistrate Bomai fko

Public Notice

I have changed my name from (Old Name) Ayesha Bano to (New Name) Aisha Begum in future I will be known as (New Name) Aisha Begum as well as dob of deponent wrongly written as (01-04-1971 where actual dob is (10-01-1965) if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact with passport Office Srinagar within 7 days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

fko

Public Notice

I have changed my name from (Old Name) Basheer Ahmad Ahanger to (New Name) Bashir Ahmad Ahanger in future I will be known as (New Name) Bashir Ahmad Ahanger as well as dob of deponent wrongly written as (02-02-1970 where actual dob is (20-03-1960) if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact with passport Office Srinagar within 7 days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth.. Public Notice

The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Altaf Hussain Bhat s/o Mohd Jafar Bhat R/O Kanloo Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 25/03/1980 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR HUMHAMA

Subject: Application of Mujeeb -ul-Rehman S/O Ab. Rehman Najar R/O OMPORA FOR ISSUANCE OF OBC CERTIFICATE UT PURPOSE.. PUBLIC NOTICE

The above captioned applicant have applied for issuance of OBC certificate which is under process in this office. In this regard a report was sought from field agency concerned which reveals that the applicant is the permanent resident of village OMPORA. The family of the applicant comprises of four family members whose description is given below:-

S. NO	Name of family member	age in years	Occupation	monthly income
1.	AB. REHMAN NAJAR	52	LABOUR	
2.	NIGEENA BANO	47	H/WIFE	
3.	SHAHID REHMAN		STUDENT	
4.	MUJEEB-UL-REHMAN		STUDENT	

The total annual income of the applicant's family is Rs=96000 (Rupees Ninty Six Thousand only). In this regard, objections are invited from general public regarding the issuance of requisite certificate in favour of the applicant. If any person has any objection, he/she can submit his/her objections in this office within seven days during office hours. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

Naib Tehsildar Humhama mcb

Office of the Chairman purchasing committee for establishing Food processing unit (FPU) at PACS Lethpora

TENDER NOTICE

The Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Society Ltd. Lethpora (PACS Lethpora) intends to install a "soya milk producing" plant at Lethpora, district Pulwama, as part of the "Food processing units through cooperative societies" scheme of the Cooperative department. The eligible tenders are hereby invited with an Expression of interest (EOI), with the following terms and conditions:

- The vendor shall specify all brands (local and imported), with warranty/guarantee and prices associated with each brand in the given capacity.
- The vendor shall be responsible for installation of the said machines at the given location. All the associated equipment along with labour shall be included by the vendor in the EOI.
- The vendor must confirm the ISO certification of the machinery to ensure compliance with quality standards. The interested vendors must submit the EOI within 07 days of publication of this notice. For further details contact.

Chief accountant PACS Lethpora ph no 9796787118 fko

Subject: Grant of registration of the proposed Travel unit under the name & Style of M/s. SHALU HOLIDAYS " situated at Kripalpura sari Matipora singhpora Baramulla

Public notice

Whereas I Umar Majeed Lone C/o Abdul Majeed Lone R/o Singhpora Baramulla intends to apply in the Department of tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name and style " M/s. SHALU HOLIDAYS " situated at Kripalpura sari Matipora singhpora Baramulla Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan card, Experience certificate (minimum 05 years), Character certificate (Police department), Bank statement (minimum balance 1000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested sub-registrar, printing Material (Letter Head/ Visiting), Photograph of the unit (indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operation. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/financial institutions/Ban/Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the deputy director tourism Registration (e-mail ID:-dtdreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspaper of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained

fko

Public Notice

I have changed my name from (Old name) Muneer Hassan Wani to (New Name) Muneer Hassan Kongawani If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted. Muneer Hassan Kongawani Omar Colony B, Lane 3, Sheikh ul Alam sub Lane Lal Bazar, Srinagar 190023 Kashmir jikb

Office of the Naib Tehsildar, Pattan

Subject: Application of Muhammad Hussain and Sakeena Akthar S/o, D/o Muhammad Yousuf Lone R/o Hanjiwera Payeen For issuance of EWS Certificate

Public Notice

It is hereby informed to the general public that the application for issuance of EWS Certificate submitted by Muhammad Hussain and Sakeena Akthar, S/o, D/o Muhammad Yousuf Lone, residents of Village Hanjiwera Payeen, is under process in this office.

In this regard, a report was sought from the concerned Patwari, which reveals that the applicants are residing with their father in Village Hanjiwera Payeen. The details are as under:

- Residential house area: 700 sq. ft.
 - Residential plot area along with house: 1294 sq. ft.
 - Annual family income: 78,000/-
- If any person has any objection regarding the issuance of the said EWS Certificate, he/she may submit the same to this office within 04 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name & DOB has been wrongly written in my passport Bearing no K5569363 as Rahti BEGUM, DOB 10-04-1962 while my correct name is Rathi Bagum , correct DOB 18-04-1957. 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 Passport Office Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained..

Rahti Begum bmg

ازنیابت بومی

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب بشیر احمد ولد محمد رمضان بت ساکنہ بھیر زواری پائین برادری عطا لگی RBA سرٹیفکیٹ تحت 176 SRO بحق درجن فرخند بشیر بشیر

اشہار ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکن/ساکنہ نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بڈمرہ آئنگریشن کی ہے جو کہ بیکار دوائی ہے اس بارے میں بھاری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ واقعی آئنگرڈاٹ سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور ساکنہ سلیو میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکنہ کا تعلق بڈمرہ پرمیشنل ہے

اشہار ہرخاص وعام	مزدوری	گھر بیلو کام	زیر تعلیم	پر	مزدوری	گھر بیلو کام	پر	مزدوری	گھر بیلو کام
اشہار ہرخاص وعام	49 سال	48 سال	19 سال	18 سال	13 سال	08 سال	05 سال		

سائل مذکورہ RBA سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے اور کئی مہوار آمدنی 8000 روپے تک ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی مزیا یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشورہ اخبارات سے دن کے اندر اندر اپنے مندرجہ اعتراض عدالت حد کو کوٹری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میا کو کوئی مندرجہ اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

فکو نامب تحصیلدار

ازنیابت پہلپان

عنوان:- درخواست فاروق احمد ولد عبدال احمد ساکنہ پہلپان تحصیل تین برادری عطا لگی RBA سرٹیفکیٹ تحت 176 SRO بحق اتر علی

اشہار ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول لگیل بھیر سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ بیکار دوائی ہے اس بارے میں بھاری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ کا والد عبدال احمد ولد محمد عمر 23-12-2023 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے متوفی کے پسماندگان بڈمرہ ہے۔

اشہار ہرخاص وعام	چوکیدار	گھر بیلو کام	زیر تعلیم	پر	مزدوری	گھر بیلو کام	پر	مزدوری	گھر بیلو کام
اشہار ہرخاص وعام	58 سال	56 سال	45 سال	26 سال	24 سال	18 سال			

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کبھی نہیں ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی مزیا یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشورہ اخبارات سے دن کے اندر اندر اپنے مندرجہ اعتراض عدالت حد کو کوٹری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میا کو کوئی مندرجہ اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

فکو نامب تحصیلدار

ازنیابت بومی

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب علی محمد ولد غلام نبی الدین لون ساکنہ بھیر زواری برادری عطا لگی RBA سرٹیفکیٹ تحت 176 SRO بحق اتر علی

اشہار ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکن/ساکنہ نے ایک درخواست بغرض RBA سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ بیکار دوائی ہے اس بارے میں بھاری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ واقعی موقع بھیر زواری میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکنہ کا تعلق بڈمرہ پرمیشنل ہے

اشہار ہرخاص وعام	چوکیدار	گھر بیلو کام	زیر تعلیم	پر	مزدوری	گھر بیلو کام	پر	مزدوری	گھر بیلو کام
اشہار ہرخاص وعام	50 سال	45 سال	16 سال	16 سال	14 سال	12 سال	03 سال		

سائل مذکورہ RBA سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے اور کئی مہوار آمدنی 5500 روپے تک ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی مزیا یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشورہ اخبارات سے دن کے اندر اندر اپنے مندرجہ اعتراض عدالت حد کو کوٹری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میا کو کوئی مندرجہ اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

فکو نامب تحصیلدار

ازنیابت بومی

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب بشیر احمد ولد محمد رمضان بت ساکنہ بھیر زواری پائین برادری عطا لگی RBA سرٹیفکیٹ تحت 176 SRO بحق درجن فرخند بشیر بشیر

اشہار ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکن/ساکنہ نے ایک درخواست بغرض RBA سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ بیکار دوائی ہے اس بارے میں بھاری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ واقعی موقع بھیر زواری پائین میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکنہ کا تعلق بڈمرہ پرمیشنل ہے

اشہار ہرخاص وعام	مزدوری	گھر بیلو کام	زیر تعلیم	پر	مزدوری	گھر بیلو کام	پر	مزدوری	گھر بیلو کام
اشہار ہرخاص وعام	50 سال	45 سال	16 سال	16 سال	14 سال	12 سال	03 سال		

سائل مذکورہ RBA سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے اور کئی مہوار آمدنی 5500 روپے تک ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی مزیا یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشورہ اخبارات سے دن کے اندر اندر اپنے مندرجہ اعتراض عدالت حد کو کوٹری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میا کو کوئی مندرجہ اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

فکو نامب تحصیلدار

SHAB-E-MERAJ

No Roadside Parking Allowed on Hazratbal Road

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the occasion of Shab-e-Meraj, Traffic Police Srinagar City on Friday urged commuters and devotees to cooperate by strictly avoiding roadside parking on the Srinagar-Hazratbal Road to ensure smooth vehicular movement.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Traffic, Mehboob Ahmad, said that all vehicles must be parked only at designated parking lots and not on the road. He warned that any vehicle found parked on the roadside and disrupting traffic flow will be lifted without notice.

"On Shab-e-Meraj, large gatherings are expected at Hazratbal. To avoid congestion and inconvenience to the public, no roadside parking will be allowed on Srinagar-Hazratbal Road," the DSP said.

He further appealed to devotees, particularly those travelling from north Kashmir, to use the Qamarwari-Ali Jan-Lal Bazar route while heading towards Hazratbal, so as to ease traffic pressure on the main stretch.

The parking lots have been created at NIT Srinagar and University of Kashmir.

According to KNT, he said adequate deployment has been planned to regulate traffic and facilitate smooth movement of both devotees and general commuters during the religious occasion.

He appealed to the public to cooperate with traffic personnel and follow the advisory in letter and spirit to avoid inconvenience and ensure a peaceful observance of Shab-e-Meraj.



AMID UNREST IN IRAN, Kashmiri protesters hold placards to express solidarity with Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Syed Ali Khamenei, during a demonstration in Srinagar. KO PHOTO, SAMEER HUSSAIN

Police Arrest Two in Checkpoint Raid

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police in central Kashmir's Srinagar district on Friday said they had seized 14 grams of a narcotic substance (brown sugar) during a checkpoint operation.

An official informed KNS that the contraband was recovered from two individuals identified as Rayees Ahmad Dar, Alais Rayees Bandaar, and Abish Imtiyaz Bhat, both residents of the Barbarshah area.

The two were stopped for a routine check, leading to the discovery of the narcotics, the official stated.

Following the seizure, Police Station Kral Khud registered a First Information Report (No.02 of 2025) under Sections 8, 21, and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. The official added that a vehicle used at the time of the interception, bearing registration number JK05D-2631, has also been seized as part of the ongoing inquiry. (KNS)

Mirwaiz Greets People on Meraj-un-Nabi (PBUH)

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the auspicious occasion of Me'raj-un-Nabi (peace be upon him), Mirwaiz-Umar Farooq extended his heartfelt greetings to the Muslim Ummah, particularly the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that the blessed night of Isra and Me'raj is a reminder of spiritual elevation, moral integrity, and steadfast faith in Allah. It highlights the values of submission to the Divine will, justice, compassion, and the pursuit of knowledge and truth.

Mirwaiz urged believers to reflect on the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and strive to embody humility, ethical conduct, and service to humanity in their daily lives.

CASO Launched in Parts of City Centre Ahead of Republic Day

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Ahead of Republic Day celebrations, a speculative Search Operation was launched in parts of Srinagar city centre as part of enhanced security arrangements.

The operation was carried out by Khotibagh Police in coordination with personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force 132 Battalion. Officials said the exercise was initiated following recent security inputs and was aimed at ensuring a safe and secure environment during the national event.

As part of the preventive strategy, joint teams conducted area domination, spot checks, and verification at identified locations across city centre areas. Police officials said the focus remained on preventing any attempt to disturb public peace and strengthening the security grid ahead of Republic Day.

Authorities said such speculative operations are routinely undertaken before important national occasions to maintain law and order and instill a sense of security among inhabitants.



According to KNT, Police said the situation remained peaceful throughout the exercise and no untoward incident was reported. Security arrangements across the city are being continuously reviewed to ensure smooth and incident free Republic Day celebrations.

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
27 Rajab 1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	6:08
ZUHR	12:38
ASR	4:08
Magrib	5:50
ISHA	7:14

This Day In History

- 1287- King Alfonso III of Aragon invades Minorca
- 1377 -Pope Gregory XI moves the Papacy back to Rome from Avignon
- 1501- Cesare Borgia returns in triumph to Rome from Romagna
- 1524- Italian explorer Giovanni da Verrazzano's sets sail aboard French ship La Dauphine to find a passage to China - finds North America instead
- 1536- Francois Rabelais absolved of apostasy by Pope Paul III
- 1595- King Henry IV of France declares war on Spain - lasts till 1598
- 1601- France gains Bresse, Bugey, Valromey & Gex in treaty with Spain
- 1656- Brandenburg & Sweden sign Treaty of Königsberg
- 1746- Battle of Falkirk Muir, the Jacobites under Charles Stuart defeat Hanoverian forces
- 1757 -German Diet declares war on Prussia
- 1773- Captain James Cook becomes the first to cross Antarctic Circle (66° 33' S)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION DOORU

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NIT NO 52 OF R&B/Doorru/2025-26 /E-TENDERING/ EED/HD/ 4235-40- DATED: 16-01-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Dooru invited e-tenders on % age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of ACR at Middle School Chowgund	20.67 lacs (17.55 + 3.12)	800	41340	90 days	Samagra Shiksha	Bee and Cee Class only
2	Construction of ACR at Middle School Drabihall	20.67 lacs (17.55 + 3.12)	800	41340	90 days	Samagra Shiksha	Bee and Cee Class only
3	Construction of ACR at Girls Middle School Mehmoodabad	10.26 lacs (8.71 + 1.55)	600	20520	60 days	Samagra Shiksha	Dee BEE and Cee Class only
4	Construction of ACR at Middle School Pethallan C	20.67 lacs (17.55 + 3.12)	800	41340	90 days	Samagra Shiksha	Bee and Cee Class only
5	Construction of ACR at Primary School Sidar	20.67 lacs (17.55 + 3.12)	800	41340	90 days	Samagra Shiksha	Bee and Cee Class only

Position of AAA : Accorded. Position of TS: Accorded.

The date of completion is subject to the availability of funds.
The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S.No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	16/01/2026
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 17/01/2026 (09:00 Am) To 28-01-2026 (06:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 17/01/2026 (09:00 Am)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 28/01/2026 (06:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	29/01/2026 (11:00AM) In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division DOORU (Tender Inviting Authority) (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)(Refer Govt. order No. O.M.No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date (NIT No and Name of work/ Item No. should be mentioned on Treasury Challan) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU (Tender receiving Authority).
- All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.
- The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division DOORU (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 03 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security@5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.
- Note: a. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of Tender Document Cost or Rs 500/- whichever is lower. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of the amount of EMD/ Bid Security or Rs 5000/- whichever is lower.
- The bidders are requested to quote their rates excluding 18%GST.
- The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.
- The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited if:
 - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter of intent.
 - Successful Bidder fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security/EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited.

The tenders shall be opened and allotted to 1st lowest responsive bidder only when the funds are released/ available on Beams.
No:EED/HD/4235-40
Dt: 16/01/2026
DIPK-10121-25
DT: 16/01/2026
Er Manzoor Ahmad wani
Executive Engineer,
PWD (R&B) Division DOORU

Coromandel International Limited
Regd. Office: "Coromandel House", 1-2-10, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad-500003, Telangana, CIN : L24120TG1961PLC000892

In Pursuance to the order No. S.O.2900(E) dated 24th October, 2015, its amendment dated 30th December, 2017 and S.O. 2001(E), dated 22nd June 2020, issued by Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India, Coromandel International Limited hereby notifies that it intends to manufacture and sell 100% Water Soluble Mixture of Fertilizer grades as per the specifications given:

- N:P:K (19:19:19) - Total Nitrogen: 19%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 19%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 19%.
- N:P:K:S (19:19:19:3) - Total Nitrogen: 19%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 19%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 19%, Total Sulphur (as S): 3%.
- N:P:K (16:8:24) - Total Nitrogen: 16%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 8%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 24%.
- N:P:K:S (16:8:24:4.5) - Total Nitrogen: 16%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 8%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 24%, Total Sulphur (as S): 4.5%.
- N:P:K:S (21:12:16:2) - Total Nitrogen: 21%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 12%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 16%, Total Sulphur (as S): 2%.
- N:P:K:S (8:14:27:5) - Total Nitrogen: 8%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 14%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 27%, Total Sulphur (as S): 5%.
- N:P:K:S (14:5:32:2) - Total Nitrogen: 14%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 5%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 32%, Total Sulphur (as S): 2%.
- N:P:K:S (14:5:32:4) - Total Nitrogen: 14%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 5%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 32%, Total Sulphur (as S): 4%.
- N:P:K (10:5:36) - Total Nitrogen: 10%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 5%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 36%.
- N:P:K (10:5:36:3.5) - Total Nitrogen: 10%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 5%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 36%, Total Sulphur (as S): 3.5%.
- N:P:K:S (8:14:27:4) - Total Nitrogen: 8%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 14%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 27%, Total Sulphur (as S): 4%.
- N:P:K:S (8:14:27:5) - Total Nitrogen: 8%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 14%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 27%, Total Sulphur (as S): 5%.
- N:P:K (10:7:35) - Total Nitrogen: 10%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 7%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 35%.
- N:P:K:S (10:7:35:3.5) - Total Nitrogen: 10%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 7%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 35%, Total Sulphur (as S): 3.5%.
- N:P:K:Zn:B (12:0:35:1:0.3) - Total Nitrogen: 12%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 0%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 35%, Total Zinc (as Zn): 1%, Total Boron as B: 0.3 %.
- N:P:K:S:Zn:B (12:0:35:2.5:1:0.3) - Total Nitrogen: 12%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 0%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 35%, Total Sulphur (as S): 2.5%, Total Zinc (as Zn): 1%, Total Boron (as B): 0.3%.
- N:P:K:S (8:14:31:4) - Total Nitrogen: 8%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 14%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 31%, Total Sulphur (as S): 4%.
- N:P:K:S (8:14:31:5) - Total Nitrogen: 8%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 14%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 31%, Total Sulphur (as S): 5%.
- N:P:K:S (10:8:34:2) - Total Nitrogen: 10%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 8%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 34%, Total Sulphur (as S): 2%.
- N:P:K:S (10:8:34:3.5) - Total Nitrogen: 10%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 8%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 34%, Total Sulphur (as S): 3.5%.
- N:P:K:S (13:40:13) - Total Nitrogen: 13%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 40%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 13%.
- N:P:K (13:12:26) - Total Nitrogen: 13%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 12%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 26%.
- N:P:K:MgO:S (10:28:16:3:2) - Total Nitrogen: 10%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 28%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 16%, Total Magnesium (as MgO): 3%, Total Sulphur (as S): 2%.
- N:P:K:Mg:S (10:28:16:2:2) - Total Nitrogen: 10%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 28%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 16%, Total Magnesium (as Mg): 2%, Total Sulphur (as S): 2%.
- N:P:K:S (12:0:38:2) - Total Nitrogen: 12%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 0%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 38%, Total Sulphur (as S): 2%.
- N:P:K:S (13:26:13:3) - Total Nitrogen: 13%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 26%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 13%, Total Sulphur (as S): 3%.
- N:P:K:S (9:31:16:2) - Total Nitrogen: 9%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 31%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 16%, Total Sulphur (as S): 2%.
- N:P:K:S (10:0:35:4) - Total Nitrogen: 10%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 0%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 35%, Total Sulphur (as S): 4%.
- N:P:K (11:0:37) - Total Nitrogen: 11%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 0%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 37%.
- N:P:K (10:5:36) - Total Nitrogen: 10%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 5%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 36%.
- N:P:K (12:26:20) - Total Nitrogen: 12%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 26%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 20%.
- N:P:K (28:28:0) - Total Nitrogen: 28%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 28%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 0%.
- N:P:K (24:24:0) - Total Nitrogen: 24%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 24%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 0%.
- N:P:K:S:Zn:Mn:B (24:24:0:2.8:1.2:1:0.15) - Total Nitrogen: 24%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 24%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 0%, Total Sulphur (as S): 2.8%, Total Zinc (as Zn): 1.2%, Total Manganese (as Mn): 1%, Total Boron (as B): 0.15%.
- N:P:K:S (20:15:15:6) - Total Nitrogen: 20%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 15%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 15%, Total Sulphur (as S): 6%.
- N:P:K:S:Zn (10:12:32:2:1) - Total Nitrogen: 10%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 12%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 32%, Total Sulphur (as S): 2%, Total Zinc (as Zn) 1%.
- N:P:K:S:Mg:Zn:B (5:30:15:5:2:1:0.4) - Total Nitrogen: 5%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 30% Total Potassium (as K₂O): 15%, Total Sulphur (as S): 5%, Total Magnesium (as Mg): 2%, Total Zinc (as Zn): 1%, Total Boron (as B): 0.4%.
- N:P:K:S:Mg:Zn:B (9:7:31:5:2:1:0.2) - Total Nitrogen: 9%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 7%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 31%, Total Sulphur (as S): 5%, Total Magnesium (as Mg): 2%, Total Zinc (as Zn): 1%, Total Boron (as B): 0.2%.
- N:P:K:S:Mg (10:20:15:6:3) - Total Nitrogen: 10%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 20%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 15%, Total Sulphur (as S): 6%, Total Magnesium (as Mg): 3%.
- N:P:K:S:Mg (7:9:29:8:2) - Total Nitrogen: 7%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 9%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 29%, Total Sulphur (as S): 8%, Total Magnesium (as Mg): 2%.
- N:P:K:S:Mg:Zn:Mn:B (9:5:33:3:2:1:1:0.4) - Total Nitrogen: 9%, Total Phosphorus (as P₂O₅): 5%, Total Potassium (as K₂O): 33%, Total Sulphur (as S): 3%, Total Magnesium (as Mg): 2%, Total Zinc (as Zn): 1% Total Manganese (as Mn): 1%, Total Boron (as B): 0.4%.

In above all grades, (a) Moisture per cent by weight, maximum.: 0.5 (b) Total Chloride per cent by weight, maximum.: 1.5 (c) Sodium as NaCl, per cent by weight, maximum.: 0.5 (d) Matter insoluble in water % by wt., maximum.: 0.5 (e) Lead (as Pb) % by weight, maximum.: 0.003 (f) Cadmium (as Cd) % by weight, maximum.: 0.0025 (g) Arsenic (as As) % by weight, maximum.: 0.01 %.

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ED Attaches Al Falah University Assets, Files Chargesheet

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi – The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday attached assets worth about Rs 140 crore of Haryana-based Al Falah University that came under the radar of the security agencies following the November 10 Red Fort area blast and filed a charge sheet against Al Falah Group chairman Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui and his trust, officials said.

The 54-acre land of the university based in the Dhauj area of Faridabad, the buildings of the university, those belonging to various schools and departments and hostels have been attached as part of a provisional order issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said.

PTI had first reported early this week that the ED is going to attach these properties, owned by the Al Falah Trust, categorising them as “proceeds of crime”.

Siddiqui was arrested by the ED in November on money laundering charges linked to cheating with students of the educational institutions run by his trust. It was claimed by the agency that the educational institutes did not have the required valid

accreditation for teaching.

A charge sheet has also been filed against Siddiqui and the Al Falah Trust before a special PMLA court. The two have been arraigned as accused, and the ED has sought their prosecution under the anti-money laundering law, the officials said.

An attachment is done under the PMLA to ensure that the proceeds of crime are not dissipated, sold off or transacted.

Officials had said that a government-appointed receiver can be restituted or vested with the administration of the university campus after the provisional attachment attains finality. This way the education of the students will not suffer even as the criminal action and prosecution may continue, the officials had said.

The agency, while seeking the remand of Siddiqui in November from a court, had informed that the university and its controlling trust, under the direction of Siddiqui, generated “proceeds of crime” of at least Rs 415.10 crore by “dishonestly” inducing students and parents to part with money on the basis of false accreditation and recognition claims.

BJP Triumphs Over Thackerays in Mumbai

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai: Breaking the nearly three-decade-old dominance of the uninvited Shiv Sena, the BJP on Friday emerged as the single largest party in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections, and also triumphed in Pune, where it made mince meat of the alliance of NCP factions.

The BJP-led alliance was set to bag around 125 of 227 seats in BMC, which is India's richest civic body, whose budget for 2025-26 is a whopping Rs 74,427 crore.

Counting of votes for elections to Mumbai and 28 other municipal corporations, including Pune, was held on Friday, a day after the polling saw a 54.77 per cent turnout.

Coupled with a decent performance by Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena, the BJP is now in the driver's seat to govern the cash-rich civic body.

The high-stakes battle for BMC saw the Thackeray cousins reunite after two decades, only to see their hopes dashed as the results announced so far indicated.

In Pune and neighbouring Pimpri-Chinchwad municipal corporation polls, the BJP is heading towards a massive victory, way ahead of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and NCP (SP) alliance.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has emerged as the man of the moment, with the BJP under his leadership surpassing its previous high of 82 seats in the 2017 BMC elections.

The success of BJP's 'Mission Mumbai' has now firmly established it as the key political force in the financial capital.

The result marks a significant shift in Mumbai's power structure. For years, the BMC was considered the invincible fortress of the Thackeray-led Shiv Sena. With the BJP's victory, the narrative of Mumbai politics has moved from the traditional identity-based 'Marathi asmita' to a mandate for the BJP's

“The result marks a significant shift in Mumbai's power structure. For years, the BMC was considered the invincible fortress of the Thackeray-led Shiv Sena.

plank of 'vikas' (development) and urban infrastructure.

Maharashtra minister and BJP leader Nitesh Rane said the BJP and Shiv Sena's strong showing in the Mumbai civic polls amounted to a clear mandate for its Hindutva pitch during the campaign, as the alliance surged ahead in the race.

“Jo Hindu ki baat karega wo Maharashtra pe raj karega (Those who speak for Hindu interests will rule Maharashtra),” Rane posted on X.

Shrikant Pangarkar, an accused in the 2017 murder of journalist Gauri Lankesh, was elected a corporator in the Jalna Municipal Corporation, winning the elections as an independent candidate.

In Nagpur, home turf of CM Fadnavis and Union minister Nitin Gadkari, counting trends and results for the Nagpur Municipal Corporation suggest a near-repeat of the 2017 results, leaving the Congress struggling to make significant inroads despite an aggressive campaign.

The BJP is on course to surpass the 2017 tally of 108 seats in the 151-member Nagpur civic body.

The Congress won elections to the Latur Municipal Corporation, bagging a clear majority with over 40 seats in the 70-member body, leaving the BJP a distant second.



UN Chief: Lawless World Order Threatens Global Cooperation

Agencies

United Nations – Asserting that the UN Charter is not “à la carte menu”, the UN chief Antonio Guterres denounced nations for brazenly violating international law, saying when leaders “pick and choose” which rules to follow, they undermine global order and set a “perilous” precedent.

As Guterres enters the final year of his tenure as UN Secretary-General, he told the 193-member General Assembly on Thursday that he will make every day of 2026 count and remains fully committed and determined to keep working, fighting, and pushing for a better world.

Against the backdrop of the recent US military action in Venezuela, the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, and other geopolitical challenges, Guterres said the world is brimming with conflict, impunity, inequality and unpredictability.

“A world marked by self-defeating geopolitical divides... brazen violations of international law... and wholesale cuts in development and humanitarian aid. These forces and more are shaking the foundations of global cooperation and testing the resilience of multilateralism itself,” he said.

“That is the paradox of our era: at a time when we need inter-

national cooperation the most, we seem to be the least inclined to use it and invest in it. Some seek to put international cooperation on deathwatch. I can assure you: we will not give up,” the UN chief said.

UN Secretary General's second five-year term at the helm of the world body comes to an end on December 31, 2026.

He made the remarks in his traditional address to the General Assembly on his priorities for the year ahead.

Guterres has expressed deep alarm at the escalation between the United States and Venezuela culminating in the capture of the country's President Nicolas Maduro and said that the developments constitute a “dangerous precedent” and expressed concern that rules of international law have not been respected.

Guterres, who has also consistently spoken out against the Russian invasion of Ukraine, told the General Assembly that no effort must be spared to stop the fighting in Ukraine and achieve a just and lasting peace in line with the UN Charter, international law and UN resolutions.

He, however, strongly criticised nations for violating international law and not adhering to the UN Charter, which he said is a “compact” that “binds us all.”

Underlining that the UN Charter is not an “à la carte menu” but is “prix fixe”, Guterres said “we must adhere to the UN Charter – fully and faithfully. No ifs ... no ands ... no buts.

“The Charter is the foundation of international relations – the bedrock of peace, sustainable development, and human rights,” he said.

Emphasising that while he is honoured to serve as custodian of the Charter, Guterres told the 193 UN Member States and their leaders that “each one of you has signed up to be a custodian of the Charter, too.”

“When leaders run roughshod over international law – when they pick and choose which rules to follow – they are not only undermining global order, they are setting a perilous precedent,” he said. Guterres expressed concern that the erosion of international law is not happening in the shadows but is “unfolding before the eyes of the world, on our screens, live in 4K.”

He said people everywhere are witnessing, in real time, the consequences of impunity – “the illegal use and threat of force; attacks on civilians, humanitarian workers and UN personnel; unconstitutional changes of government; the trampling of human rights; the silencing of dissent; the plundering of resources.”

Pahlavi Pledges Israel Recognition, Nuclear Shutdown if He Takes Power

Trans Asia News

Dubai: Exiled Iranian Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi laid out his aspirations on Thursday for how Iran would act if the Islamic Republic were toppled, saying a future Iran under his leadership would immediately recognise Israel, rebrand the Abraham Accords into what he called the “Cyrus Accords”, and bring Iran's military nuclear programme to an end.

Pahlavi has been very adamant about recognising Israel within a transition government's first week of existence, without any preconditions.

In a statement posted on X, Pahlavi wrote:

Let me be clear about how a free Iran will act toward its neighbours and the world after the fall of this regime.

In security and foreign policy, Iran's nuclear military programme will end. Support for terrorist groups will cease imme-



thorities shut down the internet and launched their crackdown.

“The fall of the Islamic Republic and the establishment of a secular, democratic government in Iran will not only restore dignity to my people, it will benefit the region and the world,” Pahlavi posted in a video on X, laying out his plan.

Analysts, however, say Pahlavi's public positioning appears aimed less at building a domestic movement and more at securing backing from the U.S. President Donald Trump.

“Pahlavi is really struggling to win Trump's approval, to give the impression he has that strong support, but it doesn't seem to be working,” said Trita Parsi, executive vice president of the Quincy Institute, a Washington think tank, and author of several books on Iran. Many of his goals also dovetail with the wishes of hard-line Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has forged a close partnership with Trump.

SC Rejects Plea Alleging Glitches in UMEED Waqf Portal

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a petition filed by a waqf mutawalli alleging technical and structural deficiencies in the Centre's UMEED portal meant for uploading details of waqf properties.

Observing that the issues raised were largely administrative in nature, a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi dismissed the plea.

The bench, however, granted the liberty to petitioner Hashmat Ali, a mutawalli (caretaker) of a waqf, to approach the appropriate authorities for re-

unlikely to entertain the matter since challenges to the 2025 amendments to the Waqf law were already pending before the top court.

However, the CJ noted that the present petition did not raise any substantive constitutional challenge to the amendments, but was instead focused on “administrative difficulties” in using the portal. Such grievances, the court said, could be addressed by the high court or the authorities concerned.

The senior lawyer said apart from technical glitches, the petition also raised concerns regarding the classification of waqfs under the Waqf Rules, 2025.

She said that the category



dressal of grievances.

“We see no ground to entertain this writ petition. The petitioner may be well advised to approach the prescribed authority for clarification or addressing of grievances for which liberty is granted,” the CJ said in the order.

At the outset, the CJ questioned the maintainability of the plea on the ground as to why it was filed in the top court directly. “Why did you not approach the high court?” the CJ asked.

Senior advocate Maneka Guruswamy, appearing for Ali, said the high court was

of ‘Waqf by survey’ had been subsumed under ‘Waqf by user,’ and that the UMEED Portal did not provide any separate option for ‘Waqf by survey’ in its drop-down menu.

Justice Bagchi noted that the ministry had clarified that ‘Waqf by survey’ stood subsumed within the ‘Waqf by user’ category.

Ali, a mutawalli from Madhya Pradesh, challenged the enforceability of the digital uploading mandate under Section 3B of the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act, 1995.

BJP Likely to Name Nitin Nabin as Party President

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi – The BJP on Friday released the schedule to elect its national president, saying the nominations for the post will be filed on January 19 and the name of the new chief will be announced the next day.

According to party sources, BJP national working president Nitin Nabin is likely to be elected as the national president unopposed, as there is little possibility of any other leader joining the fray.

The organisational poll schedule released by BJP national returning officer K. Laxman showed that the nomination for the election of the party chief can be filed between 2 pm and 4 pm on January 19, and the nominations can be withdrawn between 5 pm and 6 pm on the same day.

Scrutiny of the nomination papers will be carried out between 4 pm and 5 pm on January 19. “Polling will be held if needed on January 20, and an official announcement of the name of the new BJP national president will be made the same day,” Laxman said.

Nabin is likely to replace JP Nadda as BJP national president, with party leadership, including



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, backing his candidature for the post, sources said.

Incidentally, Nadda was also first appointed as the BJP's national working president in June 2019 and eventually was elected unopposed to the post of party national president on January 20, 2020, succeeding Amit Shah.

Nabin, 45, the son of late BJP veteran and former MLA Nabin Kishore Prasad Sinha, is seen within the party as a dynamic leader who is ideologically rooted and deeply committed to the organisation. He comes from the RSS background.

Nabin represents Bankipur assembly constituency in Bihar and has served as a minister in the Bihar government twice.

Stephen Fry: ‘Humans Created AI, Now Risk Being Replaced’

Press Trust Of India

Jaipur – The gods are now crumbling statues, there is nothing on Mount Olympus, and in another 1,000 years, humans may also not be here, British writer-actor Sir Stephen John Fry said while drawing a parallel between the gradual fall of the Greek pantheon and the invention of artificial intelligence.

Fry, who grew up reading Greek myths at a time when boys of his age were interested in “football or girls”, was speaking at the 19th Jaipur Literature Festival in a session on his latest book, “Odyssey”, a retelling of Greek

poet Homer's epic poem about Odysseus' arduous journey back home to Ithaca after the Trojan War.

The author said that just the way Prometheus created humans, the modern humans created artificial intelligence – both initially meant to be servile entities.

“When Prometheus created mankind, Zeus said, ‘These are wonderful; they can worship us and sacrifice to us, and they can entertain us and love us. They can be our pets. But Prometheus, one thing you mustn't do is give them fire. Because if you give them fire, they will develop technology, and they



Sir Stephen John Fry- Photo credit- BBC

will be as good as we are.”

The fire also meant “the creative spark, the sense of creativity and the ability to do what gods could do, to make things, to be different from the animals”.

“Once mankind had fire, once we had fire inside us and the fire of technology, we slowly stopped needing gods and we started talking to each other and organising our lives according to our rules, rather than obeying the gods,” the “V For Vendetta” actor noted.

With the invention of artificial intelligence, he said, humans are now

in the same position as the gods, having created an entity that obeys our instructions.

“Some of us say we must not give them fire; we must not give these entities self-consciousness, the ability to think and feel and want for themselves, or the ability to be independent of us, because if we do, they may get rid of us.

“The gods are now crumbling statues, and if you go to Mount Olympus, there is nothing there. And it may be that in another 1,000 years we won't be here, and maybe it has all happened before,” the 68-year-old said.

Depleting Springs, Rivers Trigger Water Crisis

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: An unprecedented dry winter and the growing impact of climate change have triggered an alarming water crisis across several parts of Kashmir, with water levels in major rivers, rivulets and springs dipping to record lows, severely affecting drinking water supply schemes.

Many famous and historically reliable springs, including Aripal, Nagbal, and Bulbul Nag in Newa, Pulwama, have either completely dried up or witnessed a drastic reduction in discharge. These natural springs have long served as the backbone of multiple water supply schemes, catering to thousands of households in south Kashmir, and the same is the case in other areas of Kashmir.

Residents told KNO that the drying up of these springs has left entire localities struggling for potable water, forcing people, especially women and children, to walk long distances in



search of water.

"Aripal spring was considered a lifeline for us. We had never imagined that one day it would run dry. This is happening due to climate change and a completely dry winter," said Abdul Rashid, a local. "Now we are dependent on tankers, which are irregular and insufficient."

The situation is equally grim along the River Jhelum and Rambiar rivulet, where water levels have dropped significantly. Doz-

ens of water supply schemes across multiple districts draw water from these sources, but the reduced flow has rendered many schemes partially or completely non-functional

"Water in Rambiar has gone down to such an extent that pumping stations are unable to operate properly," said Mohammad Ashraf, a resident of Litter area of Pulwama. "We receive water for a few minutes, if at all, and sometimes there is no sup-

ply for days."

To cope with the crisis, authorities have pressed tanker services into operation. However, locals say tanker supply has failed to meet the growing demand. In many areas, tankers reach households only once every two to three days, worsening the hardship.

"A single tanker cannot serve an entire village," said Nusrat Jan, a resident of Newa area. "We wait for days, and by the time the tanker arrives, people rush with buckets and containers. It often leads to arguments and chaos."

Residents also expressed concern over the long-term implications of climate change, pointing out that the region's traditional water sources are no longer reliable.

"Climate change is no longer a theory; it is our reality," said Ghulam Nabi, a social activist from Pulwama. "Every passing year, winters are getting drier, snowfall is declining, and our water sources are disappearing."

Locals have urged the gov-

ernment to take immediate and long-term measures, including the creation of alternative water sources, revival of traditional springs, rainwater harvesting, and strengthening groundwater recharge mechanisms.

"The government must plan for the future," said Abdul Salam, another local. "Temporary tanker services are not a solution. We need sustainable water sources because climate change is here to stay."

Experts warn that if the current dry spell continues and comprehensive mitigation measures are not undertaken, Kashmir could face a severe drinking water crisis in the coming months, affecting both rural and urban populations.

Officials requested the public to use water judiciously as of now, saying that alternative sources are being looked into. The situation is expected to ease out as there is a prediction of rain and snow in the coming days, which is expected to recharge water bodies.

Verification of Mosques Aimed at Safeguarding Religious Properties: Dr Darakshan

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Stating that the verification of Imams, Khateeb and mosques is purely administrative to safeguard Waqf assets and dismiss any political motives, the

Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson, Dr Darakshan Andrabi on Friday dismissed any political motives in the verification of Imams, Khateeb and mosques, terming it a "purely administrative" process to ensure long-term protection of religious properties across the Union Territory.

She appealed to the clerics and mosque committees to cooperate with the administration.

"The verification process is being unnecessarily politicised by certain vested interests. There is absolutely no need for fear or confusion. This exercise is meant to secure our religious and community assets, not to target anyone," Dr Andrabi said, as per KNO.

She said Jammu and Kashmir has emerged among the top UTs in registering Waqf properties under the UMEED Portal launched by the Ministry of Minority Affairs. "We worked tirelessly to ensure transparency. If mosques are part of Waqf assets, they are already registered on the portal," she said.

Dr Darakshan stressed that documentation and verification are essential to avoid future disputes. "Just as land ownership needs records, religious places too require authentication for their protection," she said, urging Imams, Molvis and mosque managements not to panic.

LG Flags Off Kashmiri Youth for Mera Yuva Bharat Exchange

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Friday flagged off the first Group of 120 youth from Kashmir Division under Kashmiri Youth Exchange Program "Watan Ko Jaano".

The flagship initiative, sponsored by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and executed by Mera Yuva Bharat -MY Bharat Jammu Kashmir under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, aims to foster national integration and empower the youth of the Kashmir Valley.

The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the participating youth and extended his best wishes for their journey.

The 6th edition of the program will see a total 2,000 participants under different groups, including group leaders from across the Kashmir Valley, visiting 15 major cities across India.

The primary objective is to sensitize youth from Kashmir to act as ambassadors of peace and harmony by providing them with firsthand exposure to the nation's diverse cultural, industrial, and historical landscape.

Rare Migratory Birds Arrive at Wular Lake

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: For the first time, a Tundra Bean Goose has been seen at Wular Lake, marking the species' first documented presence in Kashmir's largest freshwater wetland.

Wildlife officials told KNO that the sighting assumes significance as Wular Lake continues to host the highest number of migratory birds in the Valley due to its vast area and favourable ecological conditions. "Lakhs of migratory birds have already arrived at the wetland this season, with numbers expected to increase further in the coming weeks," they added.

An official associated with bird monitoring at Wular said the Wildlife Department, Forest Protection Force, Wular Management Authority and Jammu and Kashmir Police, have put in place coordinated arrangements to ensure protection of migratory birds and their habitat.

"Wular Lake remains the most

important wetland in Kashmir for migratory birds. Protection measures and favourable conditions have helped attract a large number of species every year," the official added.

"Besides the Tundra Bean Goose, several rare bird species have been recorded at Wular in recent years. These include the Smew, Long-tailed Duck, Falcated Duck, Common Goldeneye, Western Reef Heron, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Short-eared Owl and Chinese Pond Heron," he said.

Another official said that one or two rare species are usually seen at the wetland every year, underlining its importance as a critical wintering ground along the Central Asian Flyway.

"If the present conditions continue, we expect migratory birds to keep returning to Wular Lake in large numbers in the coming years as well," the official added.

Wular Lake, a designated Ramsar site, is considered one of the most significant wetlands in the region for biodiversity conservation and bird migration.



A kangri seller waits for customers, standing beside stacks of traditional woven fire pots that symbolize Kashmir's winter warmth.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Centre-Ladakh Talks to Resume on Feb 4

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR:The high-powered committee (HPC) constituted by the Union Home Ministry to deliberate on the issues of the Ladakh Union Territory is set to meet in the first week of February in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Minister of State for Home, Nityanand Rai.

The Union Home Ministry has convened the HPC meeting on February 4 at 4:00 PM in New Delhi, according to the meeting notice issued by Ruchika Katyaj, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Member Secretary of the HPC, a copy of which is in possession of Kashmir Observer.

The meeting assumes significance as it is the first HPC session after the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance



(KDA) submitted a 29-page draft proposal to the Ministry of Home Affairs, seeking statehood, Sixth Schedule status for Ladakh, and amnesty for people arrested after the September 24, 2025 protests.

On September 24, 2025, Leh erupted in protests over demands for statehood and constitutional safeguards on the 15th day of a hunger strike led by activist Sonam Wangchuk.

As many as four civilians were killed, while nearly 100 others including police and paramili-

tary personnel were injured in clashes between protesters and law-enforcement agencies.

The high powered committee, headed by Minister of State, MHA, Nityanand Rai, was constituted in 2023 to discuss measures to protect the region's unique culture and language taking into consideration its geographical location and its strategic importance. The charter of the HPC includes examining "constitutional safeguards that could be provided to ensure the measures and protection."

3 Terrorist Hideouts Busted in Kathua

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a significant anti-terror breakthrough, joint teams of security forces have dismantled three terrorist hideouts in the forest areas of Biltawar in Kathua district, officials told KNO.

"The operation began on January 7, 2026, following credible intelligence inputs about the movement of anti-national elements in the forested regions of Kamaad Nallah, Kalaban, and Dhanu Parole," an official said, adding, "Security personnel launched a large-scale search to neutralize the suspected terrorists. During the initial phase, terrorists opened indiscriminate fire on the forces, triggering nighttime exchanges of fire. Two separate encounters occurred, but the terrorists managed to slip away under the cover of darkness and the challenging terrain."

"On Wednesday, forces discovered the first hideout and recovered several items, including two empty M4 cartridges, a plastic box with desi ghee, a packet of almonds, hand gloves, a cap, a blanket, a tarpaulin sheet, a small pouch, and a polythene bag," he added.

"The search continued, leading to the busting of two additional hideouts in the Kalikhad and Kalaban areas on Friday. Recoveries from these sites included a cooking gas cylinder, cooking oil, charger wire, hand gloves, utensils, an empty oil gallon, large plastic bags, a torch, blankets, a container, wrappers of eatables, and various miscellaneous items—indicating the hideouts were used for prolonged shelter," he said.

Police Arrest Drug Peddler in Shopian

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As a part of its sustained efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from society, Jammu and Kashmir Police in Shopian arrested one drug peddler and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, during routine naka checking at Dachnoo Heerpora, a police party from Police Station Heerpora apprehended a suspicious person. Upon his search apparently Cannabis like substances weighing approximately 5Kgs were recovered from his possession. The accused has been identified as Aslam Kalas resident of Devpora.

Accordingly, a case FIR No. 06/2026 under relevant provisions of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Heerpora and investigation has been initiated.

J&K Police reiterated its commitment to maintain a drug-free society and appealed to the general public to cooperate in this noble mission.

They also requested citizens to share any information regarding drug abuse or peddling on the helpline number 9596768831 (PCR Shopian) or Dial 112.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF JOINT DIRECTOR INFORMATION, KASHMIR
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS,
KASHMIR DIVISION

Subject:- Final Seniority list of members of the J&K Information Department (Subordinate) Service, Kashmir Division for the post of Cultural Assistant (Divisional / District Cadre) as it stood on 31-12-2025.

ORDER NO:- INF/K-143 /2026
Dated:- 15-01-2026

Whereas, Tentative Seniority list of Non-Gazetted employees of Information Department, Kashmir Division for the post Cultural Assistant (Divisional / District Cadre) was circulated vide this office Notification issued under endorsement No.INF/K-Estt-2632-2639/2025 dated 26-12-2025 inviting objections, if, any, within 07 days from the date of its issuance.

Whereas, a number of objections/grievances / representations were received from the officials within stipulated time.

Whereas, all the objections/grievances / representations submitted by the officials were examined and disposed of in accordance with the extant rules.

Whereas, necessary corrections/ updations were incorporated in the Seniority List strictly as per the rules governing the subject matter.

Now, therefore, Final Seniority list of the employees of Information Department, Kashmir Division for the post of Cultural Assistant (Divisional / District Cadre) as it stood on 31-12-2025, forming annexure to this Order is issued for information of all the concerned.

Final Seniority list of members of the J&K Information Department (Subordinate) Service, Kashmir Division for the post of Cultural Assistant (Divisional/ District Cadre) as it stood on 31-12-2025

Glass	Category	Name of the Post	Pay Level			Divisional / District Cadre
IV	C	Cultural Assistant	Level-4 (25500-81100)			
S. No	Name of the Official	Qualification	Date of Birth	Date of First Appointment	Date of promotion on the present post	Remarks
1.	Arshada Akhtar	Matric	01-02-1971	13-01-2003	11-08-2011	
2.	Ali Mohd Bhat	BSC + 6 months Computer Course	24-02-1977	11-08-2017	31-05-2022	

No: INF/K-Estt-219 /2026/ 2944-50
Dated:- 15-01-2026

DIPK-10099-25
DT: 16/01/2026

Joint Director Information
Kashmir

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF JOINT DIRECTOR INFORMATION, KASHMIR
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS,
KASHMIR DIVISION

Subject:- Final Seniority list of members of the J&K Information Department (Subordinate) Service, Kashmir Division for the post of Programme Producer (Divisional Cadre, Kashmir) as it stood on 31-12-2025

ORDER NO:- INF/K-141 /2026
Dated:- 15-01-2026

Whereas, Tentative Seniority list of Non-Gazetted employees of Information Department, Kashmir Division for the post of Programme Producer (Divisional Cadre, Kashmir) was circulated vide this office Notification issued under endorsement No.INF/K-Estt-2608-2615/2025 dated 26-12-2025 inviting objections, if, any, within 07 days from the date of its issuance.

Whereas, a number of objections/grievances / representations were received from the officials within stipulated time.

Whereas, all the objections/grievances / representations submitted by the officials were examined and disposed of in accordance with the extant rules.

Whereas, necessary corrections/ updations were incorporated in the Seniority List strictly as per the rules governing the subject matter.

Now, therefore, Final Seniority list of the employees of Information Department, Kashmir Division for the post of Programme Producer (Divisional Cadre, Kashmir) as it stood on 31-12-2025, forming annexure to this Order is issued for information of all the concerned.

Final Seniority list of members of the J&K Information Department (Subordinate) Service, Kashmir Division for the post of Programme Producer (Divisional Cadre, Kashmir) as it stood on 31-12-2025

Glass	Category	Name of the Post	Pay Level			Divisional Cadre, Kashmir
III	J	Programme Producer	Level-6 (35400-112400)			
S. No	Name of the Official	Qualification	Date of Birth	Date of First Appointment	Date of promotion on the present post	Remarks
1.	Muzamil Mehraj	M. Lib	27-10-1970	04-10-2001	31-05-2022	

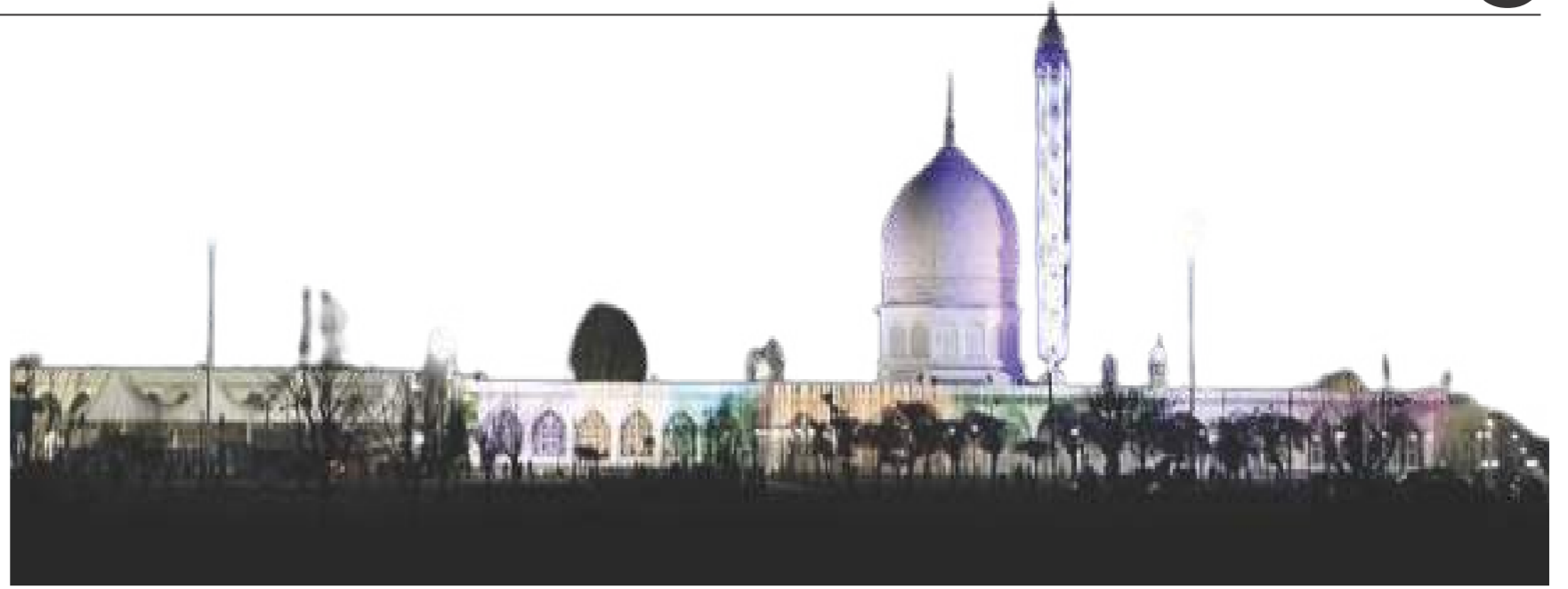
No: INF/K-Estt-219 /2026/ 2930-36
Dated:- 15-01-2026

DIPK-10136-25
DT: 16/01/2026

Joint Director Information
Kashmir

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Shab-e-Meraj As a Call to Conscience

A sacred night offers a roadmap to end corruption and restore public faith in governance.

Mohammad Amin Mir

Shab-e-Meraj, the Night of Ascension, is remembered in Islam for miraculous journeys through space and heaven, but its significance extends far beyond ritual observance.

The night delivers a clear message about power, accountability, and moral responsibility.

It teaches that authority cannot exist without conscience and that public trust cannot survive without integrity. These lessons hold particular weight in Jammu and Kashmir, where governance is inseparable from land, livelihoods, and social stability.

The Patwari, whose daily duties shape families' futures through land records and legal demarcations, carries authority that directly affects security and well-being. Errors or manipulation in Jamabandis, mutations, or official reports can transform lawful ownership into litigation, destabilize livelihoods, and undermine generations of effort.

Shab-e-Meraj reminds officials that abusing such responsibility is a moral breach with consequences far beyond administrative records.

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)'s ascension conveyed lessons that transcend time. Witnessing the fate of those who exploited the weak, hoarded wealth unfairly, or misused authority, he established a framework where

justice, honesty, and accountability formed society's foundation.

Corruption emerged as a spiritual and social toxin. Bribery, manipulation, and dishonesty fracture families, communities, and institutions.

The Hadith condemning both the

giver and taker of bribes allows no compromise. Authority exists as a trust to serve society rather than a tool for personal gain.

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KO VIEW

The New Kashmiri Masculinity

Masculinity in the valley is being rewritten through pay slips that never arrive, exams that repeat every year, and homes where grown men wait for phone alerts that rarely bring good news.

This shift is visible, measurable, and deeply personal.

Official data place youth unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir among the highest in the country. Recent labour surveys often show rates above 20 percent, and in some age groups, even higher. Government recruitment drives reveal the scale of the pressure: hundreds of thousands apply for a few thousand posts, sometimes fewer. Coaching centers remain packed, while appointment letters stay scarce.

The gap between effort and outcome shapes how men see themselves.

Providing for family remains central to male identity. When income is uncertain, adulthood feels postponed. Many men in their late twenties and thirties continue living with parents longer than planned. Marriage decisions get delayed or hurried. Families speak of stability, but men hear a test of worth.

Sociologists note rising age at marriage among men, alongside growing financial dependence into adulthood.

Mental health clinics in Srinagar and other towns report a steady rise in men seeking help for anxiety, sleep disorders, and depressive symptoms. Doctors link these cases to prolonged joblessness and exam cycles. Most men arrive late, after months or years of strain, and many still avoid follow-ups because therapy feels like an admission of weakness.

Public life has changed as well. Local sports grounds once offered release valves for stress and rivalry. Many now remain underused or regulated. Evening social life has shrunk. Men spend long hours indoors, scrolling job portals, exam groups, and fellowship forums. Online spaces provide information, but also constant comparison. Every success story sharpens personal doubt.

Traumatic past experiences add another layer. Men now raising families grew up during shutdowns, school closures, and sudden violence. Childhood taught caution and emotional control. Those habits carry into adulthood. Silence often replaces conversation inside homes. Emotional restraint reads as responsibility, but it also limits expression of grief, fear, and fatigue.

Gender dynamics are shifting too. Female college enrollment has risen steadily over the past decade. Women now compete strongly in civil services, medical seats, and professional courses. Many households rely on female income. Some men adjust, sharing domestic roles. Others struggle as older markers of authority weaken.

Family counselors report tension around expectations, control, and decision-making.

Substance use patterns reflect this stress. Health officials note rising demand for de-addiction services, particularly among young men. Alcohol and prescription drug misuse often follow exam failure or unemployment. These trends show how economic pressure moves into daily habits.

What emerges is a masculinity defined less by dominance and more by endurance.

Men measure success through patience, restraint, and shielding family members from worry. These traits keep households functioning under strain, but they also carry costs.

Suppressed emotion, delayed milestones, and constant comparison erode self-worth over time.

Policy debates often focus on security indicators or infrastructure projects. Social roles rarely enter the conversation. Employment programs, skill matching, and local enterprise matter not only for economic reasons but because identity follows work.

Mental health outreach, community sports, and open discussion spaces provide alternative ways to feel capable and valued.

Kashmiri men are adapting under pressure, crafting a version of masculinity built on survival and responsibility. Acknowledging this reality allows society to respond with support rather than silence.

The Pressure of Marks on Youth

Every year, board results take over public talk, while students shoulder the real pressure in silence. If we judge success through curiosity, creativity, and personal growth, we can change how young lives actually take shape.

Nazakat Aslam

Classes 10 and 12 board results are out, and the valley is alive with celebration and comparison. Families cheer top scorers with sweets and applause, social media fills with congratulations, and everyone wants to see how students measure up.

Amid the excitement, one question stands out: do marks truly reflect a student's potential, or have they come to define a young person's worth?

Board exam scores have long acted as society's shortcut for achievement. High marks open doors, win praise, and promise opportunities, while lower marks often bring disappointment and leave students feeling they have failed.

Parents play a big role in this system. Rewards, expectations, and subtle messages link performance to self-esteem. Hard work matters, but assuming that effort must always produce perfect results puts enormous pressure on students and shapes how they see themselves.

Every year, reports emerge of students taking their own lives after failing an exam or falling short of expectations. These tragedies show a culture that places unbearable demands on children, turning a single score into a measure of their value. When society treats numbers as the only measure of worth, setbacks feel permanent, and some students see no way forward.

Parents often know these scores mat-

ter less as life moves on. Colleges, universities, and workplaces value creativity, problem-solving, and perseverance far more than a number on a sheet. History is full of people who struggled academically but achieved remarkable success later. Despite this understanding, society passes the same pressures to the next generation, shaping how children perceive achievement and failure.

Children grow up surrounded by constant competition, from classroom rankings to regional exams, and they absorb the belief that one test can shape their entire future. This expectation adds stress, erodes confidence, and weighs heavily on their well-being.

The education system increases this pressure. Schools and boards treat exams as defining moments, rewarding memorization and rankings while offering little guidance or emotional support. Without trained counselors, students choose streams based on marks rather than interests or strengths. Schools highlight toppers as proof of success, and coaching centers intensify the fear of falling behind, leaving children anxious and unsure of their potential.

Students face disruptions to education, uncertainty about future opportunities, and limited exposure to alternative career paths. The system amplifies these challenges. Conversations about recovering from setbacks, exploring vocational paths, or pursuing creative careers are rare, leaving students to see failure as a personal flaw rather than a step in learning.

“Society must treat marks as one measure among many. True success grows from creativity, curiosity, emotional intelligence, and personal development. Students deserve guidance that emphasizes learning, exploration, and discovery over rankings alone. Valuing effort, perseverance, and the courage to try new things can create a culture where setbacks become opportunities to grow rather than sources of shame.”

Examination results also dictate the paths students follow. High scorers face expectations to pursue medical or non-medical streams, while others are guided toward arts or easier options. This rigid hierarchy ignores individual talent, personal interest, and long-term fulfillment, often steering students into choices they later regret.

Society celebrates triumphs after struggle, but it rarely acknowledges the

many students who face setbacks without immediate success. One exam cannot define a young person's journey, yet judgment, comparison, and silence often make it feel that way.

Every year, discussions about exam pressure resurface after tragedies or emotional news stories, but public attention fades quickly. Students continue to carry the burden of unmet expectations for months, sometimes years, while the world moves on.

Society must treat marks as one measure among many. True success grows from creativity, curiosity, emotional intelligence, and personal development. Students deserve guidance that emphasizes learning, exploration, and discovery over rankings alone. Valuing effort, perseverance, and the courage to try new things can create a culture where setbacks become opportunities to grow rather than sources of shame.

Measuring achievement by numbers leaves too much unseen. Broadening the definition of success gives students the freedom to pursue paths that match their talents and passions.

Moving beyond marks reflects a commitment to the well-being of young people and the future of society.

The author is pursuing Masters in Journalism and Mass Communication at IUST. She can be reached at nazakataslami7@gmail.com.

My Teenage Descent in Kashmir

What started as a shocking find on my cousin's phone turned into years of obsession and self-destruction. It shows how unhealed pain pushes young people in Kashmir toward secret addictions.

Faizaan Bashir

I used to sit down to write about how erotica and cigarettes wrecked my life, but then I would hear all these imaginary voices judging me.

People who think they are so proper and perfect would whisper in my head. Those thoughts always stopped me before.

This time I said no more, and decided to tell the full truth about how screen and smoking took control of me for so long.

I believe real confessions matter more than the hushed gossip and sneaky looks from a messed-up society.

It all started when I was twelve.

One day I was playing with my cousin's phone, and suddenly pictures and videos of men and women in intimate moments popped up.

The images shocked me. My young mind could not understand what was happening. I had no clue what they were doing to each other.

Months passed, and I got pulled in deeper. Those scenes kept flashing in my head all day long. I begged my cousin for his phone again and again so I could see more naked



bodies.

Things got worse fast.

I bought my own phone. From then on, I spent hours every single day watching porn. Right after, I always smoked a cigarette or two.

If I missed even one day of this routine, I felt something huge was missing from my life.

The urge took over everything. I let it win without any resistance. I disappeared into those fake worlds until I could not find my way out.

School became the biggest victim.

Among all the boys who broke rules, I got the worst reputation as the biggest troublemaker. Every time I tried to study, my hand grabbed the phone and pulled me back to the videos.

My bad grades shamed my whole family again and again, no matter where we were. Society's rules stayed in my mind, and that pressure crushed me.

I got so hooked on those quick little highs

it gave me that I didn't even notice how it was eating me alive.

It left my body skinny and weak, and my mind totally empty, like a shell with nothing left inside.

Living inside that fake world made me afraid all the time.

When I went outside, I saw kids my age full of energy. They talked fast, thought quick, reacted sharp, and looked truly alive.

Seeing them made me hate myself. I kept asking what had happened to me. Sadness sat heavy on my heart. I lost all confidence around friends. They teased me for being so thin, which came straight from those endless adult sessions and the tiredness that followed.

I could not defend myself, so I went right back to the habit. It distracted me from the real world that terrified me, and that helped me push everything away for a while.

My life turned into a cruel cycle. I failed at studies, could not face normal life, and ran back to the fake comfort.

Those videos gave me a high that helped me deal with stress. That is exactly how addictions take over our minds.

My mental health got worse, so I went to psychiatrists to understand what was wrong. We talked many times, and they gave me medicines.

Nothing worked in the end. I held on to stories of people who quit porn for good. I made promise after promise to myself that I would stop. I prayed hard, even asked God to take my life.

Every try failed, and I stayed trapped in that awful loop.

Time passed, and I finally started to understand how addictions really work. The details became clear to me.

Now, after a long time without those bad habits of staring at screens and going on endlessly, I can say the problem comes partly from our everyday routines.

One simple click brings a rush of hidden urges that fight against what we consciously want.

We often push away feelings that built up for years, maybe from childhood. Those feelings come out in different forms. Worries about the future make us feel helpless. That is why people pick their favourite escape.

Some turn to alcohol instead of screens. Others choose plant. Porn works as a powerful way to handle inner pain in the same way.

You can admit you fell into it because of your situation. No shame needed. The important thing is to understand it.

Noticing the connection between your inner pain, past hurts, future worries, and how they show up in your actions is the first step to escape the online trap and other addictions.

Next, stop beating yourself up right away if you slip. Harsh self-talk only makes the cycle stronger.

Switch from trying to be perfect forever to noticing and celebrating small wins every day. That helps a lot.

You cannot destroy an addiction complete-



COUNSELING CAN HELP CLEAR CONFUSION AND SHOW YOU A PATH to stay on. A good counselor checks in with you along the way and guides you if you slip, until you find balance and learn to control urges instead of letting them control you.

ly in one go. Being gentle with yourself and not pushing too hard makes healing easier.

It gets harder because intimacy and connection are basic human needs, and clicking and chasing tie right into that. That is why this escape feels so tough to fight.

Beyond lust, this secret online activity is a cheap replacement for emotions that really need care and healing.

Counseling can help clear confusion and show you a path to stay on. A good counselor checks in with you along the way and guides you if you slip, until you find balance and learn to control urges instead of letting them control you.

When you mix professional help with your own thinking, people stuck in this cycle can replace bad habits with good ones that feed the body and mind.

Even now, thinking about how people hurt themselves just to avoid hard parts of life gives me chills.

We forget our own strength and will sometimes, and that makes our suffering bigger.

We hold on to the pain without wanting to. It is a real tragedy.

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



EVEN NOW, THINKING ABOUT HOW PEOPLE HURT THEMSELVES just to avoid hard parts of life gives me chills. We forget our own strength and will sometimes, and that makes our suffering bigger. We hold on to the pain without wanting to. It is a real tragedy.

Kashmir's Lost Art of Repair

Fixing things saved money, memory, and the land. Replacing them saves nothing, and Kashmir is losing more than we realise.

Aaqyb Ashraf

I grew up surrounded by things that refused to die easily. In our home, every object held a history, and we treated breaks as invitations to heal rather than excuses to abandon.

My mother's wristwatch stands out clearest in my mind. She wore it through market trips, family gatherings, and long evenings by the fire. When the strap split or the face scratched, she passed it to her maternal uncle. He walked it to the local repairman, and soon enough, it returned, keeping time as faithfully as ever.

That simple act turned the watch into more than metal and gears. It became a silent witness to her life, and fixing it meant holding onto those shared moments.

Our radio shared the same fate.

Voices crackled out one day, then fell silent the next. We lifted it carefully and headed to Aurangzeb's shop, tucked just beyond our doorstep.

He has kept that spot for decades, his workbench cluttered with wires, screws, and stories from the neighbourhood. He poked and prodded with his tools until melodies and announcements flowed again, pulling us back into the world beyond our walls.

Those trips built bonds. Aurangzeb knew our names, habits, and even our favourite stations. He belonged to our community, turning repair into a ritual of connection.

People applied this mindset everywhere. They stitched tears in traditional pherans with precise threads. They soled shoes worn thin from mountain paths. They reinforced furniture that sagged under the weight of daily use.

Our grandparents and parents saw value in every effort to save what others might toss aside. They embraced repair as a mark of insight, a way to honour resources and avoid needless loss.

Times have shifted dramatically now. Breaks trigger immediate hunts for replacements. I see friends swap out phones with shattered screens for the latest versions, ignoring the quick fixes available nearby.

Appliances break down and end up on the curb, replaced by newer models that promise more features and less trouble. Bags tear, and shopping apps quickly fill with new carts.

In this rush, repair feels outdated, something too slow for lives shaped by instant buying and quick fixes.

Many young people, including some in my own circle, blush at the thought of entering a dusty workshop. We postpone visits or skip them altogether, as if mending signals some



KASHMIR EMBODIES PROFOUND PRINCIPLES THAT HAVE CARRIED US THROUGH TRIALS. WE MUST ACTIVELY NURTURE THEM to ensure they endure. By embracing repair once more, we reaffirm our identity, stitch together past and present, and build a sustainable path ahead. In my own life, that old watch's silent persistence reminds me daily: what we mend, we truly keep.

kind of defeat in a world that prizes the new.

Our elders push back against this tide. My uncles still drop by Aurangzeb's for minor tweaks, chatting about old times while he works. Grandparents recount tales of self-sufficiency, urging us to value the artisans who keep traditions alive. This clash exposes a profound change in priorities.

Advertising bombards us with images of flawless products, and delivery services promise

arrivals in hours. As a result, workshops empty out. Craftsmen who once thrived now scrape by, their expertise undervalued in an economy that favours mass production over individual skill. Each closing door erases a fragment of our shared heritage here in Kashmir.

I think often about how this extends to our personal ties.

In earlier days, people addressed rifts in friendships or family with the same determina-

tion. They talked through disagreements, rebuilt trust step by step. These days, we swipe away conflicts as easily as we upgrade gadgets, opting for fresh starts over the work of reconciliation.

The pattern repeats, leaving us more isolated amid all the connectivity.

The toll on our land hits hardest. Kashmir's landscapes, with their snow-capped peaks and shimmering lakes, once inspired awe without end. Discarded items now clutter those spaces.

Electronics pile up in dumps, leaching toxins into soil. Plastics choke riverbanks, and furniture fragments wash into streams during heavy rains.

I walk along the Jhelum sometimes and spot remnants of what people once cherished, now polluting the waters that sustain us. This waste mocks the beauty we claim to protect, accelerating problems like soil erosion and water contamination that threaten our farms and fisheries.

On a broader scale, this reflects a global drift toward disposability, but it stings uniquely here.

Kashmir has survived conflicts and changes that test our endurance, but our repair ethos once anchored us. It fostered self-reliance in uncertain times, turning scarcity into strength through ingenuity.

But as consumerism creeps in, we risk diluting that spirit. Economists point to rising imports and declining local trades, but the numbers miss the human side: artisans relocating for factory jobs, skills vanishing from one generation to the next.

Still, signs of revival flicker.

Aurangzeb greets the occasional customer with the same warm smile, his hands ready for the challenge. My mother's watch sits in a drawer, its mechanism intact after all these years. Elders share techniques at community gatherings, sparking interest among the curious young. These sparks suggest we can reclaim what fades.

We begin by making thoughtful choices. Visit the repairman before the retailer. Champion local talent through word of mouth or small investments. Introduce children to basic fixes in schools or homes, showing them the satisfaction of revival. Recognize that repair honours effort and ingenuity, far from any embarrassment.

This matters beyond practicality. It safeguards recollections tied to heirlooms, upholds customs that define us, and fortifies our sense of place.

In a valley like ours, where history layers deep, preserving this habit means protecting our core.

Kashmir embodies profound principles that have carried us through trials. We must actively nurture them to ensure they endure.

By embracing repair once more, we reaffirm our identity, stitch together past and present, and build a sustainable path ahead.

In my own life, that old watch's silent persistence reminds me daily: what we mend, we truly keep.

— The author is a Srinagar-based lawyer, and can be reached at aaqybashraf27@gmail.com.

Frailty, Depression In Older Adults May Together Account For 17 % Of Dementia Risk: Study

Press Trust Of India

Older adults who are frail and have depression could be at a higher risk of dementia, with the factors combined contributing to 17 per cent of the overall risk, according to a study.

The findings, published in the journal General Psychiatry, suggests that while frailty and depression each increase dementia risk on their own, having both the conditions could make one more than three times as likely to develop dementia, compared with those in good health.

According to researchers from Zhejiang University School of Medicine, China, frailty and depression should be routinely assessed in older people, as improving their physical and mental health could help reduce dementia risk.

The previously published research has primarily focused on the individual associations between physical frailty or depression and dementia risk, they added.

Data from more than two lakh people from the US and UK, including the UK Biobank dataset, were analysed.

During a 13-year follow-up, 9,088 participants were diagnosed with de-

mentia. Frail participants were more likely to be female, have higher body weight, live with multiple long-term conditions, and lower educational attainment. They were also 2.5 times more likely to be diagnosed with dementia.

The participants with depression were had nearly a 60 per cent higher risk of being diagnosed with dementia. However, "jointly, participants with both physical frailty and depression exhibited the highest dementia risk compared with those without physical frailty and depression," the authors wrote.

"A significant additive interaction between physical frailty and depression was observed, with 17.1 per cent of dementia risk attributed to their interactive effects," they said.

The results highlight the complex links between frailty, depression, and cognitive function, the team added. The researchers said that lower levels of frailty may allow a partial offset of depression-related cognitive burden, while lower levels of depression may help mitigate burden of frailty.

However, once both the conditions exceed a threshold, the compensatory effects may be compromised, leading to a sharp increase in the risk of dementia, they said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Name of my daughter has been wrongly written in municipal records as Masoom Zehra D/O Tahir Hussain Baba while her correct name is Masooma Zehra D/O of Tahir Hussain Baba. 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 Municipal Committee Magam (Budgam) within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Tahir Hussain Baba
F/O Masooma Zehra
R/O Babapora Magam Budgam

bmj

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

Sr.DEN4/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 05/02/2026 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. In place of Earnest money deposit, "Bid Security Declaration" is to be submitted or prescribed format as available in document section on the portal.

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Packet System
Open	Works	Single Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
14.01.2026	22.01.2026	05.02.2026 /15:00 Hrs

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender			
1.	222-2025-26-ADEN-LDH	Improvement in various yards of SSE/P.Way/LDH under ADEN/LDH in the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-4/FZR.			
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		5,41,93,838.54	4,21,000.00	60 Days	10 Months

similar nature of work: "CTR/TRR/TFR/TTR including raising of track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machines/ ballast screening / regulating machines & TTR by T28."

Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. **Tender Notice No:-222-2025-26-ADEN-LDH Date: 15.01.2026** **166/2026**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of Joint Director Information, Kashmir
Department of Information & Public Relations, Kashmir Division

Subject:- Final Seniority list of members of the J&K Information Department (Subordinate) Service, Kashmir Division for the post of Library Assistant (Divisional Cadre, Kashmir) as it stood on 31-12-2025.

ORDER NO:- INF/K-133 /2026
Dated:-15-01-2026

Whereas, Tentative Seniority list of Non- Gazetted employees of Information Department, Kashmir Division for the post of Library Assistant (Divisional Cadre, Kashmir) was circulated vide this office Notification issued under endorsement No.INF/K-Estt-2584-2591/2025 dated 26-12-2025 inviting objections, if any, within 07 days from the date of its issuance.

Whereas, a number of objections/grievances / representations were received from the officials within stipulated time.

Whereas, all the objections/grievances / representations submitted by the officials were examined and disposed of in accordance with the extant rules.

Whereas, necessary corrections/ updations were incorporated in the Seniority List strictly as per the rules governing the subject matter.

Now, therefore, Final Seniority list of the employees of Information Department, Kashmir Division for the post of Library Assistant (Divisional Cadre, Kashmir) as it stood on 31-12-2025, forming annexure to this Order is issued for information of all the concerned.

No: INF/K-Estt-219 /2026/2875-81
DIPK-10098/25 **Joint Director Information Kashmir**
dated: 16-01-2026

Final Seniority list of members of the J&K Information Department (Subordinate) Service, Kashmir Division for the post of Library Assistant as it stood on 31-12-2025

Class	Category	Name of the Post	Pay Level		Divisional/ District Cadre
VI	F	Library Assistant	L-4(25500-81100)		
S.No	Name of the Official	Qualification	Date of Birth	Date of First Appointment	Date of promotion on the present post
1.	Janael Ali Rather	M.LIS	04-03-1985	31-07-2019	-
2.	Ahreena Rasool	M.LIS	11-05-1992	31-07-2019	-

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
General Administration Department
Civil Secretariat Srinagar/Jammu

Subject: Verification of Character & Antecedents of the applicants who have applied for compassionate appointment, under Jammu and Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022, for the **Calendar Year 2022 & 2023.**

NOTICE

The applicants figuring in the **ANNEXURE** to this notice are hereby informed to submit their E-mail IDs and contact details in the Cabinet Section, General Administration Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu (Room No. 2/27-A, Main) / Winter Secretariat Srinagar (Room No. 14, Ground Floor), in person, within a period of twenty-one (21) days positively, for the purpose of filling up of e-verification rolls, to obtain their Character & Antecedents reports from the Criminal Investigation Department, J&K.

If any candidate, fails to report to the General Administration Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Winter Secretariat Srinagar, within prescribed time period, he/she shall forfeit the right to appointment, under the Jammu and Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022.

Irfan Manzoor
Deputy Secretary to the Government

No:- GAD-RAS/51/2025-09-GAD (E-7702596)
DIPK-10092/25 dated: 16-01-2026

ANNEXURE to Notice dated: 14.01.2026

S.No.	Name, Parentage & Address of the Applicant	Name of the deceased Govt. Employee	Designation of the deceased Employee	Department of the deceased employee	District
1.	Shaheena Akber D/o Late. Ab. Rashid Bhat & W/o Late. Ghulam Rasool Chopan R/o Bagare, Tehsil Doors, District Anantnag	Late. Ghulam Rasool Chopan	Teacher	School Education	Anantnag
2.	Dazy Kuran Bhat D/o Choozi Lal Bhat & W/o Late. Chand Ji Bhat R/o Deesar, Chandian Pagan, Tehsil Deesar, District Kulgam A/p Block N-23, TIT, Camp Nagrota, Jammu	Late. Chand Ji Bhat	Teacher	School Education	Jammu
3.	Yaseer Ahmad Ganik S/o Late. Gh. Nabil Ganik R/o Lorrigan, Tehsil Arpora, District Pulwama	Late. Gh. Nabil Ganik	Chowkidar	School Education	Pulwama
4.	Babey Hussain D/o Mohammed Hussain Shah & W/o Late. Aziz Hussain Shah R/o Basgram, Tehsil Uri, District Baramulla	Late. Hussain Shah	Teacher Grade-II	School Education	Baramulla
5.	Neelam Rani D/o Om Parkash & W/o Late. Satya Paul R/o Ramkot, Tehsil Ramkot, District Kathua	Late. Satya Paul	MIS	School Education	Kathua
6.	Dimple Thacker D/o Mansa Rani & W/o Late. Subash Chander R/o Sandroon, Tehsil Bari, District Kathua	Late. Subash Chander	Teacher	School Education	Kathua
7.	Javid Ahmad Badoo S/o Late. Ghulam Mohiud Din Badoo R/o Rangpora, Elahiknag, Budpora, District Srinagar	Late. Ghulam Mohiud Din Badoo	Watcher	Forest	Srinagar
8.	Sunita Sharma W/o Late. Veerinder R/o Plot No. 207 Water Works Shopping Centre Sakshi Nagar Tehsil & District Jammu	Late. Veerinder	Teacher	School Education	Jammu

28th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVER®



YouTube

28th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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

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

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

VISIT

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

OR SCAN



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PM Modi Urges Startups to Lead Global Deep Tech in 10 Yrs

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday called on Indian startups to focus on manufacturing, deep technology, and global leadership, saying the next decade of Startup India must position the country at the forefront of innovation.

Speaking at Bharat Mandapam on the 10th anniversary of Startup India, he said startups are key to shaping India's economic and technological future.

The Prime Minister hailed Startup India as a "revolution" that has transformed India into the world's third-largest startup ecosystem, growing from fewer than 500 startups in 2014 to over 2 lakh today, including nearly 125 unicorns.

He emphasised that risk-taking has become mainstream, and startups are increasingly driving employment, innovation, and global competitiveness.

"The government is with you in all your efforts. I have faith in your capabilities. Your courage, confidence and innovation are shaping India's future," he said.

The last 10 years have proven India's entrepreneurial capabilities, he said, adding, "Our goal should be to lead the world in the next 10 years in India's new startup trends and technologies."

Launched on January 16, 2016, Startup India aims to nurture innovation, promote entrepreneurship, and create a generation of job creators, enabling India to build a robust ecosystem of over 2 lakh startups across sectors and geographies.



Modi said the mission has grown into a revolution and the tally of unicorns jumped from four to 125 during the period.

Outlining a slew of government measures to boost artificial intelligence, Modi said the more a nation leads in AI innovation, the greater is its advantage.

"We need to work on new ideas. Today, many such domains are emerging, which will play an important role in economic security and strategic autonomy in the future. An example of AI is in front of us. The more the nation will be ahead in the AI revolution, the higher the advantage it will have," Modi said.

He said that IndiaAI mission has onboarded more than 38,000 GPUs to address challenge of high computing cost related to the AI development.

"We are also making sure that Indigenous AI should be developed by Indian talents on Indian servers. Similar efforts are being made in semiconductors, data centers, green hydrogen and many other sectors. Friends, as we move forward, our ambition should not only be of partnership. We have to aim for global leadership," Modi said.

CBI Books 19 Over ₹1,000 Crore Mule Account Scam

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The CBI has registered an FIR against a branch head of Punjab & Sind Bank and 18 others for allegedly opening mule accounts which were used to conceal and layer funds over Rs 1,000 crore generated from cybercrime and other illicit activities, officials said Friday.

The agency has taken action on the basis of its preliminary enquiry, which exposed 13 mule accounts opened in the names of non-existent companies using forged documents, they said.

The agency found that several individuals arranged forged and fabricated KYC documents, false rent agreements and other fabricated supporting documents used for opening the accounts in the bank's Government Girls Senior Secondary School Branch in Rajasthan's Sriganganagar. Vikas Wadhwa was the head of that branch.

"The said accounts were allegedly opened with the connivance and criminal conspiracy of unknown bank officials, violating KYC norms, due diligence requirements and standard operating procedures," the agency has alleged in the FIR.

A mule account — set up using falsified identification documents — is primarily used to move or launder illicit



The said accounts were allegedly opened with the connivance and criminal conspiracy of unknown bank officials, violating KYC norms, due diligence requirements and standard operating procedures,"

money, with or without the knowledge of the individuals whose details have been used to open the account.

"Fake site visit reports and business verification were created by the bank officials

to facilitate opening of these current accounts in the names of fictitious firms," the agency FIR alleged.

The central probe agency said all the 13 firms in whose names the said current accounts were opened were non-existent and created solely to open and operate these current accounts using forged and fabricated documents.

It is further revealed that significant transactions worth thousands of crores of rupees were routed through these mule accounts through various banking channels and digital platforms, the FIR alleged.

"These accounts were subsequently used to route, layer and transfer proceeds of cyber-crime and other illicit activities. The transaction amount involved...is about Rs. 1084.00 crore," the agency alleged.

The CBI said accused persons, including Wadhwa, made illicit gain for themselves and corresponding "wrongful reputational loss" to the Punjab & Sind Bank.

"Besides this, if the allegations of money laundering are made out, the accused persons have also exposed the bank to the risk of penalties, thereby placing the bank in a position where it is likely to suffer financial loss on account of such penalties as well," the CBI FIR alleged.

Market Benchmarks Rebound After Two-Day Slump As Infosys Rallies

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty bounced back on Friday after a two-day decline, supported by buying in market heavyweights Infosys, HDFC Bank and TCS shares, shrugging off US tariff woes amid mixed global trends.

However, a depreciating rupee, spike in international crude prices and unrelenting foreign fund outflows capped the gains, traders said.

In a choppy session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 187.64 points, or 0.23 per cent, to settle at 83,570.35. During the day, it jumped 752.26 points, or 0.90 per cent, to 84,134.97.

The 50-share NSE Nifty rose 28.75 points, or 0.11 per cent, to 25,694.35.

In a holiday-shortened week, the BSE benchmark dipped 5.89 points, and the Nifty went up by 11.05 points.

"Market sentiment was supported by earnings-related optimism, though mixed global cues continued to cap aggressive positioning. The earnings upgrade from Infosys helped improve risk appetite and brought some stability after re-



cent uncertainty.

"At the same time, concerns around a weaker rupee and ongoing global trade-related issues remained on participants' radar. Overall participation stayed selective and stock-specific, reflecting continued caution amid geopolitical and macroeconomic uncertainties," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Infosys jumped 5.67 per cent after the Bengaluru-headquartered firm saw its revenue from operations grow by 8.9 per cent to Rs 45,479 crore in the third quarter of the current fiscal from Rs 41,764 crore in the year-ago period.

It has raised its revenue growth guidance for FY26 to 3-3.5 per cent in constant currency from 2-3 per cent earlier.

India-EU FTA Will Be 'Mother' Of All Deals: Goyal

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday said the free trade agreement between India and the 27-nation bloc EU, the negotiations for which are at the last leg, will be the "mother of all deals".

The conclusion of talks for the agreement is likely to be announced on January 27.

The President of the European Council, Antonio Luis Santos da Costa, and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, will be on a state visit to India from January 25-27. They are chief guests at the 77th Republic Day celebrations.

"This (India-EU trade pact) will be the mother of all deals," Goyal told reporters here, adding that the proposed agreement will be good and mutually beneficial for both sides.

It will also be a "super deal" for Indian export sectors, he added.

The NDA government has finalised seven trade pacts since 2014: Australia, the UK, Oman, New Zealand, the UAE,



the EFTA bloc, and Mauritius. He also said that the bilateral trade between the two sides is reasonably balanced in goods and services.

It will open huge opportunities for growth, Goyal said, adding that India and the European Union (EU) complement each other and are not in competition.

This agreement will be the biggest pact for India as it includes 27 developed nations, including France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Poland, Denmark, and Sweden.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal on Thursday said India and the EU are "very close" to concluding negotiations on the proposed agreement. Discussions are underway to resolve remaining issues so that the deal is ready for announcement during the visit of top EU leadership later this month.

This pact will also be important, as the US' imposition of high tariffs has disrupted global trade flows. India is facing steep 50 per cent tariffs. The FTA is expected to help Indian exporters diversify their shipments. It will also help reduce dependence on China.

Indigo Says Refunds For Dec 3-5 Disruptions Fully Processed

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Domestic carrier Indigo has processed refunds to all passengers affected by flight cancellations between December 3 and 5, aviation safety regulator DGCA said on Friday.

"Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is constantly engaging with domestic carrier Indigo with respect to refunds and compensations provided to the affected passengers due to operational disruptions from December 3-5," it said.

"Indigo informed that all refunds for Indigo flight cancellations during the period of December 3rd to December 5 have been fully processed and cleared to the original source of payment," DGCA said in a statement.

Further, as an additional measure to support affected passengers, the airline has extended a "gesture of care under which two travel vouchers of Rs 5,000 each are being provided with a validity of 12 months".

Passengers are entitled to compensation as per DGCA regulations that relate to "facilities" that are to be provided to passengers by airlines due to "denied boarding, cancellation of flights and delays in flights".

Meanwhile passengers' complaints regarding non-receipt of refunds for "the hundreds of flights cancelled abruptly between December 2-9 by the airline continue pouring in on the social media.



"Hey @Indigo6E, I received an email to submit details for a flight cancellation in Dec to get a 5K refund per flight. It's been 10+ days since I submitted everything, but still no refund. Support hasn't been helpful. Please look into this urgently," a passenger said in a post on X, with a hashtag #RefundDelay, on Friday.

"Looking to connect with lawyers who have filed or are filing lawsuits against @Indigo6E for the recent flight disruptions. Despite severe delays/cancellations, I still have not received my refund," said another passenger in an X post on Thursday.

On December 9, Union Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu had told Parliament that "Indigo was ordered to issue refunds promptly and more than Rs 750 crore has already reached passengers".

Following the large-scale disruptions in Indigo operations, aviation watchdog DGCA set up a four-member committee headed by Joint Director General Sanjay K Brahmane to carry out a comprehensive review and assessment of the circumstances that led to the massive flight disruptions.

EPFO Members Can Withdraw EPF Money Through UPI By Apr

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- EPFO subscribers will be able to withdraw their employees' provident fund (EPF) directly to their bank accounts through UPI payment gateway by April this year, a top source has said.

The labour ministry is working on a project where a certain proportion of the EPF will be frozen, and a large chunk will be available for withdrawal through their bank account using Unified Payment Interface (UPI), the source told PTI.

He explained that the subscribers will be able to see the eligible EPF balance available for transferring into their seeded bank accounts.

They will be allowed to use their linked UPI pin for completing the transaction to ensure a secure transfer of money into their bank accounts.

Once the money is transferred into bank accounts, the members can use the money the way they want, like making payments electronically or withdrawing through bank ATMs using debit cards.

The source stated that the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is trying to resolve software glitches for the smooth implementation of

this system, which will benefit around eight crore members.

Presently, the members of EPFO have to apply for withdrawal claims to access their EPF money, which is time-consuming.

Under the auto-settlement mode, the withdrawal claims are settled electronically without manual intervention within three days of filing the application form.

The limit of this auto-settlement mode has already been raised to Rs 5 lakh from the existing Rs 1 lakh.

This will facilitate a large number of EPFO members to access their EPF money within three days for illness, education, marriage, and housing purposes.

EPFO, which has about 8 crore members, first introduced online auto-settlement of advance claims during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide quick assistance to those facing financial crunch.

However, all members have to file claims to access their own EPF.

The new system is being evolved to avoid this time-consuming process and reduce the burden of the EPFO, as over 5 crore claims, mostly for withdrawing EPF, are settled every year.

Silver Defies Gravity; Hits Another Record Of Rs 2.92 Lakh/kg In Delhi

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Silver price extended its record-setting rally for the sixth straight day by rising Rs 3,600 to Rs 2,92,600 per kg in the national capital on Friday amid sustained buying by stockists, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

However, gold of 99.9 per cent purity retreated from its all-time high level and declined by Rs 1,100 to Rs 1,46,200 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) from Rs 1,47,300 per 10 grams in the previous session. Silver had closed at Rs 2,89,000 per kilogram on Thursday.

Traders said silver remained resilient on the back of persistent industrial offtake, shrugging off weak global trends.

The white metal has now climbed 20.16 per cent, or Rs 49,100, in just six sessions, up from Rs 2,43,500 per kilogram on January 8.

Silver continues to outpace gold for the second consecutive year, delivering 22.4 per cent returns.

Meanwhile, spot gold and silver extended their decline for the second straight day in the international markets, with prices dipping amid a stronger US dollar and fading geopolitical risk premium after reduced tensions in the Middle East. Spot gold fell by USD 12.46, or 0.27 per cent, to USD 4,603.51 per ounce.

"Spot gold is trading 0.25 per cent down at around USD 4,606 per ounce. The yellow metal is under pressure as the US strike on Iran has been averted," Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities, Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said.

Spot silver fell 2.26 per cent, or USD 2.08, to USD 90.33 per ounce on Friday.

In the previous session, the white metal had increased to a fresh record of USD 93.57 per ounce before plunging nearly 8 per cent to an intraday low of USD 86.30 per ounce after the US administration refrained from imposing an import tax on silver and other critical metals.

Rupee Slumps 50 Paise To Near Record Low Of 90.84 Against Dollar

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- The rupee tumbled for the third straight session and lost 50 paise to settle near its lowest level at 90.84 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, amid rising crude oil prices and sustained outflow of foreign funds.

Volatile global sentiment and a firm American currency accelerated the withdrawal of foreign institutional investors, even as domestic investors resorted to value buying, forex traders said.

According to traders rupee faced pressure after data released on Thursday showed India's trade deficit widened slightly to USD 25.04 billion in December 2025, compared to USD 24.53 billion in November and USD 22 billion in December 2024.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 90.37 and touched an intraday low of 90.89, a tad above its lowest-ever closing level. It ended the session at 90.84 (provisional) against the greenback, down 50 paise from Wednesday's close.

The rupee declined by 11 paise to close at 90.34 against the US dollar on Wednesday, after falling 6 paise on Tuesday.

The domestic foreign exchange market was closed on Thursday due to the Mumbai municipal corporation elections.

The Indian currency recorded its lowest closing level of 90.93 on December 16, when it also saw its lifetime low of 91.14 in intraday trade.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said the rupee fell for the third consecutive session amid persistent foreign fund outflows and a strong dollar overnight.

He said the dollar strengthened after better-than-expected US unemployment claims and manufacturing data.

KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED (KPDCL) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER/ELECTRIC DIVISION BUDGAM

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited, e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from registered A class Contractors for Works, as details below; -

NIT No./Date	Name of work(s)	Installation of 100 KVA transformer at Muslimabad, main road Check No.1 near the H/O Junaid Ahmad Baba.
NIT No.EDB_109 of- 2025-26 Dated: 15-01-2026	Adv. Cost Validity of Contract	3.50 INR Lacs Financial year 2025-26
NIT No.EDB 110 of-2025-26 Dated: 15-01-2026	Name of work(s) Adv. Cost Validity of Contract	Augmentation of 63 KVA Substation to 100 KVA at Ahanger Mohalla Lalpora. 2.41 INR Lacs Financial year 2025-26

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

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 15-01-2026; 4:00 PM
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	15-01-2026; 4:00 PM
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	24-01-2026; 2:00 PM
D	Clarification start date	15-01-2026; 4:00 PM
E	Clarification End date	16-01-2026; 4:00 PM
F	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	16-01-2026; 4:00 PM
G	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	24-01-2026; 2:00 PM
H	Hard Copy of e-tender fee and EMD Instrument & Affidavit that the Firm/Contractor is not Black listed by any of the Govt. Offices.	Up-to 24-01-2026; 2:00 PM in office of the Executive Engineer ED- Budgam
I	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	24-01-2026; 04:30 PM
J	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
K	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	office of the Executive Engineer ED-Budgam

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.
No: EDB/9983
Dated: 16-01-2026.

DIPK-NB-3039-25
DT: 16/01/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Electric Division Budgam.

Ladakh Meeting in February, First Since Sep 24 Clashes

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The High Powered Committee (HPC) on the Union Territory of Ladakh will hold its first meeting after the September clashes last year on February 4, marking the resumption of suspended deliberations between the Centre and representatives from the Union Territory.

The meeting to be chaired by Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai will take place here as the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) continue to stick to their core demands, seeking constitutional safeguards and greater political autonomy for the Union territory created in 2019.

The talks were suspended following the violent clashes on September 24 between security forces and protesters demanding statehood and Sixth Schedule status for Ladakh, leaving four civilians dead and 90 injured.

"...it is conveyed that the next meeting of the High Powered Committee for the UT of Ladakh under the Chairmanship of Shri Nityanand Rai, Minister of State for Home Affairs, GoI will be held on 04.02.2026 at 4.00 PM..." a notice issued by Deputy Secretary Ruchika Katyal on Friday said.



A meeting between leaders of Ladakh and home ministry representatives took place in October 2025 for sub-committee level talks, where the Ladakh representatives had demanded an immediate release of all arrested leaders, including climate activist Sonam Wangchuck, the widely recognised face of the agitation. Wangchuck, arrested under the stringent National Security Act (NSA), is currently lodged in Jodhpur jail. The NSA empowers the Centre and states to detain individuals to prevent them from acting in a manner "prejudicial to the defence of India".

The maximum detention period under the NSA is 12 months, though it can be revoked earlier. The LAB and KDA have been

demanding full statehood with its own legislative assembly to ensure greater political representation and self-governance, to protect the unique culture, fragile ecosystem and land rights of the predominantly tribal population by granting autonomous district councils, two Lok Sabha seats and the formation of a dedicated recruitment body to tackle high unemployment among the local youth, and ensure job reservations for Ladakh residents.

On June 3, 2025, following a meeting of the HPC on May 27, the home ministry announced new reservation and domicile policies for Ladakh, reserving 85 per cent of jobs for locals and one-third of the total number of seats in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils for women.

Owaisi's AIMIM Wins 114 Seats in Maharashtra Civic Polls

Press Trust Of India

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar: Asaduddin Owaisi's door-to-door campaign as well as the hurt of narrow losses in previous polls galvanised the workers of All India Majlis E Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) in the Maharashtra civic elections, resulting in the party winning 114 seats across the state, its leader Shareque Naqshbandi said here on Friday.

The AIMIM won 33 seats in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, 21 in Malegaon, 15 in Amravati, 13 in Nanded, 10 in Dhule, eight in Solapur, six in Mumbai, five in Thane, two in Jalgaon and one in Chandrapur.

Winning 80 seats in earlier civic polls gave the party an idea of the temperament of the urban voter, which too helped, Naqshbandi told PTI.

"Initially, AIMIM faced a challenge from its own people over candidature in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar. Later, the presence of Asaduddin Owaisi and his rallies in potent pockets resulted in AIMIM winning 33 out of 37 seats we contested here. We have bagged wins from Mumbai to Chandrapur this time," he said.

Owaisi gave more time to the campaign when compared to 2015 and succeeded



in overcoming dissidence by speaking to disgruntled leaders and convincing nearly 70 per cent of them, Naqshbandi said. "The rest had already moved ahead by joining other political parties. We brought these people together and this got converted into votes. There were divisions among the opposition parties, which proved to be an opportunity to us. Moreover Asaduddin Owaisi went door to door in the areas where we were contesting. He pointed out local civic issues in smaller rallies which appealed to the voter," he added. Moreover, narrow losses, like

the one faced by Intiaz Jaleel in the 2024 assembly elections from Aurangabad East, had hurt workers who put in extra efforts, Naqshbandi said. Speaking on the Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar civic poll results, former MP Jaleel said the BJP was fighting with the aim of ending the Shiv Sena here. "The BJP had money and resources but they had a target to end Shiv Sena led by Eknath Shinde. They severed the alliance at the last moment and achieved their target. Now Shiv Sena is behind us here. They have 4-5 MLAs, one MP and a minister here. But they could

do nothing and people have answered them through votes," he told reporters. "The people of the city have stood with AIMIM for the past 12 years, resulting in 33 wins, Jaleel added. "We are the second biggest party in the city after BJP. We have given candidature to the ordinary people here and they have won here. This is a tight slap to those political parties who gave candidature to their relatives. While the opposition called AIMIM communal, we made people from the Hindu community win seats," he said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Trump: Back US

That encounter didn't resolve the deep differences, but did produce an agreement to set up a working group — on whose purpose Denmark and the White House then offered sharply diverging public views. Greenland is a semi-autonomous territory of Denmark, a NATO ally of the US. (AP)

Kashmir's Higher

and Aru Valley. The forecaster added that light snowfall was possible at Gulmarg and along the Pir Panjal range, including the Mughal Road, Sinthan Top, and Margan Top. At the time of filing this report, snowfall was continuing in many of these areas.

Following the snowfall, minimum temperatures showed a slight rise across most parts of the region. In the Kashmir Valley, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.5 degrees Celsius on Friday, up from minus 3.9 degrees Celsius a day earlier. Qazigund recorded minus 1.6 degrees Celsius compared to minus 4.7 degrees, while Pahalgam registered minus 2.6 degrees against minus 5.0 degrees on Thursday. Kupwara recorded a minimum of minus 1.4 degrees, improving from minus 4.9 degrees.

South Kashmir stations also reported higher night temperatures. Anantnag recorded minus 2.8 degrees Celsius compared to minus 5.7 degrees the previous day, while Pulwama and Shopian recorded minus 4.6 degrees and minus 3.9 degrees respectively, up from minus 6.1 degrees each. Kokernag recorded 0.2 degrees Celsius, compared to minus 1.1 degrees a day earlier.

In north and central Kashmir, Baramulla recorded 0.4 degrees Celsius against minus 2.2 degrees, Bandipora minus 0.7 degrees against minus 2.7 degrees, and Ganderbal 0.1 degrees compared to minus 2.6 degrees. Srinagar airport recorded a minimum of minus 2.8 degrees Celsius, up from minus 5.0 degrees. Gulmarg recorded minus 2.3 degrees, slightly higher than the previous day's minus 3.2 degrees.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a minimum of 4.7 degrees Celsius, marginally higher than Thursday's 4.4 degrees. Banihal recorded 2.9 degrees against 1.9 degrees, Batote 7.7 degrees against 4.9 degrees, and Katra 8.8 degrees compared to 6.8 degrees a day earlier. Baderwah and Udhampur recorded 2.0 degrees and 3.0 degrees respectively, rising from sub-zero readings on Thursday.

Ladakh remained colder, though temperatures there also showed a marginal increase. Leh recorded a minimum of minus 8.8 degrees Celsius, Hanle minus 11.2 degrees, Kargil minus 8.3 degrees, and Nubra Valley minus 7.1 degrees.

According to the weatherman, no major weather activity is expected till January 21, though light snowfall is likely at scattered places on January 19 and 20. From January 22 to 24, there is a possibility of light to moderate rain or snow at most places, while some districts of the Chenab Valley, Pir Panjal range, and south Kashmir may receive heavier precipitation.

An advisory has been issued warning of possible heavy rain or snow in parts of the Chenab Valley, Pir Panjal range, and south Kashmir, along with the risk of landslides at vulnerable locations. Farmers have been advised to suspend farm operations during this period, the advisory said.

25-Yr-Old Gets

seven years under Section 363 IPC (kidnapping). However it directed that all sentences run concurrently. In default of payment of the fine, the convict will undergo three months' additional imprisonment, the court said. The period already spent in custody will be set off under Section 428 CrPC, the court said.

The case dates back to April 2021 and according to the prosecution the FIR was registered

when the victim's father reported his 17-year-old daughter missing. Police later recovered the minor from the accused's custody at Srinagar locality. Following FSL and medical opinions, charges under POCSO and 376 IPC were added.

While the defence sought leniency citing the convict's young age, lack of prior criminal record, family dependency, and reformative justice, the prosecution argued for stringent punishment, emphasizing the deterrent intent of the POCSO Act and the lasting impact of such crimes on children.

While announcing the quantum, the court held that the aggravating circumstances outweighed the mitigating factors, warranting a sentence above the minimum but below the maximum.

The court also noted that the victim had already received Rs 2 lakh as interim compensation and ordered final compensation of Rs 5 lakh for rehabilitation. The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, has been directed to process the release of compensation through the State Legal Services Authority, J&K.

AI-Driven Nations

he has full faith in confidence, courage and innovation of startups and entrepreneurs in India, and noted that the nation's future is taking shape.

He said the time has come for startups to also focus on manufacturing and research. Today's research becomes tomorrow's intellectual property, the PM said.

On the India startup success story, Modi said several schemes have been rolled out to provide seed fund to startups, while outdated rules have been done away with.

"We have removed outdated rules and trusted innovators," he said.

Startup India was launched on January 16, 2016, as a transformative national programme to nurture innovation, promote entrepreneurship and enable investment-driven growth, with the objective of making India a nation of job creators rather than job seekers.

On Friday, at the programme marking a decade of the Startup India initiative, PM also interacted with founders of India's vibrant startup ecosystem.

Universities 2.0 Must

for Health and Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education and Social Welfare Sakeena Masood Itoo; Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu Prof Umesh Rai; Vice Chancellor of the University of Kashmir Prof Nilofer Khan; and senior officials from academia, civil administration, and central institutions.

The University Council accorded in-principle approval to several agenda items aligned with the National Education Policy 2020 and University Grants Commission guidelines. These included the adoption of a Strategic Action Plan for 2025-2030, introduction of a five-year integrated UG-PG programme in Mathematical Sciences, constitution of a Jammu University Animal Welfare Club, and establishment of a Centre for Regional Studies, Culture, Dialectics and Emotional Intelligence.

The Council also approved changes in course nomenclature, including renaming B.Tech (Information Technology) as B.Tech (Information Technology and Mathematical Innovation) under the four-year undergraduate programme, and guidelines for granting duty leave to teachers.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the University of Jammu to collaborate with financial institutions to improve student employability and undertake a rigorous impact assessment of existing skill development courses. He also called for focused efforts to promote studies in local cultural heritage, languages, and arts, and to revive the Guru Nanak Dev Chair of Sufi Studies.

Highlighting the role of universities in addressing local challenges, the Lieutenant Governor stressed the need for developing advanced early warning systems for natural disasters and enhancing research coordination among institutions. He said academic institutions cannot function in isolation and must align their research capabilities with societal priorities.

He further directed the establishment of animal welfare clubs across all universities and called for increased youth participation in programmes such as Yuva Connect and the Nasha Mukta Bharat campaign.

The Council reviewed the progress of the Gandhi Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies and the expansion of IT-enabled services. To enhance administrative efficiency, the Lieutenant Governor instructed the streamlining of the e-office system, implementation of IT-enabled services, and timely completion of ongoing infrastructure projects.

Discussions were also held on streamlining direct recruitment processes, effective implementation of a comprehensive sports policy, and improving the overall quality of teaching, learning, and research.

Prof Umesh Rai presented a progress report highlighting the achievements of the University of Jammu, while the Registrar placed various agenda items before the Council for consideration and ratification. It was also informed that the University of Jammu has been recognised as a SPOKE institution with IIT Delhi as the hub under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation's Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research programme.

The chair was briefed on the action taken on decisions of the previous Council meeting, with the Lieutenant Governor reiterating that universities must evolve into dynamic institutions driving innovation, inclusivity, and social change.

'Artists, Gen Z

Happiness and the Art Club at IIM Jammu. He felicitated renowned and emerging artists and students for their contribution to creativity and innovation.

"Artists and Gen Z entrepreneurs will forge India's future together. Art and business alliance is a unique power, and imagination and investment together can build a vibrant and developed society," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He described artists as architects of national pride who shape identity, unity, and progress. Highlighting the convergence of creativity and leadership, he said the combined energy of creative minds and future CEOs can become a new engine of national growth. "On one hand, we have dreamers as artists, and on the other, doers as next generation leaders. Their united effort will redefine the pace of progress," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that in an era driven by artificial intelligence and machine learning, creative thinking is more critical than ever to discover new opportunities. He underlined that business management professionals must remain open to experiential learning and adopt new approaches to problem-solving.

Calling art a vital pillar of interdisciplinary education, he said it enriches institutions, transforms personalities, and fosters a sense of belonging, thereby strengthening responsibility towards society and the nation. "Art is the heartbeat of the nation and the conscience of the nation. It shapes values, preserves identity, encourages dialogue, and inspires collective purpose," he added.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated eminent and emerging painters and commended IIM Jammu for initiating a unique academic-cultural platform that integrates creativity with management education.

The event was attended by B S Sahay, Shakti Gupta, Prof Shyam Narayan Lal, noted painter K

K Gandhi, senior officials, heads of educational institutions, faculty members, and a large number of students and youth.

LG, CM Greet People

us on the path of harmony and kindness. I pray for good health, happiness and prosperity for all," he said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, in his felicitation message, highlighted the deep spiritual significance of Shab-e-Meraj-un-Nabi (PBUH), which commemorates the miraculous night journey and ascension of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). He said the occasion reaffirms the truthfulness, greatness, and unwavering devotion of the Prophet (SAW) to Almighty Allah.

Describing Shab-e-Meraj as a powerful reminder of the Prophet's exemplary character, the Chief Minister said the night reflects values of honesty, integrity, and spiritual eminence. He called upon the people to imbibe the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) to build a society rooted in compassion, tolerance, and unity.

The Chief Minister also offered prayers for lasting peace, prosperity, and communal harmony in Jammu and Kashmir, urging people to draw inspiration from the message of Shab-e-Meraj to strengthen social cohesion and mutual respect.

This Is About

trust and long-standing partnerships with the travel trade.

"Today I have not come to promote Jammu and Kashmir tourism. I have not come to sell J&K as a tourist destination amongst you. I have not come to talk about the beauty of Kashmir, you also know it," Omar Abdullah said, underlining the historic bond between Jammu and Kashmir and the travel fraternity of Maharashtra and Gujarat.

He highlighted the vital role played by Maharashtra in supporting and sustaining Jammu and Kashmir's tourism sector over the years, particularly during challenging periods. The Chief Minister acknowledged the solidarity and continued support extended by Maharashtra-based travel agencies following the Pahalgam attack last year, noting that their confidence helped restore tourist inflow and rebuild trust in the destination.

"Maharashtra has always been one of the strongest source markets for Jammu and Kashmir tourism. The support shown by the travel fraternity, especially during difficult times, reflects a deep and enduring partnership," he said.

The Chief Minister also outlined the diverse tourism potential of the region, including leisure, adventure, pilgrimage, and wellness tourism, and stressed the government's focus on promoting year-round tourism. He reiterated the administration's commitment to ensuring safety, improving infrastructure, and creating a tourist-friendly environment to support sustainable growth in the sector.

The outreach programme, organised as part of the Maharashtra and Gujarat Travel Fraternity Outreach, also witnessed the felicitation of prominent travel agents and associations for their contribution towards promoting tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.

The event was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani; Member of Parliament Gurinder Singh Shammi; MLA Gulmarg Peerzada Feroze Ahmed Shah; Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta; and heads and representatives of major travel bodies from Maharashtra and Gujarat.

The interaction provided a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and renewed commitment to position Jammu and Kashmir as a preferred destination for domestic and international tourists alike.

Haj 2026 Booking

valid passports to the Haj Committee of India or the concerned HGOs, and ensuring successful onboarding on the Nusuk Portal within the stipulated timeline.

The advisory reiterated that pilgrims must carefully verify their registration status, quota allocation, and approval of the concerned operators before making any booking. It also stressed that bookings should be made only through authorised Haj Group Organisers and private tour operators.

"In view of the requests received and in the larger interest of pilgrims, a final extension has been granted till January 25, 2026. No further extension shall be allowed beyond this date under any circumstances," a senior official at Haj House Srinagar said.

The ministry has urged pilgrims to complete the formalities well before the deadline to avoid last-minute difficulties.

J&K Students Fly

at 2.40 am.

Another batch of students is departing from Tehran International Airport on board Mahan Air flight W5-071, which is expected to arrive in New Delhi at 12.10 am, sources said. They added that the students, along with a significant number of pilgrims, are travelling on the two flights and are expected to proceed to Srinagar on morning flights.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of External Affairs has issued an advisory urging Indian nationals to avoid all travel to Iran and advising those already present there to leave by available means, including commercial flights. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the situation in Iran is being closely monitored and that the government will take all necessary steps to ensure the safety and welfare of Indian citizens.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday said it is closely monitoring the evolving security situation in Iran and has issued advisories for Indian nationals, while clarifying that India's engagement at the Chabahar port is continuing under a conditional US sanctions waiver.

Responding to queries during the weekly media briefing, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said around 9,000 Indian nationals are currently present in Iran. He said they include students, businesspersons, professionals, pilgrims and seafarers.

"In view of the prevailing situation, we have issued advisories asking Indian nationals to avoid all travel to Iran. Those who are already residing there have been advised to leave by available means, including commercial flights," Jaiswal said.

He added that the government is keeping a close watch on developments and will take all necessary steps to ensure the safety and welfare of Indians in the country. "We continue to closely monitor the unfolding situation and will act as required to safeguard our citizens," he said.

Peaceful Pro-Iran

worshippers staged demonstrations in several areas including Bemina, Sajjadabad, Hassanabad, Gupkar and Lawaypora. Protesters raised slogans in favour of spiritual leader Ayatollah Syed Ali Khamenei and against the United States and Israel.

Similar demonstrations were also witnessed in many Budgam areas including in the main town besides various localities of Baramulla district in north and in the Gangoo area of Pulwama in south Kashmir.

Participants carried placards and banners expressing solidarity with Iran and condemned what they described as US pressure and interference.

Officials said all demonstrations remained peaceful, and the protesters dispersed without any untoward incident being reported.

Braving sub zero temperatures people joined massive rallies in Kargil district of frontier Ladakh as well, reports reaching here said.

U-19 World Cup: India Start Favourites Against Bangladesh

Press Trust of India

BULAWAYO: Seeking to continue their confident start to the tournament, a well-balanced India will begin as firm favourites despite facing a tricky Bangladesh in their second match of the ICC U-19 World Cup here Saturday.

Five-time champions India started their campaign on expected lines, registering a six-wicket win over USA after bundling the opponents out for a paltry 107 in a rain-hit match, with right-arm pacer Henil Patel returning exceptional figures of 5/16 in seven overs and the other bowlers also doing a fine job.

The star-studded Indian batting line-up will hope to get an extended run at the crease against Bangladesh, who are likely to pose a greater challenge to the Ayush Mhatre-led side



after a rather comfortable win against the USA.

The opening duo of Mhatre and the incredible 14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi will again lead the batting in the company of vice-captain Vihaan Malhotra,

all-rounders Aaron George and Vedant Trivedi and wicketkeeper Abhigyan Kundu.

D. Deepesh, RS Ambrish, Henil Patel, Kishan Kumar Singh and Udhav Mohan offer the team pace bowling options, while the

likes of Kanishk Chouhan, Khilan Patel and Mohamed Eana shoulder the spin bowling responsibility.

Champions in five of the 16 editions, India are by far the most dominant team in the history of the competition, which started back in 1988 with Australia emerging winners in the inaugural event.

Raising their prospects further is the team's form in the last one year, having won series in England, Australia and South Africa. The victory against USA was India's 14th in last 17 matches, and the side is backing itself to continue the excellent run of form against their next opponents.

As far as Bangladesh are concerned, they have captain Azizul Hakim who has a fair bit of experience, and a lot will depend on how he marshals his side in the

tournament in Zimbabwe and Namibia.

With his deputy Zawad Abrar, Hakim will spearhead the Bangladesh batting. The duo have been prolific at the under-19 level, having scored over 1000 runs in Youth ODIs since the last edition of the tournament in 2024. Kalam Siddiki, with 857 runs in this period, is another prolific run-getter in the side.

Bangladesh also carry a potent bowling attack, with pacers Iqbal Hossain and Al Fahad expected to get plenty of support in pace-friendly conditions in Zimbabwe.

These two are the most successful bowlers since the last U19 World Cup with 45 and 43 wickets to their names respectively. Not too far behind is left-arm spinner Samiun Basir, who had 29 wickets in this period, at an economy of under four.

Improved Leipzig Seeking Revenge Against 'World's Best' Bayern

Five months on from being on the wrong end of a 6-0 Bundesliga drubbing by Bayern Munich, RB Leipzig captain David Raum is confident his improving side can "hurt" the league leaders.

Ruthless Bayern sounded out an alarm to the competition in the season opener, with Harry Kane hitting a second-half hat-trick, Michael Olise bagging a brace and Luis Diaz scoring on his Bundesliga debut.

With half the season gone, record-breaking Bayern are unbeaten and are officially the best team in Bundesliga history at this point in a campaign.

After a summer rebuild, the first under 'Global Head of Football' Jurgen Klopp, coach Ole Werner and several new players made their Bundesliga debuts for Leipzig against Bayern.

Speaking to AFP on Thursday, Raum called Bayern "the best team in the world at the moment" but expected a "completely different game" this time around.

"They killed us," Raum admitted, but said "we have some new players and we play completely differently to the start of the season."

"Now, the coach has a better feeling for us and how we play - and we have a better feeling of what he wants from us."

A fixture in the Germany squad, Raum is close with several Bayern starters - something the defender wants to use to his advantage. (AFP)

ICC Officials To Visit Bangladesh To Resolve T20 WC Imbroglio

DUBAI: A two-member team of the ICC will land in Dhaka on Saturday to resolve the deadlock surrounding Bangladesh's participation in next month's T20 World Cup in India, hoping to allay their security concerns having already indicated that a change of venue is impractical.

Bangladesh has been asking the global governing body to relocate its World Cup matches, scheduled to be held in Kolkata and Mumbai, on the pretext of a perceived security threat to its players.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) raised this demand after national team pacer Mustafizur Rahman was abruptly delinked from his IPL contract with the Kolkata Knight Riders following a BCCI directive.

"Yes, that's the information (ICC officials' visit to Dhaka) at the moment. Discussions are going on at the moment, and all possible ways to handle the situation will be discussed. We



expect Bangladesh government officials to also take part in the talks," a source privy to the development told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

He said the Bangladesh Cricket Board has already conveyed to the ICC of its apprehensions during a recent video conference, particularly with regard to playing in Mumbai.

Bangladesh is scheduled to face Nepal in their final Group C match at the Wankhede Stadium on February 17.

But the board informed the ICC that remarks by a few Indian politicians from Mumbai could be considered as a threat to its players' security.

The BCB source indicated that the possibility of moving the matches to a different Indian city, possibly to the southern parts, or to Sri Lanka will be pondered over in the parley, which might take place at the Sher-e-Bangla stadium in Dhaka.

However, it's learnt that the ICC was firm in its view that such hypothetical sce-

narios could not be viewed as a strong reason to shift the venues of matches.

In its own security assessment of the marquee event, the ICC had placed the threat perception at low to moderate -- a regular norm during such events.

The Bangladesh side, it's learnt, will again raise the point of Mustafizur's removal from the IPL to reinforce its claims of security threats to its players in India, along with the recent spate of anti-Bangladesh protests in various parts of the country.

But the ICC is unlikely to move away from its stand that last-minute venue changes will set an unwanted precedent and other member nations too can come up with such demands in future, which can pose significant challenges to an already-published schedule.

The governing body will also try to convince Bangladesh of the tight security measures which will be in place during the World Cup.

Barcelona Scrape Into Copa Del Rey Quarter-Finals, Day After Real Madrid's Embarrassing Exit

AFP

Ferran Torres and Lamine Yamal fired Barcelona to a 2-0 win over Racing Santander and into the Copa del Rey quarter-finals on Thursday. The Spanish internationals' strikes helped holders Barca defeat second division leaders Racing to progress from a surprisingly tight last 16 clash and record an 11th consecutive victory across all competitions. The hosts had two goals disallowed for offside and record 32-time winners Barca did just enough to claim victory.

"We didn't think they would be so hard to break down," admitted Torres to



Movistar.

"We knew that we had to stretch the game, be calm and in the end it went well."

Having seen Real Madrid eliminated at second-tier Albacete on Wednesday Barca coach

Hansi Flick named a fairly strong side, including teenage star Yamal.

After a 15 minute delay with some fans stuck outside, the match kicked off at Racing's Sardinero stadium, and Barca quickly took

control of the ball.

The Catalans struggled to turn possession into a meaningful opening though, and when they finally did Dani Olmo missed his kick from Marcus Rashford's dangerous cross.

Racing looked to breach Barcelona's high defensive line but when they did get in behind the visitors managed to mop up well.

Giorgi Guliashvili's low effort from range was fielded comfortably by Joan Garcia, and that was as close as the hosts came.

Barcelona continued to push forward in the second half and Rashford had a shot tipped away and also drilled narrowly wide.

Has Figure Skating Reached the Limits of Human Performance?

DAVE SKRETTA

NEW YORK: It was at a relatively minor event in upstate New York in September 2022 that Ilya Malinin, the self-anointed "Quad God" who was fast becoming the biggest name in figure skating, finally landed the jump that so many people had thought impossible.

Others had tried quad axles in competition over the years. All of them had fallen. That extra 180 degrees of rotation - necessary for the only jump in skating that starts with a forward-facing entry - proved to be a half-revolution too much.

So when Malinin landed it inside the arena made famous by the U.S. hockey team's upset of the Soviets at the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, it not only sent shockwaves through the tight-knit skating community but made headlines around the world. "My mind was just blown," said two-time Olympic skater Jason Brown.

Yet by conquering the gravity-defying jump, Malinin also raised an important question: What comes next? The six main jumps in figure skating have been standard since the early 1900s. The only difference between then and now is the number of revolutions. Dick Button landed the first double axel in 1948, and the first triple jump four years later. Kurt Browning landed the first quad, a toe loop, in 1988, and it was 10 years before Timothy Goebel landed the first quad salchow.

By landing the quad axel, Malinin may have maxed



out the boundaries of human performance. Most sports scientists agree that the speed and amplitude necessary for five-revolution jumps truly is impossible, leaving figure skating at a crossroads, where a dearth of innovation threatens to take the shine off a sport already fighting to maintain popularity.

"I think it's kind of natural that we were going to get to this point," said Malinin, the overwhelming favorite to win gold for the U.S. at the Milan Cortina Olympics. "But I haven't reached my top, whether it's in the technical and how much I can jump and spin, but also in the creativity."

Risk and reward Malinin, 20, points to his signature "raspberry twist," a somersaulting spin unlike anything that anybody else does. He created it himself, and it tends to bring down the house whenever he throws it down near the end of his programs.

Yet the flashy maneuver also underscores one

of the inherent problems with trying to be creative: It doesn't get rewarded.

The International Skating Union has rigid requirements for both short programs and free skates, and it rarely pays off to deviate too far from the script. Malinin might not get a lot of extra points for landing his raspberry twist, for example, since it is not one of the six standard figure skating jumps, but a failure to land it could cost him dearly.

"Absolutely, there are a lot of things I've wanted to try," Malinin told The Associated Press, "because I think it would be really cool and appealing. But it's a bigger risk for the program itself, and the system and scoring means it doesn't make sense."

In other words, what's the point in trying to innovate?

"There are so many rules in your programs that you don't have too much wiggle room," said Alysa Liu, the reigning world champion. "A lot of these rules really

restrict us. Like, all of our spins look the same now, but they could look so different."

"One of my training mates, Sonja Himler, does these incredible programs," added Amber Glenn, a three-time U.S. champion, and along with Liu one of the favorites to win Olympic gold for the American team in February.

"Like, she spins the other way, jumps the other way - really cool things that, you know, someone who's watched a little bit of skating will be like, Oh, I've never seen that before," Glenn said. "Whereas if I go and do, you know, the norm, and do it well, versus what she does, my scores will be better, even though what she does is way more impressive, in my opinion."

Justin Dillon, the manager of high performance at U.S. Figure Skating, acknowledged having had hard conversations with some skaters about their programs. They may have planned something unique or interesting, but the risk wouldn't be worth the reward.

"I encourage individuality, and bringing it to the ice," Dillon said, "but if they do something so avant-garde that it doesn't check those boxes, then it really doesn't serve them."

Relaxing the rules To its credit, figure skating's governing body has loosened some restrictions in recent years. The backflip, which was long banned in competition because of its inherent danger, is allowed now, though it also doesn't carry a whole lot of scoring weight. (AP)

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