29th year OF PUBLICATION

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Will it Won't it?

MeT Forecast Rain, Snow from Jan 22

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: A fresh weather advisory has been issued as back-to-back western disturbances (WDs) are forecast to affect Jammu and Kashmir over the coming days, prompting authorities to warn of rain, snowfall and possible disruption in vulnerable areas.

Officials said widespread light to moderate rain and snowfall is expected across Jammu and Kashmir, with heavy precipitation at isolated places. The main weather activity is likely on January 23 and January 27, particularly across the Kashmir Valley, including Gulmarg and adjoining areas of Baramulla district.

The Meteorological Department has cautioned that the upcoming weather systems may also trigger landslides and gusty winds at vulnerable locations, and has advised people to plan their activities accordingly in the coming days.

The advisory was issued by the Sub Divisional Magistrate Gulmarg on Tuesday, based on inputs from the India Meteorological Department Srinagar. According to the forecast, an intense western disturbance is likely to impact the region from January 22 to January 24, followed by another spell from the night of January 26 to the forenoon of January 28.

In view of the forecast, residents of the Gulmarg sub-division, especially those living in upper reaches, hilly slopes and avalanche-prone areas, have been advised to avoid unnecessary movement and refrain from venturing into high-altitude zones until | More on P10

Development Must Preserve Legacy While Improving Urban Mobility: LG

» Inaugurates Redeveloped Amira Kadal Pedestrian Bridge In Srinagar

» Says Prime Objective Is to Lift the Quality of Life to a New Level

Observer News Service

Srinagar: "A true smart city is never just about new infrastructure. It is about sparking an entirely new way of quality living that is vibrant, efficient and inclusive," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday as he inaugurated the redeveloped Amira Kadal pedestrian bridge in Srinagar.

The Lieutenant Governor said the historically significant project seeks to preserve the city's legacy while improving urban mobility and the overall quality of life for residents. The redevelopment of the wooden pedestrian bridge has been carried out under Srinagar Smart City Limited at a cost of Rs 7.70 crore and was launched in December 2023.

Dedicating the bridge to the people of Srinagar, Sinha said the administration's core objective is to lift the quality of life through modern technology and inclusive design, without erasing the cultural and historical character of cities.

"We have made it a mission to protect the soul of every city while upgrading or renovating infrastructure," he said. "By preserving historic lanes, bridges, traditional markets, lively squares and peaceful green spaces, we are weaving modern amenities into the cultural heartbeat of each city."

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that renovation and upgradation of urban infrastructure should act as a bridge linking heritage with the needs of today. He said this approach to development is already visible across several towns and cities of Jammu and Kashmir.

He cited projects such as the Jhelum Riverfront, redevelopment of Lal Chowk and MA Road, Polo View High Street, the Traditional Souq Market and craft centre at Batmaloo, lakefront development along the Northern Foreshore Road from Nishat to Naseem Bagh, improvement of ghats along the Jhelum, restoration of heritage market facades in Shehr-e-Khaas, and a | More on P10

J&K Bank Q3 Net Profit Up 10.4% YoY

On Track To Deliver Record Profits for Fourth Year: MD& CEO

Observer News Service

Srinagar: J&K Bank today announced healthy financial results for the October-December quarter (Q3 FY 25-26), with net profit rising by 18.7% Quarter-on-Quarter and 10.4% year-on-year (YoY) to Rs 586.73 Cr when compared to Rs 531.51 Cr recorded during the same period last fiscal.

The Bank's Board of Directors approved the numbers for the quarter and nine-months during a meeting held today at the Bank's Divisional Office in Jammu. Meanwhile, the Bank's net profit for the first nine months of current financial year grew 4.5% YoY to Rs 1565.68 Cr as against Rs 1497.92 Cr recorded for the same period last year, reflecting its sustained growth trajectory.

Operating Highlights

The Bank's | More on P10

J&K Bank
Serving To Empower
YOUR BANK SINCE 1938

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BANK LIMITED
CIN : L65110JK1938SGC000048

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2025

KEY RATIOS — Net Profit Growth 10.40 % | Net Interest Margin 3.62 % | Gross NPA 3.00 % | Net NPA 0.68 % | Cost to Income Ratio 55.88 % | Provision Coverage Ratio 90.46 %

(₹ in Lakh)

S. No.	PARTICULARS	STANDALONE						CONSOLIDATED					
		QUARTER ENDED			NINE MONTHS ENDED		YEAR ENDED	QUARTER ENDED			NINE MONTHS ENDED		YEAR ENDED
		31.12.2025	30.09.2025	31.12.2024	31.12.2025	31.12.2024	31.03.2025	31.12.2025	30.09.2025	31.12.2024	31.12.2025	31.12.2024	31.03.2025
		(REVIEWED)	(REVIEWED)	(REVIEWED)	(REVIEWED)	(REVIEWED)	(AUDITED)	(REVIEWED)	(REVIEWED)	(REVIEWED)	(REVIEWED)	(REVIEWED)	(AUDITED)
1	Total income from operations (net)	3,59,290	3,44,671	3,44,840	10,55,818	10,05,651	13,67,267	3,59,686	3,45,026	3,45,171	10,56,977	10,06,880	13,68,802
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	80,606	63,355	75,791	2,09,736	2,12,452	2,93,370	80,720	63,468	75,846	2,10,124	2,12,901	2,93,868
3	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period before Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	80,606	63,355	75,791	2,09,736	2,12,452	2,93,370	80,720	63,468	75,846	2,10,124	2,12,901	2,93,868
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after Tax, (after Exceptiona and/or Extraordinary items)	58,673	49,411	53,151	1,56,568	1,49,792	2,08,246	58,149	49,492	52,860	1,56,094	1,49,988	2,08,179
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period {Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)}	Refer Note No. 2						Refer Note No. 2					
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of previous year						12,90,312						12,85,949
8	Securities Premium Account	2,91,950	2,91,950	2,91,950	2,91,950	2,91,950	2,91,950	2,91,950	2,91,950	2,91,950	2,91,950	2,91,950	2,91,950
9	Net Worth	14,52,547	13,95,624	12,58,761	14,52,547	12,58,761	13,01,326	14,27,462	13,71,248	12,54,662	14,27,462	12,54,662	12,96,962
10	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	2,38,100	2,38,100	2,38,100	2,38,100	2,38,100	2,38,100						
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-	-						
12	Debt Equity Ratio	0.16	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.19	0.18						
13	Total Debts to total assets	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01						
14	Operating Margin (%)	21.72%	18.06%	21.69%	19.66%	21.18%	21.43%						
15	Net Profit Margin (%)	16.33%	14.34%	15.41%	14.83%	14.90%	15.23%						
16	Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items) (₹ 1/- each) for continuing and discontinued operations												
	Basic : (* not annualized)	5.33*	4.49*	4.83*	14.22*	13.60*	18.91	5.28*	4.49*	4.80*	14.18*	13.62*	18.91
	Diluted : (* not annualized)	5.33*	4.49*	4.83*	14.22*	13.60*	18.91	5.28*	4.49*	4.80*	14.18*	13.62*	18.91
17	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-		-	-						
18	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-		-	-						

Note :

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarter and nine months ended Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarter and nine months ended Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites. www.nseindia.com, www.bseindia.com and on Bank's website https://jkb.bank.in/Investor/financial-information/financial-results
2. Information relating to Total comprehensive Income and Other Comprehensive Income is not furnished as Ind AS is not yet made applicable to Banks.

Place : Jammu
Dated : 20th January, 2026

For and on behalf of the Board

AMITAVA CHATTERJEE
Managing Director & CEO
DIN : 07082989

DIPK-NB-3059/25 Dated: 20.01.2026

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 37094-mcr-ix 92
Class 11th B.COM
Year & Session 1993/1994
Registration: 37094-MCR-IX-92
Name : Raisa Mukar Ahmed Shah
Father's Name: Peer Mukar Ahmed Shah
Mother's Name : Zamrooda Bano
Date of Birth:- 05-03-1977
Residenc:- Kanikadal Chotta Bazar Srinagar

According the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.
(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 5200 be treated as "CANCELLED")
No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)B/KD/22
Dated 09-11-2022

Assistant Secretary Certificates, KD.
imf

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 866226
Class 10th
Year & Session 1992/1993
Registration: 37094-MCR-IX-92
Name : Raisa Mukar Ahmed Shah
Father's Name: Peer Mukar Ahmed Shah
Mother's Name : Zamrooda Bano
Date of Birth:- 05-03-1977
Residenc:- Kanikadal Chotta Bazar Srinagar

According the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.
(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 5200 be treated as "CANCELLED")
No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)B/KD/22
Dated 09-11-2022

Assistant Secretary Certificates, KD.
imf

The Jammu And Kashmir

Board Of School Education Sub Office Budgam

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th)under Roll No:. 224218 Session: November 1995 Year 1995 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School against my name as Fatima Akhtar instead of Fatima Akhter

Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education Sub Office Budgam , if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub Office Budgam within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.
Name: Fatima Akhter
Father's name: Mohd Akram Bhat
Mother's Name: Muglee Bibi
DOB: 09-10-1979
Residence: Gariend Khured Budgam
Mobile no: 9906753406

RKO-R

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for general information that an application for issuance of a Death Certificate in respect of Rafiqa, W/o: Abdul Sattar Bulla, R/o:Bussarbagh, Ganderbal, who expired on 27-08-2024.
Any person having any objection with regard to the claim for issuance of the Death Certificate may file his/her objection, along with valid proof, before the office of the BDO, Ganderbal, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the said period, the case shall be processed as per rules.

Office of the Naib Tehsildar, Ganderbal

media line advt

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.: 433-Sig-T-72-25-26 Date: 19.01.2026
Closing Date/Time: 10.02.2026, 15:00 Hrs.

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on **https:///www.ireps.gov.in** against **Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-72-25-26 Closing Date/Time 10.02.2026, 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 this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money **only through online payment modes** available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

NIT HEADER

Contract Type	Works		
Name of Work	**(i)** S&T works in c/w (i) construction of two no. RCC box bridges of size 3.00mx2.50m each at Km 505/4-6 on JUC-ASR section and OHE 6/9-11 on ASR-PTK section by municipal corporation, Amritsar (pushing method for crossing of water pipe) in the jurisdiction of ADEN-II/ASR. (2) RCC boundary wall (as per NR type F-71) and other misc. works in c/w construction of ROB at KM 43/8-9 between RCF halt & Sultanpur Lodhi Railway station on JUC-FZR section of project the Railway boundaries. **(ii)** S&T work in c/w (1) Construction of LHS of internal size 5.0 * 5.0m at manned L-Xing No.C-34 on JUC-ASR section by pushing method in the section under ADEN-II/ASR (2) Construction of LHS of internal size 5.0 * 5.0m at manned L-sings No.C-39 on ASR-KEMK section by pushing method in the section ADEN-II/ASR (3) Construction of LHS of internal size 5.0 * 5.0m at manned L-xing No. C-64 on ASR-KEMK section by pushing method in the section under ADEN-II/ASR (4) Construction of LHS of internal size 5.0 * 5.0m at manned L-xing No. C-18 on ASR-KEMK section by pushing method in the section under ADEN-II/ASR (5) Construction LHS of internal size 5.0 * 5.0m at manned L-xing No. C16 on ASR-KEMK section by pushing method in the section under ADEN-II/ASR (6) Construction of LHS 5.0 * 5.0m at manned L-xing No. C-40 on JUC-ASR section by pushing method in the section under ADEN-II/ASR.		
Tender Closing Date, Time	10.02.2026 15:00 hrs.	**Date, Time of Uploading Tender**	19.01.2026 12:49 hrs.
Advertised Value (Rs.)	(i) 69,08,493.70 (ii) 50,89,538.23	**Bidding Start Date as per IREPS**	27.01.2026
Earnest Money (Rs.)	(i) 1,38,200.00 (ii) 1,01,800.00	**Period of Completion**	(i) 6 Months (ii) 6 Months

Note: Tenderer should keep himself updated about the Tender amendments, Corrigendum, etc. by remaining in touch regularly with the website.

202/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER

POSHAN PROJECT NARVAW

***

(PUBLIC NOTICE).

Subject: Selection List of Shayikas (Anganwadi Helper) of Poshan Project NARVAW.

In pursuance to Government Order No.103-JK(SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28-042023, and approval conveyed by Mission Director Poshan J&K Srinagar vide No: MD/Poshan/38352-55 Dated: 03-12-2024 , and post advertisement by this office Notice No: 02 - CDPO-N of 2025 Dated : :25-07-2025 under endorsement No: CDPO/Pos/Nar/2025-2026/360-374 dated: 25-07-2025 for selection of (Anganwadi Helpers) of Poshan Project NARVAW. . In response to said advertisement notice, application forms were received from the Panch Wards/ M.C wards within cut-off date i.e. 16-08-2025 and merit list of candidates has been prepared as per criteria laid down vide Government Order No.103-JK(SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28-04-2023 is annexed as (**Annexure-A)** , . The Provisional merit list of candidates is annexed herewith as **Annexure-B.** Both Selection list and provisional list are hereby published for information of general public and inviting appeal/objections if any. The appeal/objection if any against the said selection list, shall be filed in the office of Poshan Project NARVAW against proper receipt by or before **27-01-2026** up to 4:00 PM, no appeal/objection shall be entertained after expiry of the last date for filling appeal/objections.

ANNEXURE-A.

Merit List of Candidates who have applied for the post of Sahayikas (AWHs) in response to advertisement notice No: CDPO/PosNar/2025-26/360-374 dated: 25-07-2025.

Merit List of candidates who have applied for the post of Sahayikas (AWH) against the AWC Zandfarn-B (P. Ward: 06).

S No	Index No	Name of the candidate	Parentage/ W/o	Residence	Ward No	DOB	Highest Qualification	Marks obtained	Max Marks	%age	Weighage	Whether any relation with retired AWW/AWH	Additional 2 points	Total Merit
1	4	Sheeba Farooq	Javid Ahmad Malik	Zandfarn-B	Ward: (06)	05-03-1999	10th	218	500	43.60	43.60	No	0	43.60
2	6	Riffat Manzoor	Manzoor Ahmad Malik	Zandfarn-B	Ward: (06)	11-11-1997	10th	190	500	38.00	38.00	No	0	38.00
3	7	Ulfat Manzoor	Manzoor Ahmad Malik	Zandfarn-B	Ward: (06)	27-02-1995	10th	178	500	35.00	35.00	No	0	35.00

Merit List of candidates who have applied for the post of Sahayikas (AWH) against the AWC Fathadar Mohalla Jalsheeri (P. Ward: 07).

S No	Index No	Name of the candidate	Parentage/ W/o	Residence	Ward No	DOB	Highest Qualification	Marks obtained	Max Marks	%age	Weighage	Whether any relation with retired AWW/AWH	Additional 2 points	Total Merit
1	1	Asmat Bano	Manzoor Ahmad Dar	Fathadar Mohalla Jalsheeri	Ward: (07)	05-04-1988	10th	213	500	42.60	42.60	No	0	42.60

Merit List of candidates who have applied for the post of Sahayikas (AWH) against the AWC Rather Mohalla Khawajabagh (MC. Ward: 21).

S No	Index No	Name of the candidate	Parentage/ W/o	Residence	Ward No	DOB	Highest Qualification	Marks obtained	Max Marks	%age	Weighage	Whether any relation with retired AWW/AWH	Additional 2 points	Total Merit
1	2	Ulfat Dar	Ghulam Nabi Dar	Rather Mohalla Khawajabagh	Ward: (21)	02-01-1996	10th	302	500	60.40	60.40	No	0	60.40

Provisional Selection List of Candidates for the post of Shaiyikas (AWHs) for Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project NARVAW advertised vide notice No: CDPO/Pos/Nar/2025-2026/360-374 dated: 25-07-2025. **(ANNEXURE-B)**

SNO	INDEX NO.	NAM OF SELECTED CANDIDATE WITH PARANTAGE	RESIDENT of Paneh Ward No.	QUALIFICATION	DATE OF BIRTH	MARKS IN CLASS 12th	% of MARKS OF CLASS 12TH	Additional 2% Points o/a of candidate of family of retired AWW	Total Merit Points	Name of the Anganwadi Centre for which candidate is selected
1	4	Sheeba Farooq W/o Javid Ahmad Malik	06	10th	05-03-1999	218/500	43.60	Nil	43.60	Zandfarn-B Ward No: 06
2	1	Asmat BAno W/o Manzoor Ahmad DAr	07	10th	05-04-1988	213/500	42.60	Nil	42.60	Fathadar Mohalla ward : 07
3	2	Ulfat Dar D/o Ghulam Nabi Dar	21	10th	02-01-1996	302/500	60.40	Nil	60.40	Rather Mohalla Khawajabgh ward : 21

DIPK-10222/25 dated: 20-01-2026

Child Dev. Project Officer
Poshan NARVAW

No: CDPO/POSHAN/Adv/2026/874-87

Dated:- 19-01-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, AASIF AHMAD SHAH S/O GHULAM HASSAN SHAH R/O LALPORA, hereby inform the general public that my Date of Birth has been wrongly mentioned in my Aadhar Card as, DOB: 20-12-1996, instead of the correct particulars DOB: 16-01-1986. Now, I am applying for the necessary correction. Any person having any objection to the said correction may kindly contact the office of the Block Development Officer, Beerwah, or the Tehsildar, Beerwah, within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained, and the correction process will proceed accordingly.

rko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Fathers name ABDUL REHMAN MALIK R/O...DOULATPOR AUTHOORA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040006585 wants to be registered on my GH HASSAN MALIK S/O AB REHMAN MALIK R/O DOULATPOR AUTHOORA .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication ofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name..GH HASSAN MALIK
S/O ... AB REHMAN MALIK
R/O ..DOULATPORA AUTHOORA KREERI

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned as GURPREET SINGH on my Driving Licence bearing DL No. JK-0520120034870, whereas my correct name is GURPREET SINGH BALI.
Further, my father's name has been wrongly recorded as ICHPAL SINGH, while his correct name is ICHPAL SINGH BALI.
I am applying for correction of the same in the concerned records. If anybody has any objection regarding this correction, he/she may contact ARTO Office Sopore within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.
Name: Gurpreet Singh Bali
S/O: Ichpal Singh Bali
R/O: Rangwar, Baramulla,
Jammu and Kashmir – 193101

ab

PUBLIC NOTICE

On my Driving License, bearing DL No. JK-0520150051890 my name is mentioned as MEHRAJ DIN DAR S/o MOHAMMAD ASHRAF DAR, but my actual name is MEHRAJ UD DIN DAR, S/o MOHD ASHRAF DAR. Now I want to correct it; if anybody has any objection, he/she may contact The ARTO OFFICE SOPORE within the period of 7 days, after That, no objection will be accepted.
Name: MEHRAJ UD DIN DAR
S/O: MOHD ASHRAF DAR
R/O SOFI HAMAM SOPORE
SOPORE, BARAMULLA JK
Pincode: 193201

ab

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer ID No; 0213040012505 from Ghulam Rasool Waza S/o M. Sultan R/o Tapper Waripora Pattan to Imtiyaz Ahmad Waza S/o Ghulam Rasool Waza R/o Tapper Waripora Pattan. if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Imtiyaz Ahmad Waza
S/o Ghulam Rasool Waza
R/o Tapper Waripora Pattan

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Hajira Banoo while my correct name is Hajra Begum . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Rehana Kosser W/O Bilal Ahmad Khanday
R/o Thearin Kandi District Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Hajira Banoo while my correct name is Hajra Begum . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Hajra Begum W/o Mohmad Afzal Wani
R/o Checki Hakeem Bakir
Tehsil Keegma Distt Shopian

fko

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN

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

Public Notice..

The registrar birth BDO Singapora has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Mohammad Jaffar Dar s/o Mohd Akbar Dar D.o. B 10/02/1978 , Ishtiyaq Ali Dar s/o Mohammad Jafar Dar D.o.B 28/10/2006 and Yasmeena Bano D/o Mohd Jaffar Dar D.o.B 05/12/2004 residents of Hanjiwera Tehsil Pattan. 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed through the medium of this Notice that my name is Zeeba , due to an inadvertent error, the name was earlier recorded in the Adhar Card records as Zaiba Sheikh , the correct name is Zeeba .That I hereby declare that the correct and final of my name is Zeeba , and the earlier entry was incorrect. Objections, if any may kindly be conveyed to the concerned authority within 07 days from the date of issue of this notice.

jvd

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed through the medium of this Notice that in the school records of my daughter's MUSKAN RAFIQ who is presently studying in Govt Boys School Sangri Khanmoh Srinagar, that due to an inadvertent error, the name of my daughter was earlier recorded in the school records as Shafia Akhter , the correct name of my daughter is MUSKAN RAFIQ.That I hereby declare that the correct and final name of my daughter is MUSKAN RAFIQ , and the earlier entry was incorrect. Objections, if any may kindly be conveyed to the concerned authority i.e. Govt Boys School Sangri Khanmoh Srinagar within 07 days from the date of issue of this notice.

jvd

اطلاع عام

ہر خاص وعام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کی جاتا ہے کہ مجھے اپنے بجلی ایگریمنٹ زیر کنزیومر نمبر 0206010004307 جو کہ میرے والد کے نام پر یعنی غلام محمد صوفی کے نام پر ہے۔اب اسکو میرے نام یعنی عبدالرشید صوفی کے نام پر کروانا مطلوب ہے۔اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر ایکزیکٹیو انجینیر پی ڈی ڈی بڈگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔میعاد گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

عبدالرشید صوفی ولد غلام محمد صوفی
ساکنہ اچھگام بڈگام۔فون MBC_ 7006652215

اطلاع عام

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بشیر احمد آخون ولد محمد اکبر آخون
ساکنہ آرتھ بڈگام۔فون MBC_ 6005530199

اطلاع عام

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رؤف احمد تانترے ولد عبدالاحد تانترے ساکن فال چھل بڈگام
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No Power Can Divide J&K: CM Omar

Rejects Bifurcation Talk, Says NC Will Protect J&K's Unity

Observer News Service

Srinagar:The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC) Vice President and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday asserted that no power on earth would be able to divide Jammu and Kashmir on regional or religious lines as long as the plough-bearing flag of the National Conference continues to fly across the Union Territory.

He was addressing the concluding session of the two-day Party Block Presidents' Convention in Jammu. The convention, which began a day earlier, was chaired by NC President Farooq Abdullah.

Addressing party functionaries, the chief minister highlighted what he described as his government's pro-people and pro-Jammu initiatives, including enhanced ration quotas, free bus rides for women, increased pension amounts, free land for landslide victims and the restoration of the historic Darbar Move. He said focused interventions in tourism, road connectivity, healthcare, education and recruitment were putting Jammu back on the path of progress and development.

Taking a sharp dig at BJP leaders, Omar Abdullah said those who halted the | More on P10

CM Holds Pre-budget Consultations

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday began pre-budget consultations with key departments ahead of the Budget Session of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, scheduled to commence on February 2.

An official spokesperson said the chief minister reviewed departmental priorities, assessed public needs | More on P10

Republic Day: Frisking, Vehicle Checks Intensified Across Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ahead of Republic Day celebrations, Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday intensified frisking and checking operations across several parts of the Valley to ensure peaceful and incident-free events.

Witnesses said that police teams were deployed in and around Sopore town, including busy areas such as Iqbal Market, key road crossings, and the Sopore railway station. Vehicles and pedestrians were thoroughly checked during the operation.

Similar security measures were reported from other areas of Baramulla, Kupwara, and Anantnag districts, where nakas were established at multiple entry and exit points. Private and passenger vehicles were stopped for inspection, while pedestrians were frisked and their identity cards verified.

Officials said the intensified checking forms part of a heightened security drill aimed at ensuring peaceful Republic Day celebrations across the region.

The exercise comes on a day when security forces recovered a suspected improvised explosive device (IED) from Tappar village along the Srinagar–Baramulla National Highway during a routine sanitisation operation on Tuesday morning.

Officials said the device was detected in time and subsequently destroyed on the spot by a bomb disposal squad without causing any damage or injury.

An official said security arrangements across the Valley are in place | More on P10

Deal Firmly With Elements Threatening Public Safety: DGP

Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Tuesday reviewed the security scenario and operational preparedness in Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir, with a focus on ensuring peaceful Republic Day celebrations.

The DGP chaired a comprehensive security review meeting at the District Police Office in Ganderbal, where he assessed the prevailing law and order situation, counter-terrorism preparedness, crime control measures, and overall security arrangements | More on P10

Kishtwar Search Op Enters Third Day

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Several individuals were detained for questioning as a massive search operation to flush out terrorists entered the third day in the upper reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Tuesday, officials said.

The operation was launched in Sonnar village near Mandral-Singhpora in the Chatroo belt on Sunday, leading to a gunfight that left one paratrooper dead and seven others injured, primarily due to splinter injuries caused by a sudden grenade attack from the hiding terrorists.

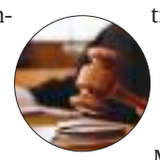
The terrorists escaped deep into the forest area, but their well-fortified hideout, packed with a large quantity of winter stock, including eatables, blankets and utensils, was busted.

Senior officers, including Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti and Inspector General of CRPF, Jammu, R Gopala Krishna Rao, also reached the encounter scene and are currently camping there along with several army officers to supervise | More on P10

18-Yr-Old Accident Case

MACT Srinagar Awards Rs 32.54 Lakh Compensation

M Ahmad



Srinagar: The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT), Srinagar, has awarded Rs 32.54 lakh along with interest as compensation to the family of a skilled labourer who died in a tractor-trolley accident in Reasi district nearly 18 years ago.

MACT, Presided over by Fayaz Ahmad Qureshi, held the Insurance Company liable to pay the compensation within 30 days.

According to the claim petition, Dev Raj, a skilled labourer, had hired a tractor-trolley on December 18, 2008, to transport bajri for the construction of his house. While travelling in the trolley as the owner of the goods, the vehicle bearing registration number JK14A-6023 met with an accident near Zero Morh, Chasana, after the driver lost control due to rash and negligent driving. The trolley plunged into a deep gorge, causing fatal injuries to Dev Raj, who died while being taken to hospital. | More on P10

State Police Can Now Probe Graft Cases Against Central Govt Employees

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has ruled that state police authorities can investigate and file a chargesheet against central government employees when it comes to the offences of bribery and corruption under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The court has also made it clear that no prior permission from the CBI is required before registering a case against a central government employee by the state police.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Satish Chandra Sharma said on Monday that offences under the PC Act can be investigated by a state agency or a central agency or any police agency, as can be seen from section 17 of the Act, with the qualification that the police officer shall be of a particular rank.

"Section 17 does not exclude or prevent the state police or a special agency of the state from registering a crime or investigating cases relating to bribery, corruption and misconduct against central government employees.

"It is for convenience and to avoid duplication of work that the Central Bureau of Investigation -- a specialised investigating agency under the Special Police Establishment -- is entrusted with the task of investigation of the cases of corruption and bribery against the employees of the central government and its undertakings and the Anti-Corruption Bureau -- a specialised investigating agency of the state -- is entrusted with the task of investigation bribery against the employees of the state government and its undertakings," the bench said.

The offences under the PC Act are also cognisable and can, therefore, be investigated by the state police, it added.

The apex court's order came while upholding a Rajasthan High Court order that had refused to quash a corruption case against a central government employee.

The high court had ruled that the Rajasthan ACB had jurisdiction to register the criminal case under provisions of the | More on P10

Nitin Nabin My Boss In Party Matters: PM

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Nitin Nabin on Tuesday took charge as the BJP's 12th national president and wasted no time setting the tone for the upcoming key state Assembly elections targeting opposition parties on a range of issues including demographic changes as well as the Karthigai Deepam and Sanatan Dharma row in Tamil Nadu.

A five-time MLA from Bihar and a former state minister, Nabin, 45, was declared elected unopposed marking a generational leadership shift in the BJP, as it seeks to tighten its grip on the country's politics and further expand its footprint. Nabin, the youngest ever in the BJP to occupy the party's top post, took over from J P Nadda, who was at the helm of the saffron party's affairs since 2020.

The formal announcement of Nabin's election was made at the BJP headquarters here in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, senior leaders and union ministers including Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, J P Nadda, Nitin Gadkari, chief ministers of BJP-ruled states and scores of BJP workers. BJP was founded in 1980.

BJP workers gathered at the party headquarters and broke into applause | More on P10

India to Withdraw Officials' Families From Dhaka

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi, Jan 20: India on Tuesday decided to withdraw the families of Indian officials posted in Bangladesh in view of the security scenario in that country.

New Delhi's move comes weeks before parliamentary elections are to be held in Bangladesh.

Given the security situation, as a precautionary measure, we have advised the dependents of our officials in the high commission and posts | More on P10

'In Search Of Silence': Inside Srinagar's Growing World Of Paid Study Spaces

Aamina Salaam

Srinagar: At 11 pm on a chilly winter evening in Rajbagh, Srinagar, the streets are mostly deserted, with only the occasional passerby or distant vehicle breaking the silence.

Inside a privately run reading room tucked above a row of shops, rows of students sit bent over laptops and notebooks. Some are medical aspirants attending online lectures through headphones, others are revising civil services notes under stark white tube lights. Across Srinagar, paid study spaces often called reading rooms or study centres have emerged as a parallel academic infrastructure.

More than a dozen private reading rooms have come up across Srinagar, according to operators who run multiple centres in the city, concentrated in neighbourhoods like Rajbagh, Hyderpora, Parraypora and Bemina, areas already known for coaching institutes and student hostels.

Not all operate round the clock. While several offer 24×7 access, others close late at night or function seasonally, depending on demand and infrastructure costs such as heating and electricity. What unites them is a steady stream of students willing to pay for something increasingly scarce: uninterrupted time and silence.

Who is filling these spaces?

The users cut across categories. College students, competitive exam aspirants, hostel residents and outstation students all share these halls. Many say neither home nor campus libraries offer workable study conditions.

"At home, there are chores, visitors, and a comfort that makes you lazy," he said. "Here, when you see everyone studying, you automatically feel you should study too," Khalid, a student from Hyderpora who has been using one such space for over a year, told Kashmir Observer.

Asif, a student from Handwara living in a hostel, echoed this. "The hostel environment is messy. You cannot study all day there," he said. "Here, the surroundings are made for studying. That is the difference."

A female postgraduate student from Srinagar who uses a reading room in Bemina said studying in a shared space helped her regulate her routine. "When you are at home, your day keeps stretching and nothing feels fixed," she said. "Here, I know when I sit down, I have to study. Even on days when motivation is low, the environment pushes you to keep going."

Ironically, the rise of these physical spaces has coincided with an explosion of online learning. According to operators, most students using reading rooms now attend online coaching classes.

Operators trace the increased demand to post-pandemic study habits.

Junaid, who runs a 24×7 study centre with around 160 seats in Magarmal Bagh, said the turning point came after the COVID-19 pandemic.

"After the pandemic, coaching shifted online," he said. "Students prefer online classes, but they cannot study at home because of distractions. That is why they come here to attend online lectures in a disciplined environment."

This contradiction - digital access paired with physical dependence - is | More on P10

UK mulls Australia-Style Ban On Social Media For Children

Trains Asia News

London: Britain is considering a range of measures to better protect children online, including an Australian-style ban on social media for those below a certain age and tougher guidance for use of mobile phones in schools, it said on Monday.

The government said it would examine evidence from around the world on a wide range of suggested proposals, including looking at whether a social media ban for children would be effective and, if one was introduced, how best to make it work.

Ministers will visit Australia, which last month became the first country to ban social media for children under 16, to learn from their approach, the statement said.

The government did not mention a particular age limit, but said it was exploring a ban "for children under a certain age", in addition to other measures, such as better age checks and looking into whether the current digital age of consent was too low.

The proposals come as governments and regulators worldwide contend with the risks of exposing children to social media, as well as the impact of screen time on their development and mental health.

The recent rapid explosion of AI-generated content online has exacerbated those concerns, highlighted this month by a public outcry over reports of Elon Musk's Grok AI chatbot generating non-consensual sexual images, including of minors.

The British government has already set out plans for an outright ban on artificial intelligence nudification tools, while working to stop children being able to take, share or view nude images on their devices, it said in Monday's statement.

The government said it was also considering removing or limiting functionalities that could drive addictive or compulsive use of social media, such as infinite scrolling.

Britain's recently enforced Online Safety Act, one of the strictest safety regimes, has increased the share of children encountering age checks online to 47% from 30%, while cutting visits to pornography sites by a third, according to the government.

"These laws were never meant to be the end point, and we know parents still have serious concerns," Technology Secretary Liz Kendall said. "That is why I am prepared to take further action."

All India Bar Exam Now Twice Yearly

Final semester LLB students can appear

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Bar Council of India on Tuesday informed the Supreme Court that it has framed rules enabling final year law students to take the All India Bar Exam (AIBE) and the test will be conducted twice a year.

The AIBE is a qualifying test for enrolling law graduates as lawyers.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, which was hearing a writ petition filed in 2024 seeking directions to allow final semester students to appear in the AIBE, recorded the submission and disposed of the plea.

"The AIBE will be conducted twice a year and the last semester students of LLB will be allowed to sit for the exam subject to their clearing of the final exam," the counsel for the Bar Council of India (BCI) submitted.

The counsel said that it has framed the BCI Rules 2026 to this effect.

In 2024, the court passed interim orders allowing final year students to appear in the AIBE held that year. In 2023, the apex court had directed the BCI to frame rules to this effect.

On September 20, 2024, in a major relief for final year students, the top court directed the BCI to allow them to appear this year for the AIBE.

Observing that the final year LLB students cannot be "left in the lurch", the top court had said their one year will be wasted if they are not permitted to take the bar exam that year.

The top court had on February 10, 2023 affirmed the BCI's power to hold the AIBE.

It had also accepted the suggestion of an amicus curiae (friend of the court) for allowing final semester law students to take the AIBE on production of appropriate proof of eligibility.

Trump Wavers, Iran Readies: Who Will Strike First?

Shivan Mahendrarajah/ The Cradle

London: Rumors swirl around US President Donald Trump's abrupt cancellation of new air strikes on Iran. What is undeniable is that the US military has few assets in the Persian Gulf. Trump has since ordered reinforcements.

Israel's attempt to destabilize Iran from within has failed, but new pretexts for war are emerging. Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff recently communicated with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi during which he is said to have issued outrageous demands – terminate enrichment, handover enriched uranium, and reduce missile ranges and stockpiles – effectively, a demand for capitulation, which Washington knows Tehran will reject. The US will claim "Iran refuses to negotiate in good faith" as casus belli.

Pre-empt, or be punished

Iran's military doctrine is fundamentally defensive; Israel's is not. But that posture may be changing. In August 2025, retired Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) General Yahya Safavi, senior advisor to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, declared: "We must adopt an offensive strategy." In a January statement, Iran's Defense Council said, "within the framework of legitimate defense, the Islamic Republic of Iran does not limit itself to reacting after action and considers objective signs of threat as part of the security equation."

"Pre-emptive War" is to strike first to seize the initiative when confronting an imminent threat. The textbook study is Israel's Six-Day War (1967), following the blockade of the Tiran Straits, the mobilization of Arab armies, and the hostile rhetoric.

"Preventive War," however, is to counter a hazy threat: former US president George W. Bush's 2003 Iraq War and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's 2025 Iran War are cases in point.

British strategist B.H. Liddell Hart said: "Strategy has not to overcome resistance [opponent's tactics], except from nature. Its purpose is to diminish the possibility of resistance, and it seeks to fulfill this purpose by exploiting the elements of movement and surprise."

In 1967, Tel Aviv did just that – obliterating air defenses before they launched and claiming vast swaths of land.

War has already begun

Iran faces an imminent threat. The 12-Day War in June made clear that the US and Israel are acting in tandem. Trump's own admission confirmed that the Oman "negotiations" were a ruse to sedate Tehran.

The riots were not spontaneous. Israeli and western handlers coordinated operations across provinces, funneling cash, weapons, explosives, and Starlink terminals to operatives. Global media and online platforms amplified fabricated death tolls – 12,000 to 20,000 – to manufacture consent for foreign intervention.

> **Iran's military doctrine is fundamentally defensive; Israel's is not. But that posture may be changing. In August 2025, retired Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) General Yahya Safavi, senior advisor to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, declared: "We must adopt an offensive strategy**

The 12-Day War never ended, as Safavi shrewdly noted. The "riot phase" of the campaign is over, but a new phase is underway. The dilemma for Tehran is binary: should Iran absorb the first blow or strike the first blow?

A bid for survival

The threat is existential. The US and Israel do not seek only regime change, but the dismemberment of Iran along ethno-linguistic lines. Riots were intended to ignite civil war – like Syria and Libya – with Kurdish and Baluch separatists offered autonomous regions. If the Islamic Republic falls, the US will plunder the Iranian people's oil and gas heritage, like with Venezuela.

For 47 years, Iran has endured sanctions, threats, saboteurs, agitators, and the western-backed Iran–Iraq War. In the past seven months, Iranians experienced war and riots instigated by the west. The anti-Iran media campaign grossly misrepresented the horrific crimes perpetrated against innocent Iranians, while portraying savage mobs as "peaceful protestors."

The Islamic Republic is called "repressive," "brutal theocracy," "illegitimate," "dictatorship," and "rogue state." It has never been treated the way despotic Persian Gulf monarchies, Egypt, and Jordan are treated.

The Iranian nation has never been allowed to function and develop like other nations. Negotiations are pointless. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was sabotaged by Tel Aviv – with help from former US president Barack Obama, who enticed Iran to sign the nuclear deal. "This nearly five-decades-long 'horror film' ends in one of two ways: Iran collapses, or the US-led bloc is defeated."

Tehran's turn to move

Israel never negotiates. It demands. It steals. It kills. Iran has negotiated endlessly – and received nothing. Perhaps it is time to act as Tel Aviv would.

Tehran may want to consider what Liddell Hart termed a "strategy of limited aim." Here, the objective is not the defeat of the enemy – "unconditional surrender" – or capture of territory (Israel in 1967); but a war that coerces the enemy to sit at the negotiating table with Iran and treat the ancient Iranian nation as an equal.

Iran is disrespected by the US and its allies, just as Russia is disdained as a "gas station masquerading as a country." Russia, despite its formidable military and nuclear arsenal, was never treated as a peer despite President Vladimir Putin's good faith efforts to integrate with the US and EU economies.

Iran is experiencing the same contempt. Moreover, while Putin was negotiating on Ukraine and acceding to the Minsk Accords, NATO built Ukraine's war machine. When Putin was asked if he had regrets about the Ukraine War, he replied, "[t]he only thing we can regret is that we did not take intense action earlier."

SC Mulls Closing Pending Hate Speech Petitions

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it will close most of the petitions related to hate speeches pending since 2021 and in which the court has asked police to suo motu register FIRs.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta reserved orders on a batch of writ petitions filed by several individuals after the Centre, Delhi Police and the Uttar Pradesh government submitted that substantial compliance with the directions of the court has been made.

The bench said the petitioners can pursue their remedies in accordance with the law.

However, the top court posted one matter related to a 2021 alleged hate crime committed against a Muslim cleric in Noida for hearing in February to ascertain the progress of the trial in the case.

Advocate Ruchira Goel, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, submitted that a chargesheet has been filed in the matter and during investigation, it was found that the case was not a hate crime but a gang of robbers, which used to dupe people by offering a lift in their car.

Advocate Sharukh Alam, appearing for the cleric, however, doubted the UP government's version and said that the state was not willing to accept that it was a case of crime and the court must look into it.

On April 28, 2023, the top court extended the scope of its 2022 order beyond three states and directed all states and Union Territories (UT) to register cases against those making hate speeches, even if no complaint has been made.

It had termed hate speeches a "serious offence capable of affecting the secular fabric of the country".

The top court had said its October 21, 2022 order shall be made applicable irrespective of religion and warned any delay in registering cases will be treated as contempt of the court.

Holding that the Constitution of India envisages a secular nation, the apex court had in 2022 directed UP, Uttarakhand and Delhi to promptly register criminal cases against the offenders without waiting for a complaint to be filed.

The apex court had warned that any delay on the part of the administration in taking action on this "very serious issue" will invite the court's contempt.

SC: Newspapers Can't Be Stopped; Hotels Get No Relief

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- Observing that "newspapers cannot be stopped", the Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Punjab government and its pollution control board not to take any coercive steps against the publication of the Punjab Kesari newspaper in the state.

The top court took up the plea of the newspaper group on an urgent basis upon oral mentioning, and ordered that the printing presses of the Hindi daily shall continue to function uninterruptedly notwithstanding the Punjab State Pollution Control Board's decision to snap power supply due to alleged violations.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice Vipul Pancholi said its interim order will remain effective for one week even after the pronouncement of verdict by the Punjab and Haryana High Court on a petition filed by the newspaper group challenging the state's actions.

"Without prejudice to the rights of both sides, and without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, it is directed that the printing press of Punjab Kesari newspaper shall continue to function uninterruptedly. However, status quo shall be maintained with respect to the other commercial establishments, be it the hotel etc.

"This interim arrangement is made till the pronouncement of the judgment of the high court and one week more to enable the aggrieved party to approach the appropriate forum," the bench ordered after a brief hearing.

At the outset of day's proceedings, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the newspaper group, described the situation as an "extraordinary matter," alleging a coordinated campaign of state harassment following the publication of articles critical of the Punjab government.

Rohatgi said after the publication of the article, various coercive actions were initiated against the management, including cutting off the electricity, notices by the Pollution Control Board against the press, shutting down of the hotels run by the newspaper owners and FIRs.

NEWS MAKERS

'You Are My Boss': PM Modi Tells Nitin Nabin

New Delhi (PTI) Nitin Nabin on Tuesday took over as the BJP's 12th national president, succeeding J P Nadda and beginning a new chapter for the party as it seeks to tighten its grip on the country's politics and further expand its influence in uncharted territories with a generational shift in the organisation.

Addressing a gathering at the BJP headquarters here on the occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said when it comes to party matters, he is a worker and "honourable Nitin Nabin ji" is his boss.

After a formal announcement of Nabin's name as the new BJP chief, Prime Minister Modi and other senior leaders took him to his new office at the party headquarters, where he officially assumed the charge of the party's national president.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, outgoing BJP president Nadda and party general secretary B L Santhosh were present with Modi when Nabin took over the charge of his new responsibilities.

Karnataka DGP Suspended After Obscene Viral Video

Bengaluru, (PTI) The Karnataka government has placed DGP (Civil Rights Enforcement) K Ramachandra Rao under suspension with immediate effect, citing conduct unbecoming of a government servant and causing embarrassment to the state administration.

News channels beamed video on Monday purportedly showing Rao in compromising position with women.

The video went viral in the social media as well. Rao sought to reject the videos outright terming them "fabricated and false".

In an official order issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR) on Monday, the government said videos and news reports widely circulated on television channels and digital media platforms showed the senior IPS officer acting in an "obscene manner", prompting the decision to initiate disciplinary action.

"Vide videos and news reports widely broadcast on public news channels and media platforms, it is observed that Dr K Ramachandra Rao has acted in an obscene manner which is unbecoming of a Government Servant and also causing embarrassment to the Government," the government order said.

The order further said the matter was examined by the state government, which found that the officer's conduct amounted to violation of Rule-3 of the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968. The government said it is prima facie satisfied that "it is necessary to place Rao under suspension with immediate effect, pending inquiry".

During the suspension period, Rao will be entitled to subsistence allowance as per Rule-4 of the All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969. The order also places restrictions on his movement, stating that during the period of suspension, the officer should not leave headquarters under any circumstances without the written permission of the State Government.

ED Links TN Minister to ₹366-Cr Bribery Racket

Chennai/New Delhi (PTI) The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has shared fresh inputs regarding an alleged Rs 366 crore worth money laundering and corruption ring in the transfer and appointments of officials and engineers in Tamil Nadu's Department of Municipal Administration Urban and Water Supply, officials said on Tuesday.

The federal probe agency's Chennai zonal office has sent a letter in this context to state chief secretary and the directorate of vigilance and anti-corruption (DVAC) seeking registration of a police FIR against minister K N Nehru and some others linked to him.

The ED had also written two separate letters to the state government authorities in October and December last year claiming "wide spread" corruption in the department's tenders and recruitments and linked Nehru to these charges.

The minister had then defended himself, saying he was being continuously targeted by the ED in a bid to defame him and said that he would legally face the charges.

SSP Traffic Steps In to Tackle Underage Driving

Observer News Service

Srinagar: SSP Traffic Srinagar City on Tuesday counselled traffic violators, including underage riders, during a special awareness drive aimed at curbing reckless and illegal driving by minors on city roads.

During the interaction, two young boys, one of them just 14 years old, were found riding two-wheelers without valid driving licences. The minors were also indulging in unsafe driving practices, including stunts, posing serious risk to themselves and others on the road.

The SSP Traffic Srinagar City, Ajaz Ahmad told KNT that minors lack the maturity, control, and cognitive understanding required for responsible driving. He said children are not reflective in decision-making and cannot assess the consequences of their actions, making underage driving extremely dangerous.

Holding parents accountable, the SSP said it is the fault of parents who hand over vehicle keys to minors, despite being fully aware of the risks involved. He strongly advised parents not to allow children to drive vehicles under any circumstances, stating that such negligence often leads to tragic accidents.

Parents of the minors were counselled on the spot and were clearly told not to provide vehicles to underage children. The SSP appealed to all parents in Srinagar to act responsibly and ensure that minors stay away from driving until they are legally eligible and properly trained.

Traffic police officials said such counselling drives will continue across the city as part of sustained efforts to promote road safety and prevent accidents involving minors.

Workshop on Fire Safety & Mitigation Strategies Held

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today inaugurated one-Day Workshop on "Fire Safety & Mitigation – Engineering Solutions", here.

The Workshop was organised by The Institution of Engineers (India), Jammu & Kashmir State Centre (IEI-JKSC) in collaboration with Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department, Kashmir and Fire & Emergency Services, J&K themed "Innovative Engineering Solutions to Prevent, Control & Mitigate Fire Risks", bringing together engineers, administrators, academicians, students and safety professionals to deliberate on emerging fire safety challenges and engineering-driven mitigation strategies.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, who was the Chief Guest of the event, acknowledging the role of IEI-JKSC in promoting awareness, capacity building and engineering-led solutions, emphasised the importance of institutional preparedness and seriousness in addressing fire safety concerns.

He appreciated the Institution of Engineers for organising programmes on this relevant issue and assured that the outcomes of the workshop, when received by them, will be duly considered for implementation.

The programme commenced with the registration of participants, followed by a brief introduction by Er. Shumaila Khan, who outlined the workshop's objectives.

In his welcome address, Er. Ferdous Ahad Bhat, FIE, Chairman, IEI-JKSC, stated that the initiative was taken in view of the reported recent fire incidents across the Valley, including residential, commercial, and forest fires. He emphasised that these incidents highlight the need for preventive planning, enforcement, and technical preparedness, underscoring the need for engineers to proactively engage with fire safety as a core professional responsibility.

PIC: Abid Bhat/KO

KCCI Welcomes Redevelopment of Amira Kadal Foot Bridge

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) has welcomed the inauguration of the redeveloped Amira Kadal Foot Bridge, terming it a significant addition to Srinagar's urban infrastructure and an important step towards enhancing the city's appeal for tourists.

The Foot Bridge was inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, KCCI said that the modern redesign of one of Srinagar's most iconic crossings not only improves connectivity but also adds to the aesthetic and cultural vibrancy of the city's historic core. The Chamber observed that well-planned urban infrastructure plays a crucial role in shaping visitor experience, particularly in heritage-rich cities like Srinagar.

> "The Chamber said the Amira Kadal redevelopment will benefit local businesses, traders, and service providers by increasing pedestrian movement and revitalising surrounding commercial hubs,"

KCCI noted that projects which thoughtfully blend heritage elements with contemporary urban planning have the potential to attract both domestic and international tourists, encourage longer stays, and increase footfall in traditional markets and commercial areas. The Chamber said the Amira Kadal redevelopment will benefit local businesses, traders, and service providers by increasing pedestrian movement and revitalising surrounding commercial hubs.

The Chamber also felicitated Srinagar Smart City Limited, the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Mr. Fazlul Haseeb, and the divisional and district administration for their coordinated efforts in completing the project and contributing to urban renewal in the city.

Reiterating its commitment to the promotion of tourism-led economic growth, KCCI expressed hope that similar initiatives will be undertaken across Srinagar and other urban centres of Kashmir. The Chamber further urged sustained focus on creating people-friendly public spaces that reflect the region's cultural identity while supporting tourism, trade, and livelihoods.

- 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: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
1 Shaban
1447

PRAYERS	
FAJR	6: 07
ZUHR	12:42
ASR	4: 11
Magrib	5:52
ISHA	7: 16

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education
New Campus Bemina Srinagar
Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 862217 Class 12th B.COM
Year & Session 1994/1995 Registration: 37094-MCR-IX-92
Name : Raisa Mukar Ahmed Shah
Father's Name: Peer Mukar Ahmed Shah
Mother's Name : Zamrooda Bano Date of Birth:- 05-03-1977
Residenc:- Kanikadal Chotta Bazar Srinagar

According the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.
(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 5200 be treated as "CANCELLED")
No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)B/KD/22
Dated 09-11-2022 Assistant Secretary
imf Certificates, KD.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 1)

2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35 Sector-17 A, Chandigarh
Case No.: OA/1745/2025

Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.

Exh. No.: 32719

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED
VS
ZAKIR AHMAD WAGAY

To,
(1) ZAKIR AHMAD WAGAY D/W/S/O- SON OF MR GHULAM NABI WAGAY RESIDENT OF POMBAY KULGAM Kulgam.JAMMU AND KASHMIR

SUMMONS

WHEREAS, OA/1745/2025 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 13/01/2026.
WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 3164265.05/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).
In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-
(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.
You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 24/04/2026 at 10: 30 AM failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date : 15-01-2026

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons

Note .Strike out whichever is not applicable.
DIPK-NB-3053/25 dated: 20-01-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card bearing no : 946620925082 AS Shabnam Akhter while my correct name is Shabnama Akhter . 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 office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Shabnama Akhter
D/o Hafizullah Lone fko
R/o Tilagam Kreeri

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

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

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Mohammad Akbar mir S/O Abdul Ahad mir R/o Brath kalan , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of his daughter namely TABAISH AkBAR born on 14-06-2013 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days.
After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
fko Executive Magistrate Bomai

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, FAROOQ AHMAD KUMAR R/o CHARANGAM, hereby inform the general public that I am applying for the issuance of Birth Certificate of my son. His Date of Birth has been wrongly mentioned in the Aadhaar Card as DOB:-12-12-2013, instead of his correct detail, DOB:-12-06-2013.
Now, I am applying for the necessary correction. Any person having any objection to the said correction may kindly contact the office of the Block Development Officer, Beerwah, or the Tehsildar, Beerwah, within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained, and the correction process will proceed accordingly.
Child Name:- MUHAMMAD AMIR KUMAR
S/O:- FAROOQ AHMAD KUMAR
R/O:- CHARANGAM
DOB:- 12-06-2013 **Rko**

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer ID No; 0212010007995 from Gh Mohd Parray S/o. Sonaulla Parray to Zamer Ahamed Paray S/o. Gh Mohd Parray . if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Zamer Ahamed Paray
S/o. Gh Mohd Parray jvd

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

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

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from S/o Ghulam Rasool Hajam R/o seloo , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of his son namely Shahid Javid 08-06-2009 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.
In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days.
After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

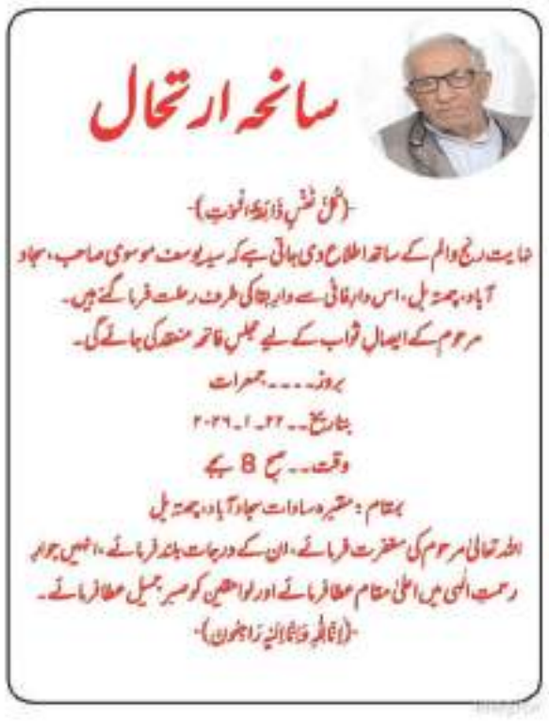
Tehsildar
fko Executive Magistrate Bomai

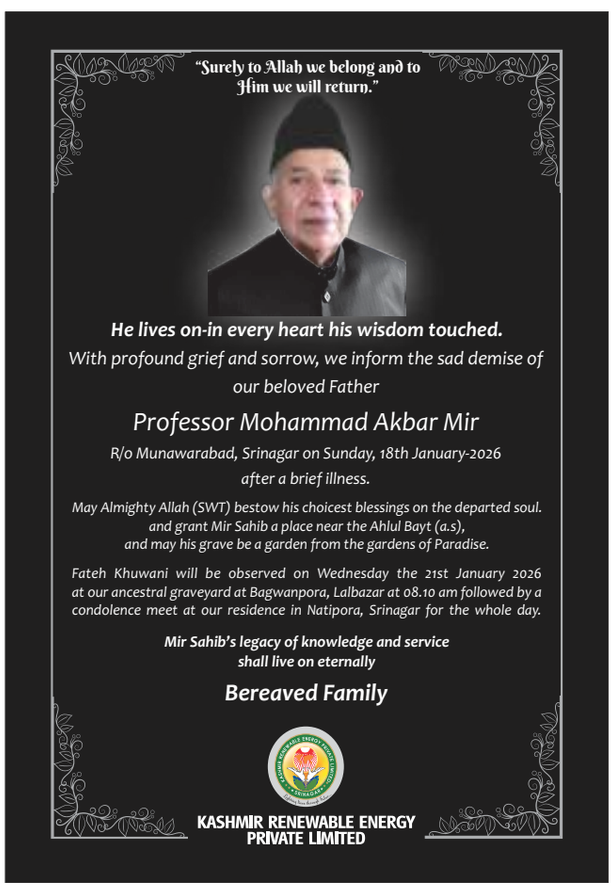
SAD DEMISE

With heavy heart it is informed that GHULAM MOHAMMAD MAKROO S/O LATE Mohammad Sidiq Makroo R/o: Padshah Bagh Tawheed Colony near Oakhill School in Srinagar, departed for the heavenly abode on 20th January 2026 (Tuesday). May Almighty Allah grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and give Sabr-e-Jameel to the bereaved family. His congregational Fateh Khawani (Rasme-Chaharum) will be observed on 23rd January 2026 (Friday) at 2:30 PM at our ancestral graveyard Mallateng near Astan.

Bereaved Family
Jhon Mohammad Makroo
His son-in-law Sheikh Naseer

Abbas Ads





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KO VIEW

Kashmir's Deep Tech Dawn

Kashmir has always reflected global changes. When the world shifts, the valley often moves along. Today, deep tech is becoming part of that shift. It is reshaping education, work, and industry.

Deep tech uses advanced science and engineering to solve problems. It goes beyond apps or websites.

Artificial intelligence, robotics, biotechnology, and new materials fall under this field. These technologies create opportunities for industries and workers alike.

Kashmir has a chance to become part of this transformation.

The job market is evolving quickly. Global employers seek people with expertise in deep tech. Skills that once ensured stability are no longer enough. Deep tech can connect Kashmiri youth with new employment opportunities. It can turn scientific knowledge into practical solutions that serve the state and the world.

Srinagar shows early signs of this movement. Small tech hubs have started emerging. Startups focus on fintech, healthcare, and media solutions. These efforts show potential, and bring innovation and energy.

The region requires organized structures to channel these scattered efforts. Academic institutions and industry must join forces to build a strong ecosystem.

Deep tech also responds to immediate local needs. Healthcare delivery can improve through digital solutions. Climate-sensitive areas can benefit from data-driven strategies. Technology can help manage resources and support communities facing environmental challenges.

Deep tech enables practical solutions to complex problems.

Universities and large campuses have the capacity to lead this change. Upgrading programs, adopting research-driven curricula, and collaborating with industry can build a skilled workforce. Workshops and lectures spark interest. Structured programs transform that interest into expertise.

Entrepreneurs in Kashmir are already exploring new ideas. Startups can turn research into products. They can attract global attention. The valley can become a hub for innovation if it supports deep tech systematically.

This approach addresses employment, strengthens the private sector, and encourages young talent to remain engaged locally.

Kashmir has an opportunity to position itself in a global movement. Deep tech can shape the future of work, health, climate solutions, and technology-based services.

Early adoption and organized support can make the valley a pioneer in this field.

CASH COURSE
Read This Before You Buy Anything

Fading Farmlands

We are sacrificing fertile lands for oversized houses, threatening the economy and future generations.

Irshad Mushtaq

Kashmir's agricultural economy once contributed 28 percent to the region's livelihood. Today, it has fallen to just 20 percent.

Fertile fields that fed families and supported local businesses are disappearing under sprawling concrete houses.

What we call progress is slowly replacing the very foundation of our survival.

Travel just a few kilometers outside Srinagar, and the change is unmistakable.

Fields that once produced apples, saffron, and rice are being transformed into three-story houses. Families invest vast sums in these properties, which require constant upkeep and offer no financial return.

These structures are expenses that drain resources while consuming land that could sustain life and work for generations.

The consequences extend far beyond money.

With each acre of farmland lost, the next generation inherits fewer resources. When children grow up, they will face a landscape of empty houses and vanishing crops. The very land they will rely on for food and income is disappearing under structures that provide neither.

Past mistakes show this pattern clearly. Colonies built on farmland decades ago now struggle with unsold properties and limited local economies. That cycle is now repeating on a larger, more dangerous scale.

Protecting farmland is a decision that determines whether children inherit a green, productive region or a concrete landscape with little to sustain them.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

The Golden Hour

Between collapse and care lies an hour that determines whether life continues with strength or lasting loss.

Dr. Nowsheen Jan

Healthcare discussions often focus on buildings, beds, and specialists. Pre-hospital care shapes outcomes more decisively than any single intervention inside emergency rooms. Coordinated emergency systems link ambulances and hospitals seamlessly. Patients who arrive stabilized and announced receive faster, more effective care.

I write this as a doctor who has watched time decide outcomes more often than any drug or device.

Inside hospitals, we measure minutes with precision. Outside, those same minutes dissolve into confusion, panic, and well-meaning action without direction.

The Golden Hour, the first sixty minutes after a serious injury or sudden illness, often decides whether a person returns to the life they knew or steps into a future shaped by loss.

One recent evening on a Srinagar highway, a motorcycle crash unfolded with painful familiarity. Traffic slowed, vehicles stopped, and people gathered quickly, driven by concern and instinct.

Someone lifted the injured rider from the road. Another removed his helmet to check his breathing. A few voices debated responsibility. Calls went out, first to authorities, then for help.

An ambulance arrived later. Hospital care began nearly fifty minutes after impact, with most of the Golden Hour already spent at the roadside.

From a medical perspective, that sequence carried consequences far beyond the visible injuries.

The Golden Hour holds meaning grounded in biology rather than metaphor. Early intervention limits bleeding, protects the brain and spinal cord, supports breathing, and preserves organ function.

Delay allows swelling, oxygen deprivation, and internal damage to progress silently. Each passing minute shifts the body further away from recovery.

Scenes like this reflect human instinct rather than indifference.

People want to help. Hands move fast and voices overlap, but shock conceals the true extent of injury.

Moving a patient without stabilizing the neck risks spinal cord injury. Removing a helmet can compromise the airway and cervical spine. Offering water to someone with altered consciousness can lead to aspiration. Encouraging sitting or standing can worsen internal bleeding.

In many cases, long-term disability stems from what follows the accident rather than the impact itself.

The Golden Hour applies equally to emergencies that leave no blood on the road.

Breathlessness, chest pain, seizures, sudden collapse, asthma attacks, and strokes depend on early, correct action. These conditions harm organs silently while families search for explanations.

In respiratory crises, falling oxygen levels damage lungs and brain quickly. Simple measures delivered early can preserve function when time receives respect.

I recall a thirty-four-year-old man who developed severe chest pain at home before losing consciousness. His family gathered neighbours and arranged a private vehicle to reach a hospital twenty kilometers away.

He was declared dead on arrival.

Trained care during transport could have supported breathing, monitored heart rhythm, and delivered lifesaving intervention on the road. Distance without medical care turns movement into loss.

Chest pain often misleads. It is brushed aside as indigestion or stress. Each delay deprives heart muscle of the blood it needs.

Damage accumulates minute by minute. Recognising danger early and activating emergency care matters more than how fast someone eventually reaches a hospital.

Cardiac collapse follows a clear sequence in medicine known as the Chain of Survival. Recognition of collapse leads to immediate emergency calls. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation maintains blood flow to the brain and vital organs. Early defibrillation restores organized heart activity when abnormal rhythms strike.

Paramedics then provide advanced airway care, medications, and monitoring during transport. Hospital teams continue stabilization and recovery on arrival.

Each step strengthens the next when time remains intact.

Stroke emergencies reveal the same unforgiving pattern. Lately, a sixty-two-year-old woman developed slurred speech, facial drooping, and weakness on one side of her body at home. Her family rushed her fifteen kilometers in a private vehicle. Arrival occurred after the treatment window had closed, leaving severe and permanent disability.

Brain cells depend on uninterrupted blood flow. Early arrival preserves speech, movement, and independence.

Public understanding of ambulances remains limited. Many people assume all ambulances serve the same purpose. But a critical care ambulance functions as a mobile intensive care unit.

Trained paramedics carry oxygen, emergency medicines, defibrillators, monitors, and sometimes ventilatory support. Assessment, stabilization, and destination choice begin at the patient's side rather than at a hospital gate.

Private vehicles turn travel time into medical silence. Monitoring disappears, oxygen remains unavailable, and airway support does not exist. Families focus on reaching a building while physiology deteriorates unseen. Many patients arrive in worse condition because treatment never began.

Hospital choice carries equal weight. Panic often pushes families toward the nearest facility rather than the appropriate one. Brief assessment leads to referral, paperwork consumes minutes, and another journey follows.

Specialty care begins after critical time has already passed. Paramedics receive training to bypass facilities that lack capability and alert receiving hospitals in advance, allowing teams to prepare before arrival.

Healthcare discussions often focus on buildings, beds, and specialists. Pre-hospital care shapes outcomes more decisively than any single intervention inside emergency rooms. Coordinated emergency systems link ambulances and hospitals seamlessly. Patients who arrive stabilized and announced receive faster, more effective care.

This reality reflects more than institutional gaps.

Society shares responsibility. Public awareness shapes outcomes long before doctors intervene. Recognizing chest pain, breathing difficulty, stroke signs, and sudden collapse leads to earlier calls.

Understanding when movement causes harm protects spines and airways. Saving emergency numbers preserves minutes that preserve lives.

Indian law recognizes this principle clearly.

In the landmark judgment Parmanand Katara versus Union of India, the Supreme Court affirmed preservation of life as paramount. Doctors carry a professional obligation to provide emergency care without procedural barriers.

By linking emergency care to the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution, the Court affirmed timely treatment as a fundamental right. Delay, in emergency medicine, becomes denial.

But emergencies arrive without announcement, and the Golden Hour begins regardless of readiness.

Each action either protects that hour or spends it.

Calm handling, early calls, trained transport, and correct destination keep the clock working in favour of life.

From where I stand, most losses arise from misunderstanding how emergencies unfold.

When communities respect the Golden Hour with clarity and coordination, hospitals receive patients ready for healing rather than already burdened by lost time.

—

The author is associated with the Kashmiri American Society for Healthcare, Medical Education and Research.

Letter to Editor

Digital Jamabandi Brings Real Relief to Kashmiri Farmers

In a historic first for Jammu & Kashmir, Kishigund, a village in Tehsil Qazigund, has shown how governance can transform from secrecy into empowerment.

For decades, the Jamabandi, the cornerstone of land administration, functioned more as a symbol of authority than as a tool for the people.

Hidden in dusty record rooms, written in archaic language, and accessible only through intermediaries, it dictated ownership, inheritance, and cultivation while leaving farmers with little control.

Errors persisted, manipulations spread silently, and disputes multiplied.

Families lived with uncertainty over land that had shaped their livelihoods for generations.

That reality has changed.

Under the leadership of Tehsildar Sajad Ahmad, Kishigund became the first village to conduct a public reading of the Jamabandi under the Walharus Digital Revenue Portal.

Villagers no longer had to rely on clerks or intermediaries to interpret their records. Survey numbers, ownership details, share ratios, mutation entries, cultivation information, inheritance claims, and boundary descriptions were read aloud in front of landowners. Discrepancies were recorded immediately in a grievance register, ensuring prompt correction.

Authority shifted from offices to the people themselves, turning bureaucracy into participation.

In rural India, the Jamabandi carries unmatched significance. It identifies landowners, cultivators, heirs, mortgage holders, and beneficiaries of compensation or government schemes. It preserves the social history of villages while defining economic futures.

When kept inaccessible, it became a source of disputes, encroachments, and corruption.

Kishigund demonstrates that transparency restores confidence. Elderly farmers matched decades-old receipts with digital entries. Women verified inheritance claims. Young landowners ensured title clarity. Doubts dissolved instantly, and disputes resolved peacefully.

The Jamabandi transformed from a source of fear into a shield for the community.

The initiative also redefined the role of the Patwari. Instead of acting as a gatekeeper, the Patwari became a facilitator, guiding verification, ensuring accuracy, and helping villagers understand their records. Careful preparation and error-free digitisation restored public respect for an institution that had once inspired trepidation. Technology provided the tool, but leadership converted it into democratic practice.

Kishigund sends a clear message to every Tehsil in the Union Territory. Jamabandies must leave offices and reach villages. They must be read publicly, verified by owners, corrected transparently, and published online.

Errors cannot hide, bribes cannot prevail, and public scrutiny will become standard.

The initiative reflects institutional support from the Financial Commissioner Revenue and the Commissioner Secretary Revenue, whose commitment to citizen-focused digital governance created the conditions for success.

The Jamabandi functions as a social contract between the state and its citizens. Kishigund has restored that contract by guaranteeing ownership, inheritance, cultivation, and economic security. Villagers now participate directly in safeguarding their rights, demonstrating that reform succeeds when transparency, accountability, and public engagement guide administration.

This initiative transforms digitisation into democratisation, converting bureaucratic authority into citizen empowerment, and proving that governance can earn the trust and confidence of every villager.

Sincerely,

Mohammad Amin Mir
miramin354@gmail.com

An Agri Expert Reads Kashmir's Global Market Rise

A policy practitioner shares field-based insights on linking Kashmir's agriculture with international markets and enterprise pathways.

Aashiq Hussain Andrabi

Dr. Azra Mufti starts from the ground up, detailing how farms, government policies, and export networks are working together to transform Kashmir's agricultural landscape.

Today, global food buyers want products they can trace back to their source, with a strong regional identity and top-quality standards.

Kashmir already grows many of these crops, from saffron and walnuts to honey, aromatic rice, and medicinal plants.

The focus now is on bringing everyone together, strengthening systems, and building connections that help local farmers take their produce from the farm to national and international markets.

Working with the Export Development Authority under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Dr. Mufti engages directly with farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations, exporters, and institutions.

Her role brings her into conversations that link village-level production with policy frameworks and global demand.

Each season involves decisions on certification, value addition, aggregation, and market access that affect incomes, enterprise, and regional growth.

Her professional journey reinforces this perspective.

With a doctorate in management and experience in entrepreneurship and skill development, she has worked with IIM Jammu on startup incubation, youth capacity building, and enterprise ecosystems. Two authored books in management and development reflect her engagement with both theory and practice.

In this interview with the Kashmir Observer, Dr. Mufti speaks on exports, women-led enterprises, youth engagement, FPO strengthening, and technology adoption, offering a clear view of Kashmir's agriculture moving toward global markets.

You spend a lot of time working with farmers, exporters, and institutions through APEDA. When you step back and look at Kashmir's fields today, where do you see the biggest export opportunities that remain underused?

Kashmir's export story stretches far beyond apples and walnuts, and the strongest opportunity sits in how existing produce reaches the market.

A large share of what farmers grow still moves out in raw form, which limits income and global reach.

Value-added products such as apple concentrate, dried fruits, walnut kernels, honey, and processed vegetables already match demand patterns in Gulf countries and Europe. Many farming clusters across north and south Kashmir follow low-chemical cultivation practices, which creates a strong base for organic or residue-free certification.

When these farmers come together through well-structured Farmer Producer Organizations, aggregation becomes possible and premium international markets open up.

Saffron, temperate vegetables, medicinal and aromatic plants, and high-quality honey also hold major export promise. Walnuts and dry fruits carry global demand as well, especially when grading, branding, and packaging reach international standards.

Strong post-harvest systems and direct links between farmers and exporters can convert these strengths into lasting export channels.

Apples often dominate every discourse around Kashmir economy. While working on export readiness, which other crops or products have truly surprised you in terms of global interest?

The diversity beyond apples stands out the most.

Lavender has shown strong promise through essential oils, dried flowers, and cosmetic uses, especially within wellness and aromatherapy markets.

Honey from high-altitude and forest regions attracts premium buyers due to its purity and rich floral character.

Mushk Budji, the aromatic red rice of Kashmir, carries a distinct identity through aroma, nutrition, and cultural history, which appeals to specialty food and health-focused consumers overseas.

Medicinal and aromatic plants, traditional pulses, and specialty dry fruits also attract growing attention.

These crops already exist across the region. Certification, branding, quality control, and export linkages can position them as global representatives of Kashmiri agriculture alongside apples.

Export conversations often sound ambitious, while farmers deal with daily realities on the ground. Can you share a real situation where you helped

align local production with international demand?

Work with cherry growers in Ganderbal provides a clear example.

Premium buyers are looking for seedless or low-stone fruits, consistent size, and longer shelf life. Local orchards, however, still focus on traditional seeded varieties. These fruits have excellent taste but are not ideal for export markets.

The focus here was on preparation rather than rushing to export.

By working closely with farmers, horticulture officials, and technical experts, the team identified cherry varieties suited for export and planned orchard rejuvenation.

Guidance on harvesting, grading, and post-harvest handling also helped improve the quality of produce for domestic and regional markets.

This approach aligned farmer expectations with market demand and laid the foundation for future exports.

Many educated young people in Kashmir see agriculture as something they return to only when other careers close off. How does that perception change?

A shift happens once agriculture appears as a business with scale, innovation, and value.

Exposure to real examples plays a central role. Young graduates respond strongly when they see food processing units, agri-tech startups, branding ventures, logistics services, and export-focused enterprises creating income and employment.

APEDA initiatives such as BHARATI connect students with incubation, mentorship, and market access, which helps ideas move toward enterprises.

Agriculture becomes appealing once value addition, technology, and services enter the picture, allowing graduates to apply skills in management, finance, and digital systems.

Coordination among universities, incubators, and government programs builds confidence and reduces early risks, turning agripreneurship into a respected career path.

You consistently emphasize women-led enterprises. Within Kashmir's social setting, what stands in the way, and what support structures have delivered results?

Women contribute extensively to agriculture while facing restrictions shaped by social norms.

Limited mobility and reduced decision-making roles restrict participation in economic activities. Many women lack formal farmer recognition, which blocks access to land records, credit, insurance, and public schemes.

Limited literacy and exposure to business practices add another layer of difficulty. Infrastructure gaps and connectivity challenges further limit market reach.

Collective approaches offer strong results. Self-Help Groups and cooperatives provide financial access, shared learning, and collective confidence. Programs such as UMEED under the J&K Rural Livelihood Mission deliver entrepreneurship training and financial literacy. Krishi Vigyan Kendras offer technical guidance and market connections. Digital literacy initiatives expand access to online platforms.

Visibility of successful women agripreneurs helps shift social attitudes and strengthens confidence across communities.

Farmer Producer Organizations promised scale and collective strength. But many FPOs in J&K continue to struggle financially. Why has sustainability remained elusive?

Several factors shape this outcome. Many FPOs operate with limited membership, which restricts production volume and bargaining power.

Managerial capacity often remains weak, especially around accounting, strategic planning, and leadership. Market access challenges persist, as organized buyers and value-added opportunities remain limited. Dependence on local traders reduces margins and restricts growth.

Professional management, stronger market integration, and clearer business models remain essential for financial stability.

Skill development programs receive heavy investment, though farmer incomes often show limited improvement. Where does the system fall short?

Training programs focus largely on production techniques while income growth depends on the entire value chain.

Market access, aggregation, processing, and pricing strategies often receive less attention. Many programs operate over short periods without sustained mentoring or follow-up.

Content sometimes mismatches local conditions, especially when inputs or climate suitability receive limited planning.

Access to finance and tools continues to shape outcomes. Fragmented production and weak storage systems keep farmers dependent on middlemen. Gender and social barriers also influence participation. Impact measurement focuses more on activity counts than income outcomes.

Integrated support linking skills with finance, markets, and post-harvest systems delivers stronger results.

AI and precision farming sound advanced. How does this translate into everyday practice for a saffron farmer in Pampore or a walnut grower in Kupwara?

Practical AI functions as a decision-support system that guides daily choices.

A saffron farmer can capture field images through a mobile application and receive early detection of fungal stress with targeted recommendations.

A walnut grower can rely on soil and moisture data to irrigate specific trees, reducing water use and disease risk.

Yield predictions based on weather patterns and crop stages support planning for labour, storage, and market timing.

SMS and voice alerts deliver pest and disease information in local contexts. Drone-assisted spraying applies nutrients with precision, saving labour and improving coverage.

These tools enhance productivity and quality while fitting naturally into daily routines.

When a young Kashmiri woman from a farming family tells you she wants to pursue agriculture while her family prefers a government job, how do you respond?

Honesty and encouragement guide that conversation.

Agriculture today offers paths across organic saffron, walnuts, medicinal herbs, floriculture, horticulture, processing, and digital marketing.

Technology expands reach beyond local markets and supports enterprise growth.

Challenges exist, including climate uncertainty, infrastructure gaps, and market linkages, which demand planning and persistence.

Starting with small, supported steps creates balance. Combining family farm experience with training programs, mentorship, and cooperative networks builds confidence.

A gradual approach respects family concerns around stability while allowing ambition to grow through practical results.

Your career centers on Kashmir's agricultural development, despite slow progress and structural challenges. Which moment confirmed that this work mattered deeply?

A visit to Pampore shaped that conviction.

Walking through saffron fields alongside women farmers during harvest revealed both dedication and unmet potential. Conversations focused on improving quality, adopting better practices, and reaching fair markets, while access to knowledge, finance, and buyers remained limited.

That experience showed how focused support through training, cooperatives, and direct market links could shift outcomes meaningfully.

Standing in those fields clarified that agricultural development supports livelihoods, strengthens communities, and transforms effort into opportunity.

— The Interviewer is a senior scribe from Pulwama.

The Golden Dome Waits

On the day the world remembers Sayyida Zainab (s.a.), her shrine in Damascus stands empty. Its courtyards once full of prayers and devotion now wait for pilgrims to return.

Muzammil Malik

PILGRIMS MAY BE GONE, BUT THE STORY DOES NOT FADE. Faith and courage do not need walls to survive. Believers hold hope that Insha'Allah, pilgrims will return. Dust will be swept away, the golden dome will shine, and prayers will fill the air once more.

On the edge of Damascus stands the glittering shrine of Sayyida Zainab bint Ali (s.a.), granddaughter of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Her name has been spoken with love, awe, and hope for centuries.

She witnessed one of the darkest days in Islamic history and turned her grief into a voice that could not be silenced.

Her shrine has carried that story for generations.

People from Iran, Iraq, India, Pakistan, and far beyond have come to walk its courtyards.

Amid waves of devotion and deep feeling, the golden dome would shine over the walls, turning tiles and verses into living stories of sacrifice, courage, and faith.

During Muharram, the air pulsed with prayers and songs of Karbala. Mothers wept without end for their lost sons, children listened wide-eyed to tales of bravery, and strangers found a platonic bond through shared devotion.

Every corner of the shrine held life, faith, and lessons in standing tall against cruelty.

Today, the shrine sits empty.

Political unrest forced caretakers and volunteers to leave. Pilgrims cannot come. Courtyards that once rang with chants, cries, and prayers now lie deserted.

Flags marking mourning, banners celebrating life, all have disappeared.

The shrine carries centuries of memory, but those who kept it alive are gone.

This place carries the significance and story of Karbala and a woman who refused to bow before tyranny.

In 680 CE, Zainab (s.a.) watched her brother Imam Hussain (a.s.), her sons Aun and Muhammad, and countless relatives and companions fall to Yazid's brutality.

Thirst, blood, and despair filled the day of Ashura, but she rose to speak truth where others could not. Her words shook the courts of Kufa and Damascus.

She turned pain into courage and suffering into a call for justice that still echoes today.

Her shrine has always been a symbol of strength.

Mothers of martyrs came to find comfort there. Children learned of Karbala's lessons beneath its glowing dome. Pilgrims drew courage from Umm al-Masa'ib, the Mother of Sorrows.

Every tile and step carried the power of steadfast faith.

Its emptiness now feels like a silent echo of past sorrows. Like the unmarked grave of Sayyida Fatimah Zahra (s.a.) in Jannat al-Baqi, it reminds the world that the family of the Prophet has endured suffering across centuries.

Pilgrims may be gone, but the story does not fade. Faith and courage do not need walls to survive.

Believers hold hope that Insha'Allah, pilgrims will return. Dust will be swept away, the golden dome will shine, and prayers will fill the air once more.

Until then, Sayyida Zainab's (s.a.) story continues in hearts everywhere.

— The author is an observer documenting the spiritual and historical significance of sacred sites. He can be reached at malikmuzami32@gmail.com.

Rehab Facilities Emerge as Hope for Drug-Hit Youth

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: At a time when drug abuse continues to pose a serious social and public health challenge in Kashmir, addiction treatment centres across the Valley are increasingly emerging as vital support systems and rays of hope for individuals trapped in substance dependency.

Health experts and officials said these centres, despite limited infrastructure, are playing a critical role in treatment, counselling and rehabilitation of drug abusers, many of whom are young and vulnerable.

Officials associated with the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at District Hospital Kulgam told KNO that since its establishment, the centre has registered 2,109 patients, reflecting the magnitude of the crisis as well as the growing trust in institutional treatment. Of these, 112 new patients were registered in 2025 alone, while the facility recorded an impressive 18,835 follow-up visits during the same year, indicating sustained engagement with those undergoing treatment.

Similarly, the ATF at Shopian has also witnessed a steady rise in footfall. Officials said 713 patients have been registered so far, with around 100 new patients enrolled in 2025, underlining the expanding reach of addiction treatment services in south Kashmir.

Doctors working at these centres revealed alarming trends in substance use. "Nearly 95 per cent of the patients visiting the ATFs are opioid users, predominantly heroin," they said, adding that around 70 per cent of these heroin users are intravenous drug abusers (IVDAs). This puts them at a high risk of life-threatening infections such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV.

In addition to opioids, doctors noted a growing abuse of Pregabalin, a prescription drug often misused for its sedative and euphoric effects. "The misuse of pharmaceutical drugs alongside heroin is a disturbing trend and complicates treatment," a senior doctor said.

Data from the centres indicate that the 15–40 age group constitutes the majority of drug abusers seeking treatment.

Experts attribute this to a combination of peer pressure, easy availability of drugs, unemployment, stress and imitation or 'modelling' behaviour.

"Most of these young individuals start experimenting casually, but addiction sets in quickly," doctors explained. "Without timely intervention, it destroys not just the individual but entire families."

While the number of patients visiting treatment centres is increasing, doctors stressed that this represents only a fraction of the actual problem. "Those who come to us are just the tip of the iceberg," they said, pointing out that social stigma and fear of judgment prevent a large number of addicts from seeking professional help.

"Despite repeated efforts to project addiction as a medical condition rather than a moral failing, stigma continues to dominate societal attitudes," doctors said. "Many families prefer silence over treatment, which often worsens the condition."

They added that although the availability of drugs has shown some decline due to enforcement measures, "much more needs to be done to cut supply chains and address demand through education and awareness."

Health experts emphasised the role of families in the recovery process. "Family support is not optional—it is essential," doctors said. "Patients who receive emotional, psychological and moral backing from their families show far better recovery outcomes."

MP Resident Held for Killing Friend for Cash Near Jammu

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Police has arrested a man, a resident of Madhya Pradesh, for allegedly murdering his friend in Samba district with the intent of grabbing his compensation money, an official said on Tuesday.

The mutilated body of Jeevan Ahirwar, a resident of Bijawar tehsil of Chhatarpur in Madhya Pradesh, was recovered in Bari Brahmana area of Samba on January 7, with the police registering a murder case in this connection, the official said.

Following extensive efforts, police arrested the main accused, Anil Kumar, resident of Beniganj village in the same Madhya Pradesh district, from his rented accommodation in the Channi Himmat area of Jammu, he added.

"The accused, upon sustained questioning, confessed his involvement in the case. It has surfaced during the investigation that the accused had strangulated the deceased and subsequently attacked his face with a stone to deface his identity," the spokesman said. The investigation revealed that the deceased had received an amount of nearly Rs 13 lakh from the Madhya Pradesh government as compensation for his house and land.

"The accused, being a close friend of the deceased, was well aware of the money and wanted to grab it," police said, adding that three mobile phones, one ATM card, and one Remit card, which had been stolen from the deceased, have been recovered from Anil.

According to PTI, the investigation revealed that after committing the murder, the accused withdrew Rs 55,000 from the deceased's bank account using the stolen ATM card.

An amount of Rs 14,400 has been recovered in cash from the accused, while the remaining amount has been found deposited in his bank account, the spokesman said, adding that necessary action has been initiated with the bank to secure the remaining amount. (Observer News Service)

Speaker J&K LA addresses 86th AIPOC 2026

LUCKNOW: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today addressed the 86th All India Presiding Officers Conference (AIPOC) 2026 at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Abdul Rahim Rather spoke on the "Accountability of the Legislature towards the people" to improve mechanisms for the legislature to be more responsive and accountable to citizens. The Speaker, while addressing the conference, mentioned verses from Manusmriti and Quran, saying that accountability of the Legislature towards the people had deep roots in ancient Indian democratic traditions, where Dharma guided governance and institutions like Sabha and Samiti ensured public participation.

Referring to hindu scriptures, he called lawmakers as the servants of dharma, not masters of power. He said that Legislatures are accountable for the welfare and protection of people. Similarly, in Islam, it is stated that the Legislators must exercise their power with fairness, honesty and responsibility towards the people they serve, the Speaker asserted.

"The Constitution envisions a Legislature that is transparent, responsive and answerable. It entrusts the Legislatures with immense responsibility to frame laws, oversee the Executive, approve public expenditure and provide a forum for debate and dissent" he added.

The Speaker further said that in a democracy, the Legislature is not merely an institution of lawmaking; it is the collective voice, conscience and custodian of the people's will.

Rather asserted that one of the primary ways Legislatures demonstrate accountability is through thoughtful, inclusive and well-scrutinized legislation. "A House that debates with depth and dignity sends a powerful message that people's issues are being taken seriously and laws passed in haste, without adequate debate or stakeholder consultation, may erode public confidence" he said. (Observer News Service)

DIG South Kashmir Assesses Security Scenario

SRINAGAR: DIG South Kashmir Range Javid Iqbal Matoo-IPS, chaired a comprehensive security and crime review meeting at DPO Anantnag to assess the prevailing security scenario and the overall law-and-order situation in the district.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, the meeting was attended by SSP Anantnag Amritpal Singh-IPS, SP Headquarters Anantnag Kartik Shrotriya, SP Operations Anantnag Furqan Qadir, ASP North Aishmuqam Rameez Raja, along with all SDPOs and SHOs of District Anantnag.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on security preparedness, crime trends, anti-militancy operations, crime prevention, and public safety measures. DIG SKR reviewed the performance of various police units and emphasized the need for enhanced coordination, intelligence-based policing, and timely action against criminal and anti-social elements.

DIG SKR stressed upon maintaining high standards of professionalism, strengthening community policing, and ensuring swift response to public grievances. He also directed officers to intensify preventive measures, improve visibility of police on the ground, and work with dedication to maintain peace and stability in the district. (Observer News Service)

ACB Traps Four Officials in Separate Bribery Cases

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday trapped and arrested four officials, including two PWD employees, a Patwari and an Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI), in three separate cases of demanding and accepting bribes, officials said here.

They said the arrests were made following complaints lodged by citizens who refused to pay illegal gratification, prompting the ACB to conduct discreet verifications and catch the accused red-handed during sting operations.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, the Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption bureau today arrested four officials for demanding and accepting bribes. One case was registered at PS ACB Udhampur whereas 02 cases were registered at PS ACB Rajouri.

The statement reads, ACB received a complaint that Anil Jamwal, Jr. Assistant posted in the office of Superintending Engineer PWD R&B Udhampur and Jeet Kumar Computer operator posted in the office of Executive Engineer PWD R&B Udhampur demanded the bribe from the complainant for issuance of contractor card. Since, the complainant did not want to pay a bribe, he approached ACB for taking legal action against the accused public servant under law.

It reads, on receipt of the compliant, a discreet verification was conducted, which corroborated the demand of bribe by the public servant concerned and accordingly, a case FIR No. 02/2026 U/S 07 of Prevention of Corruption, Act, 1988 and Section 61(2) BNS, 2023 was registered at PS ACB Udhampur and investigation was taken-up.

"During the course of investigation, a trap team headed by Dy. SP Rank Officer was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and accused public servants were caught red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe amount ₹12000 from the complainant in the presence of independent witnesses," the statement reads.

It also reads, the bribe money was also recovered from the possession of the accused in presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team. Moreover, searches were also conducted at Ram Nagar and Laddan Power House Udhampur respectively, in presence of the Magistrate.

In another case, "ACB received a complaint alleging therein that ASI Zamurat Manhas called the complainant at Police Station Mendhar, on the complaint of one Abdul Qayoom for not returning his money. Complainant requested for some time to return the money and Abdul Qayoom agreed. Thereafter, ASI Zamurat Manhas started demanding a bribe from the complainant to settle the matter with Abdul Qayoom. He also threatened him that if he does not pay the bribe, he will book him under PSA. Since the complainant is a poor person and did not want to give illegal gratification to the above named accused, he approached and lodged a written complaint in Police Station ACB Rajouri for taking legal action against him."

The statement reads, accordingly Case FIR No. 01/2026 was registered at PS ACB Rajouri and investigation taken up.

"During the course of investigation, a team was constituted. The team caught ASI Zamurat Manhas red handed accused while demanding and accepting ₹5,000 as bribe from the complainant. The accused was arrested on spot and subsequently, searches were also conducted at the residential premises of the accused at Mendhar, Surankote and Jammu."

The statement further reads, in yet another case ACB on the basis of a written complaint alleging therein that complainant approached Patwari Mohd. Razaq posted in Patwar Halqa Sokar/Prori, Koteranka for recording the name of his three daughters in the revenue record. However, the concerned Patwari demanded a bribe from the complainant for recording the name of his daughters in Khasra Girdawari.

"Since the complainant is a poor person and did not want to give illegal gratification to the above named Patwari, he approached and lodged a written complaint in Police Station ACB Rajouri for taking legal action against him. Accordingly, case FIR No. 02/2026 was registered at PS ACB Rajouri and investigation taken up."

It reads, after registration of the case, a team of PS ACB Rajouri caught Mohd. Razaq, Patwari red handed while demanding and accepting ₹10,000 as bribe from the complainant. The accused was arrested on spot and subsequently, searches were conducted at the residential premises of the accused. Further investigation in all the three cases is going on.

CS Clears Roadmap and Workforce Plan for Census 2027

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a significant step towards preparations for Census 2027, a Union Territory Level Census Coordination Committee meeting was held today under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo here.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Chief Secretary, Planning, Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners of all districts, senior officers of the UT Administration and officers of the Directorate of Census Operations.

The Chief Secretary underscored the need for close coordination between the UT Administration and the Census Directorate and directed all Deputy Commissioners to extend full support to ensure smooth, accurate and timely conduct of Census operations. He assured full cooperation of the UT Government for the successful conduct of Census 2027.

A key decision taken during the meeting pertained to the Census schedule. It was decided that House Listing Operations (HLO) will be conducted across the Union Territory from June 1 to June 30, 2026, with self-enumeration commencing 15 days prior to HLO. The UT Government will issue the requisite notification by January 31, 2026. To facilitate smooth self-enumeration, services of Technical Assistants and Charge Officials will be utilised to guide the general public during the 15-day self-enumeration period.

During the meeting, the Director Census Operations, J&K and Ladakh, Amit Sharma made a comprehensive presentation outlining the framework and key features of Census 2027, which will be India's first fully digital Census.

The presentation highlighted major innovations including the Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS), provision for self-enumeration by citizens, and caste enumeration, being introduced for the first time. The sequence of Census activities—covering training, self-enumeration, house-listing and population enumeration—along with detailed timelines was also elaborated.

To ensure accuracy and consistency of Census data, the Additional Chief Secretary, Planning was asked to coordinate with the concerned Administrative Secretaries for examination and finalisation of figures related to villages, tehsils and other administrative units for Census 2027. The Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department was instructed to ensure that details of slum areas are finalised and communicated to the Census Directorate within the prescribed timelines.

Mehbooba's Divisional Pitch Echoes Dixon Plan: Dr Farooq

Observer News Service

JAMMU: A day after former Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti floated the idea of creating separate divisions for Chenab and Pir Panchal regions, NC President Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday termed it the Dixon Plan.

Talking to reporters, as KNO, the NC president said that the proposal floated by PDP president Mehbooba Mufti is an old plan, known as the Dixon Plan.

"It is the Dixon Plan. You might not know that. The Dixon Plan is an old proposal which envisaged the division of Jammu & Kashmir on the basis of the Chenab River, creating a Greater Kashmir on one side of the river and separating the other part," Farooq said when asked about Mehbooba Mufti's demand for the creation of separate divisions for the Chenab and Pir Panchal regions.

The Dixon Plan was proposed in 1950 by Sir Owen Dixon, an Australian jurist appointed by the United Nations.

The NC president said that they were against the separation of Ladakh from Jammu & Kashmir.

"What benefit did Ladakhis get from separation? Today, Ladakhis are seeking reunification with J&K and are saying that they don't want UT status. One day, Ladakh will reunite with J&K," he said, adding that there are many people who want to break J&K, but they will never succeed in their designs.

He said the media is suffering from a phobia of Pakistan. "We should remember Vajpayee ji and his words-that we can change friends but not neighbours," he said.

Farooq also slammed Mehbooba Mufti for questioning Omar Abdullah's government over unemployment.

"What did she do as Chief Minister? Her father was also Chief Minister. It is easy to point fingers at others, but she should remember that three fingers are also pointing back at her," he said.

On being asked about Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma's recent remarks that the National Conference and PDP are trying to create disturbances in Kashmir, Farooq Abdullah said that it is they who create disturbances. "We have taken bullets for India," he added.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (U T)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MACHINERY DIVISION KASHMIR, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR.

CORRIGENDUM 01 FOR DATE EXTENSION

Name of work: - Supply, testing and commissioning of Imported Heavy Duty Greens/Tees Aeration Machine with traction support at LVGC Pahalgam

Reference: - This office e-NIT No.: - MDSK/TS /2025-26/88 Date:09-01-2026 (Tender ID: 2026_PWDJK_300253 _1)

In view of representation made by the intending bidders and for wider participation the dates of the above referred e-NIT is extended as under: -

S.No.	Description	Previous Dates	New Dates.
01.	Last date of downloading/ submission of bids	19-01-2026 upto 06:55PM	24-01-2026 upto 10:00 AM
02.	Date of opening of bids online	20-01-2026 at 02:00 PM	24-01-2026 at 03:00 PM

All Other terms, conditions and specifications as stipulated in the e-NIT shal remain unchanged.

No: MDSK/TS/5521-24
Date: 20-01-2026.

DIPK-10196-25
DT: 20/01/2026

Executive Engineer
Machinery Division Kashmir

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: exen-mechospsgr@jk.gov.in)

Subject: - Refilling of various fire extinguishers at Govt. LD Hospital, Srinagar
Ref :- This office e- NIT no: M&HDS/TS/2025-26/135/e-tendering Dated 15.01.2026

CORRIGENDUM

	Kindly Read	Instead Of
Guarantee/ warranty	The period of the guarantee shall be for 03 yrs (ABC Type) /05 yrs (CO2/ CAF Type) from the date of Successful completion of works.	The period of the guarantee shall be for 03 yrs/06 months from the date of Successful completion of works.
Performance Guarantee	Before placement of Allotment order, the successful bidder shall have to furnish Performance security within a weeks' time from the date of intimation by the order placing authority, equivalent to five (05) % of the value of the finalized Contract value as "Performance Guarantee", in shape of FDR/ Irrevocable Bank Guarantee (Encashable from a Nationalized Bank having a Branch in Srinagar) pledged to Executive Engineer, M&HD, Srinagar which shall be released after successful completion of work and verification from AEE concerned.	The successful tenderer shall complete all the work to the entire satisfaction of the department.

All other Terms and Conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.

No: M&HDS/TS/8030-33
Dated:20.01.2026
DIPK-10214-25
DT: 20/01/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical & Hospitals Division,
Srinagar

Gold Breaches Rs 1.5 Lakh/10g-Mark

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Gold prices jumped Rs 5,100 on Tuesday to breach the crucial Rs 1.5 lakh-per-10-gram milestone in the national capital, driven by strong demand in domestic and international markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity traded at Rs 1,53,200 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) against the previous closing level of Rs 1,48,100 per 10 grams.

Silver prices also strengthened in the local bullion market and scaled a fresh peak. The white metal skyrocketed by Rs 20,400, or nearly 7 per cent, to Rs 3,23,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes).

On Monday, silver prices rallied Rs 10,000, surging past the Rs 3 lakh-per-kilogram mark in the national capital.

According to forex.com, spot gold breached the USD 4,700 per ounce level for the first time in the international market. The yellow metal increased by USD 66.38, or 1.42 per cent, to USD 4,737.40 per ounce.

Spot silver also climbed to hit a new record of USD 95.88 per ounce in the overseas trade.

IndiGo Ops Stabilised; Adequate Pilots To Comply With Flight Duty Norms: DGCA

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Aviation watchdog DGCA on Tuesday said sustained regulatory oversight as well as corrective measures have helped stabilise operations at IndiGo, and the airline now has an adequate number of pilots to ensure compliance with the new flight duty norms without disruptions.

Days after slapping penalties totalling Rs 22.20 crore on IndiGo for last month's massive flight disruptions, the regulator also said it was closely monitoring the airline's operations with "particular emphasis on roster integrity, crew availability, buffer adequacy, system robustness, and adherence to FDTL requirements".

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said that during the review meeting on January 19, IndiGo reported adequate pilot availability against projected operational requirements after February 10.

Citing the airline's submissions, the watchdog said there are 2,400 Pilots in Command (PICs) as against the requirement for 2,280, and the number of First Officers is 2,240 compared to the requirement for 2,050.

In the wake of the massive disruptions, DGCA had curtailed the airline's winter schedule by 10 per cent until February 10.

During the meeting, IndiGo assured operational stability and no flight cancellations after February 10, 2026, based on the current approved network, above crew strength, and the removal of the two FDTL (Flight Duty Time Limitations) exemptions approved on December 6, 2025, the watchdog said in a statement.

Between December 3 and 5, the DGCA said, 2,507 flights were cancelled, and 1,852 flights were delayed, impacting over 3 lakh passengers at airports across the country.

The watchdog mentioned that the disruptions stemmed from mismanagement of adequate flight crew, inadequate regulatory preparedness at the operator level, and shortcomings in system software support, management structure, and operational control.

"The airline's planning processes did not adequately identify operational deficiencies or maintain sufficient operational buffers. There was an overriding focus on maximising utilisation of crew, aircraft, and network resources, which led to reduced roster buffer margins.

"Crew rosters were designed to operate at the limits of permissible duty periods, with increased reliance on dead-heading, tail swaps, extended duty patterns, and minimal recovery margins. This approach compromised roster integrity and operational resilience and adversely impacted the effective implementation of the revised FDTL provisions," the statement said on Tuesday.

SC Tells Delhi Court To Hear CBI Builder-Bank Nexus Case

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked a special CBI court here to take cognisance within two weeks of three chargesheets filed by the federal agency on the "unholy nexus" between banks and developers to dupe homebuyers in the NCR, and proceed with the trial.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi was apprised by Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, who appeared in the matter for the CBI, that a substantial progress in the investigation will be made by the federal agency in all the 25 cases of homebuyers by March.

In July last year, the court had allowed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to register 22 cases over the "unholy nexus" between banks and developers to dupe homebuyers in the National Capital Region (NCR) by using the subvention scheme.

Under the scheme, banks disburse the sanctioned loan amount directly to the accounts of builders, who are then required to pay monthly instalments on the amount until flats are handed over to homebuyers.

After builders started defaulting on the instalments, the banks demanded the money from homebuyers, in line with the tripartite agreement.

On Tuesday, the bench, hearing the pleas of more than 1,200 hassled homebuyers, passed a fresh set of directions after taking note of the submissions of Bhati and amicus curiae (friend of the court) Rajiv Jain.

Bhati said the CBI has filed three chargesheets in Delhi's Rouse Avenue court but their cognisance is yet to be taken.

> **It asked the CBI to share the chargesheets' copies with the amicus curiae who, in turn,** will apprise the bench of the status and fairness of the probe conducted so far.

The bench asked the trial court to take cognisance of the chargesheets in two weeks and proceed with the cases expeditiously.

It asked the CBI to share the chargesheets' copies with the amicus curiae who, in turn, will apprise the bench of the status and fairness of the probe conducted so far.

The court noted that the CBI has inducted police officers from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to assist it in its ongoing probe in the cases.

The bench asked the central agency to consider lodging more FIRs if further complaints so warrant.

It also asked 23 banks and financial institutions, which are involved as bankers in the cases, to deposit Rs 10 lakh each in a special account of the Union Bank of India for reimbursing the expenses incurred by the amicus curiae and his office in assisting the bench.

Earlier, the bench had allowed the CBI to convert the six preliminary enquiries it had conducted against various builders and banks into 22 regular cases, equivalent to FIRs for cognisable offences, for further investigation. Later, the number of cases rose.

Those under the scanner include builders in the NCR and development authorities in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

The bench had appreciated the CBI's efforts in taking up the matter after realising the gravity and magnitude of the issue, examining more than 1,000 people and visiting 58 project sites, and asked it to expeditiously conclude the investigation and take the matter to its logical conclusion.

The court had noted that the investigation in the seventh preliminary enquiry registered by the CBI over projects of various builders except Supertech Limited falling outside the NCR -- in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mohali and Allahabad -- was still on.

Core Infra Sectors Record 4-Month High Growth At 3.7% In Dec

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- India's eight key infrastructure sectors registered a four-month high growth rate of 3.7 per cent in December last year, driven by a jump in the output of fertiliser and cement, according to official data released on Tuesday.

However, the performance of these eight sectors slowed on a year-on-year basis, the data showed. In December 2024, the sectors' output grew by 5.1 per cent. It was 2.1 per cent in November last year.

Crude oil, natural gas, and refinery products' production have recorded a negative growth during the month under review.

Fertiliser and cement output grew by 4.1 per cent and 13.5 per cent, respectively.

The growth rate in the output of coal, steel, and electricity moderated to 3.6 per cent, 6.9 per cent, and 5.3 per cent in December 2025.

Power generation, however, recorded a sequential jump in output, as it had contracted by 1.5 per cent in November.

During the April-December period of this fiscal, the output of these sectors grew by 2.6 per cent against 4.5 per cent recorded during the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

The eight core industries comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA Ltd, said it expects the IIP growth to ease somewhat to about 4.5-5 per cent in December 2025 from 6.7 per cent in November 2025.

Investors' Wealth Erodes By Rs 9.86 Lakh Cr As Stock Markets Tumble

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Investors' wealth eroded by Rs 9.86 lakh crore in a single day on Tuesday as stock markets faced heavy drubbing, with the BSE Sensex tumbling 1,066 points, amid escalating geopolitical tensions and unabated foreign fund outflows.

Extending its previous day's decline, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,065.71 points or 1.28 per cent to settle at 82,180.47. During the day, it dropped 1,235.6 points or 1.48 per cent to 82,010.58.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms eroded by Rs 9,86,093.96 crore to Rs 4,55,82,683.29 crore (USD 5.01 trillion), mirroring a bearish trend in equities.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Eternal declined by 4.02 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance (3.88 per cent), Sun Pharma, InterGlobe Aviation, Trent, Asian Paints, Mahindra & Mahindra and Bajaj Finserv.

HDFC Bank emerged as the only gainer from the pack.

"The aggressive and often unpredictable use of tariffs by the US administration as a foreign policy tool is creating widespread unease among global market participants, triggering sharp volatility across financial markets. This has weighed heavily on risk assets while pushing safe-haven gold and silver prices higher.

"Fresh threats by US President Donald Trump to impose additional tariffs on European nations opposing the US move to take control of Greenland have triggered another bout of global equity selling, with Indian markets also witnessing broad-based pressure," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

The Indian equity market ended today's session on a decisively negative note, reflecting a combination of weak global cues, cautious investor positioning, and subdued risk appetite, he added.

The BSE smallcap gauge tumbled 2.74 per cent, and the midcap index dropped 2.52 per cent.

All BSE sectoral indices ended lower. Realty dived 5.21 per cent, services tanked 2.89 per cent, capital goods (2.76 per cent), consumer discretionary (2.73 per cent), consumer durables (2.71 per cent), telecommunication (2.42 per cent), auto (2.36 per cent) and power (2.23 per cent).

Govt to Extend Quality Certification Fee Concessions For Small Firms By Three Years

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The government is set to extend quality certification fee concessions by three years beyond the current mid-2026 deadline to support small and medium enterprises, a senior official said on Tuesday, as India pushes a quality-first approach to manufacturing.

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has moved a proposal for the extension, which provides 80 per cent fee reduction for micro units, 50 per cent for small enterprises and 20 per cent for medium-sized firms.

"Very recently we have moved a proposal, it is likely to fructify... this concession would be available for the next three years," said Bharat Khera, additional secretary in the Consumer Affairs Ministry, at a PHD Chamber of Commerce event.

India needs to shift from compliance-driven to culture-driven quality standards to transform its Viksit Bharat manufacturing vision into reality, Khera said, warning that quality is not a compliance cost but "an enabler for market access".

The BIS has published over 23,000 standards with about 95 per cent aligned with international benchmarks, but implementation challenges persist, particularly for small and medium enterprises that account for 80 per cent of BIS licensees.

"Viksit Bharat is not just the scale of manufacturing. It's about credibility, consistency and trust in Indian products," Khera said.

BIS has issued 55,000 certification licenses, with half obtained voluntarily by manufacturers despite no regulatory mandate, indicating growing industry commitment to quality standards, according to H J S Pasricha, BIS deputy director general for certification.

Quality control orders currently cover over 700 products under mandatory certification, while another 900 products are under voluntary certification.

The government has digitised the certification platform with compliance rates reaching 96-97 per cent over the past two years for Indian manufacturers obtaining certification within 30-90 days.

BIS operates with about 1,400 staff, including 600-700 technical personnel, but relies on 15,000 industry experts working across more than 400 technical committees to develop standards.

The organisation has recognised 700 laboratories for testing, though officials acknowledged gaps remain in sectors like medical devices.

Testing infrastructure remains a challenge in sectors without mandatory standards, officials said, urging industry associations to identify specific gaps and locations where facilities are needed.

Rupee Falls 7 Paise To Settle At Record Low Of 90.97 Against US Dollar

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- The rupee depreciated 7 paise to close at a record low of 90.97 against the US dollar on Tuesday, as strong dollar demand from metal importers and persistent foreign fund outflows dented investor sentiment.

Forex traders said rising geopolitical uncertainties, including renewed US expansionary signals, have increased risk aversion and kept emerging market currencies under pressure.

Moreover, a sluggish domestic stock market triggered by an exodus of foreign capital further weighed on the local unit, they said.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 90.91 and lost ground, touched an intraday low of 91.06, and finally ended the day at an all-time low of 90.97 against the American currency.

On Monday, the rupee depreciated by 12 paise to close at 90.90 against the greenback.

On December 16, 2025, the rupee reached its lowest intra-day level of 91.14 and its previous lowest closing level of 90.93 against the American currency.

"The Indian rupee traded with a negative bias and slipped below the 91-mark on risk aversion in global markets and persistent FII outflows. However, a weak dollar and intervention by the RBI prevented a sharp fall," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset ShareKhan.

Choudhary further noted that the rupee is expected to trade with a negative bias on foreign fund outflows and risk aversion in global markets over the US stance on Greenland.

"Uncertainty over trade deal talks may also pressurise the rupee. However, a weak dollar and any RBI intervention may support the rupee at lower levels. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 90.70 to 91.25," he said.

EU On Cusp Of Historic Trade Deal With India: Leyen

Press Trust Of India

DAVOS- The European Union is on the cusp of signing a historic trade agreement with India that is being called 'the mother of all deals', European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced on Tuesday, asserting it will create a market for 2 billion people or about one-fourth of the global GDP.

In a special address here at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, she said the real would crucially provide a first-mover advantage for Europe with one of the world's fastest-growing and most dynamic continents.

"Right after Davos, I will travel to India. There is still work to do. But we are on the cusp of a historic trade agreement. Some call it the mother of all deals," she said.

"Europe wants to do business with the growth centres of today and the economic powerhouses of this century.

"From Latin America to the Indo-Pacific and far beyond, Europe will always choose the world. And the world is ready to choose Europe," she said.

President of the European Council, Antonio Costa and von der Leyen will be in India from January 25 to 27 to grace the Republic Day celebrations as chief guests and hold summit talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The two sides are set to announce the conclusion of negotiations on the much-awaited free trade agreement at the India-EU summit on January 27.

European Commission President said the EU is also working on a new free trade agreement with Australia.

"We are also advancing with the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, the UAE – and more," she added. She also said Europe will always stand with Ukraine until there is a just and lasting peace.

The European Union is India's biggest trade partner, with bilateral trade in goods recording USD 135 billion in the financial year 2023-24. The free trade agreement is expected to significantly enhance trade ties.

Barrier-Free Tolling: NOC For Vehicles Only After Clearing Pending Toll Dues

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- In a run-up to a barrier-free tolling system, the government has amended rules to make it mandatory for vehicle owners to clear all toll plaza dues before selling their vehicle or obtaining a fitness certificate.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has notified the amended 'Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 2026' to ensure that all unpaid user fees at toll plazas are cleared by the vehicle owners.

"These amendments are aimed at improving user fee compliance, enhancing the efficiency of Electronic Toll Collection and discouraging user fee evasion on National Highways.

"These amendments will also help in user fee collection after the implementation of the Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) system that will enable barrier-less tolling on the National Highway network," the ministry said in a statement.

The ministry added that no NOC will be given for vehicle transfer, fitness renewal and permits with pending toll dues.

Under the amended rules, a new definition of 'unpaid user fee' has been introduced, and it refers to the user fee payable for the use of a National Highway section, where the Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) system has recorded the vehicle's passage, but the applicable fee has not been received in accordance with the National Highways Act, 1956.

"These amendments will help NHAI in fostering transparent and technology-driven tolling systems for sustained development and maintenance of the National Highway network across the country," the ministry said.

Corresponding changes have also been made to 'Form 28', which now requires applicants to disclose whether any demand for an unpaid user fee at a toll plaza is pending against the vehicle, along with relevant details, it added.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

MeT Forecast Rain

weather conditions improve.

The advisory has also imposed strict traffic restrictions. Movement of heavy motor vehicles, including buses and trucks, as well as vehicles not fitted with anti-skid chains, has been prohibited on the Tangmarg–Gulmarg road and the Tangmarg–Babareshi road in both directions until further orders.

Officials including the Tehsildar Tangmarg, Station House Officer of Police Station Tangmarg, Duty Officer of Police Post Babareshi and personnel deployed at traffic checkpoints have been directed to ensure strict enforcement of the advisory. Vehicle owners, drivers, transporters and tourists have been asked to comply with the instructions to prevent accidents, traffic congestion and inconvenience.

Authorities have been instructed to keep men and machinery ready for snow clearance and emergency response to deal with any eventuality.

According to data, night temperatures fell across large parts of the Kashmir Valley on Tuesday compared to the previous day. Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 3.4 degrees Celsius, down from minus 1.2 degrees Celsius on Monday, while Srinagar Airport settled at minus 4.4 degrees Celsius against minus 3.8 degrees Celsius a day earlier.

Tourist resort Pahalgam saw a notable dip, with the mercury dropping to minus 4.0 degrees Celsius from minus 1.8 degrees Celsius. Gulmarg recorded minus 5.5 degrees Celsius, down from minus 3.5 degrees Celsius on Monday. Sonamarg, however, showed a marginal improvement at minus 6.2 degrees Celsius compared to Monday's minus 8.3 degrees Celsius.

In north Kashmir, Kupwara recorded minus 1.2 degrees Celsius, slightly higher than the previous night, while Qazigund remained almost steady at around minus 2.3 degrees Celsius. Baramulla recorded minus 2.1 degrees Celsius, and Bandipora dropped to minus 2.9 degrees Celsius.

Several areas in south Kashmir continued to reel under colder conditions. Pulwama recorded a minimum of minus 5.5 degrees Celsius, while Shopian settled at minus 4.8 degrees Celsius. Budgam cooled to minus 4.3 degrees Celsius from minus 2.4 degrees Celsius, and Beerwah in Budgam district recorded a sharp dip to minus 4.9 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu region, temperatures remained largely stable with minor fluctuations. Jammu city recorded a minimum of 7.4 degrees Celsius, nearly unchanged from Monday. Banihal, however, saw a sharp fall to minus 1.6 degrees Celsius from 0.7 degrees Celsius, while Bhaderwah recorded minus 1.2 degrees Celsius. Katra remained steady at 7.4 degrees Celsius.

In Ladakh, Leh recorded a minimum temperature of minus 9.0 degrees Celsius, colder than Monday's minus 8.0 degrees Celsius, while Hanle improved slightly to minus 13.3 degrees Celsius from minus 14.5 degrees Celsius.

Development Must

series of road and streetscape projects in Srinagar and Jammu.

According to the administration, these initiatives have enhanced urban aesthetics, improved public spaces and contributed to increased tourism, commercial activity and local economic growth.

"By breathing new life into our cities through preservation of cultural heritage, we are honouring our roots," the Lieutenant Governor said. "This is not just about upgrading infrastructure, but about building a brighter and more resilient future for the younger generation."

Interacting with local shopkeepers and traders at Amira Kadal, Sinha said the reopening of the pedestrian bridge would improve accessibility, boost commercial activity and offer a better experience for visitors.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by MLA Lal Chowk Ahsan Pardesi, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, IGP Kashmir V K Birdi, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, Srinagar Smart City Limited CEO Faz Lul Haseeb, senior officials, members of trade associations and prominent citizens.

Officials said the Amira Kadal bridge redevelopment forms part of a broader effort to reimagine Srinagar's public spaces while safeguarding the city's historic character.

J&K Bank Q3 Net

Net Interest Margin (NIM) for the quarter has improved to 3.62%, up by 6 bps QoQ. Cost-to-Income Ratio of the Bank improved to 55.88% YoY for the quarter from 57.28%, while as Return on Assets (RoA) for nine-months stood at 1.23%.

The Bank's operating metrics reflected steady growth, as the Net Interest Income (NII) witnessed 3.8% growth QoQ to Rs 1488.88 Cr, while the Other Income for the quarter surged 15.3% YoY to Rs 279.46 Cr from Rs 242.32 Cr recorded last financial year. The Bank's Cost of Deposits also declined to 4.69% QoQ from 4.86%.

Commenting upon operating performance, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "Despite rate cut, impairment provisioning for Grameen Bank and challenging conditions - particularly the events of April 22, their subsequent impact, and the floods that disrupted the local economy - the Bank remains firmly on track to deliver record profits for the fourth consecutive year."

"Characterized by robust top-line growth and better asset quality, overall our Q3 performance underscores our strong fundamentals, disciplined execution, and sustained operational efficiency", MD & CEO added.

Asset Quality

The Bank's Gross NPA ratio declined YoY to 3.00%, down by 108 basis points (bps) from 4.08%, while as the Net NPA reduced by 26 bps YoY to 0.68% from 0.94% and 8 bps QoQ from 0.76%. The Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) for the quarter is above 90% at 90.46%.

In his comments on asset quality, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee remarked, "Even as our core geography has navigated significant challenges extending beyond the banking sector, the Bank's asset quality has continued to improve steadily. Supported by robust risk management practices, Gross NPAs have declined from around 4 percent to 3.00% percent, which is almost in line with our stated annual guidance."

"The sustained improvement in asset quality despite such disturbances speaks volumes about the resilience and commitment of borrowers and the underlying robustness of the local economy", he added.

Business Growth

Maintaining strong business momentum during the third quarter of the current financial year, the Bank recorded a robust YoY growth of 17.3% in gross advances and a healthy YoY growth of 10.6% in deposits. As on December 31, 2025, the Bank's gross Advances surged to Rs 116248 Cr while total deposits reached Rs 155861 Cr.

Commenting on the business growth, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "Delivering over 17% year-on-year growth in advances - well ahead of the guidance we had shared with the market - reflects the strength of our franchise, the effectiveness of our credit strategy and the meticulous execution by our teams on the ground. Double-digit growth of deposits in a competitive environment also highlights the trust reposed in the Bank by our customers."

"The accelerated advances growth was driven by focused expansion in retail, MSME, agriculture and select corporate portfolios, supported by improved credit appetite and strengthened customer engagement across both core and emerging geographies. Our consistent focus on deepening relationships within JKL and beyond, improving product penetration and enhancing service delivery continues to support stable balance-sheet expansion", he added.

Capital Adequacy

The Bank's Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) under Basel III stood at 15%.

Regarding capital position, MD & CEO remarked, "With our CAR at 15% - which will be further augmented by internal accruals on account of net profit for current fiscal - we are well capitalized to expand our lending operations as per our business plan. Moreover, the board approved capital raise of Rs 1250 Cr will boost our capital adequacy and cushion us comfortably to support calibrated business expansion across key sectors."

"It will enhance our ability to absorb risk, while reinforcing our long-term focus on sustaining asset quality, improving profitability and creating enduring value for our shareholders", he added.

Key Initiatives

Highlighting the Bank's key initiatives during the CFY so far, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee remarked, "During these quarters, we remained steadfast in supporting our customers, particularly through initiatives such as the 2025 Rehabilitation Package for disturbance-affected borrowers, which provided extended repayment timelines and additional credit support. This underscores our role as a responsible institution committed to sustaining livelihoods and economic activity in our core operational geographies."

Terming digital transformation as central to the Bank's strategy, he further added, "Simultaneously, we accelerated our digital transformation with the launch of several customer-focused innovations to strengthen customer experience, improve security and efficiency, and position the Bank for sustained, technology-led growth."

On the occasion, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee extended heartfelt gratitude to the customers and stakeholders - especially the promoters - for their unwavering trust and continued support besides entire Bank staff for their steadfast dedication.

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No Power Can

Darbar Move or celebrated the closure of a medical college could not claim to be well-wishers of Jammu. He warned that divisive and narrow politics had harmed the region in the past and would continue to do so, adding that the National Conference government would not allow such politics to take root.

Reiterating his opposition to any attempt to bifurcate the region, he said that as long as the National Conference remains strong, no force can divide Jammu and Kashmir. Targeting Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, the chief minister said the talk of bifurcation was driven by personal political ambition. "If he wants to be chief minister, why only Jammu and not the entire Jammu and Kashmir? If ambition drives him so much, he should contest Jammu municipal elections," he said.

He further remarked that BJP leaders' dreams of ruling would not extend beyond Kanak Mandi and Raghunath Bazaar, asserting that the people of the Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal regions would never support divisive agendas. Such politics, he said, would only damage Jammu's interests, which the National Conference remains committed to protecting.

The chief minister also reaffirmed the party's long-standing commitment to secularism, stating that despite being a Muslim-majority region, the people of Jammu and Kashmir chose to align with a secular India and have remained steadfast despite sustained propaganda from across the border.

Several senior leaders attended the convention, including Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, ministers Sakina Itoo, Javed Ahmad Rana, Javid Ahmad Dar and Satish Sharma, Members of Parliament Choudhary Mohammad Ramzan and Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo, and other party leaders and legislators.

The convention witnessed extensive deliberations on improving quality of life, ensuring social justice and strengthening the party's grassroots organisation. Senior leaders reiterated that the National Conference carries a long legacy of sacrifices in defence of democracy, secularism and human rights.

The two-day meet concluded with a resolution to continue working for the welfare of the people and to strengthen efforts towards building a democratic, secular and just society in Jammu and Kashmir. (KNS)

CM Holds Pre-budget

and underlined the need to align proposals with the overall development objectives of the Union Territory. He stressed that the upcoming budget should focus on people-centric initiatives, efficient service delivery and inclusive growth to ensure balanced development across all regions.

Omar, who also holds the finance portfolio, held extensive deliberations with departments including Power Development, Housing and Urban Development, Finance, Revenue, General Administration, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Tourism, and Information and Information Technology.

The meetings were attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Tourism Ashish Chander Verma, Additional Chief Secretary Power Development Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D Vaidya, along with administrative secretaries and senior officers from the concerned departments.

According to the spokesperson, the consultative process will continue on January 21 and January 22, during which the chief minister will hold discussions with 15 other key departments to finalise priorities and proposals.

The Budget for the financial year 2026–27 will be presented by Omar in the Assembly on February 6. This will be the second budget to be presented by the chief minister since assuming office.

Republic Day: Frisking

and forces are prepared to deal with any eventuality. He assured that all necessary measures have been taken to maintain peace and ensure smooth Republic Day celebrations.

Deal Firmly With

in the district, a police spokesperson said.

During the meeting, Prabhat stressed the need for heightened alertness, foolproof security planning, intensified area domination, and strong intelligence-based operations to prevent any untoward incident. He underlined that all necessary measures must be taken to ensure peaceful and incident-free Republic Day celebrations.

Addressing the officers, the DGP directed them to deal firmly and decisively with anti-national elements who pose a threat to public safety, peace, and tranquillity. He reiterated a policy of zero tolerance towards activities inimical to national security and asked officers to intensify operations against such elements.

At the same time, Prabhat emphasised the importance of maintaining a people-friendly policing approach while carrying out security duties, urging officers to strike a balance between firmness and public outreach.

The DGP lauded the efforts of the Ganderbal Police and exhorted them to continue working with dedication, professionalism, and commitment to uphold the rule of law and provide a secure environment for the citizens, the spokesperson added.

Kishtwar Search

the operation.

Meanwhile, a solemn wreath-laying ceremony was held here to pay tributes to the slain Special Force Commando, Havildar Gajendra Singh, in Jammu on Tuesday morning.

The wreath-laying ceremony at Satwari was led by Brig Yudhvir Singh Sekhon, Officiating Chief of Staff, White Knight Corps, and later, the mortal remains of the deceased were dispatched to his hometown in Uttarakhand for the last rites, the officials said.

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Jammu-Kathua-Samba range, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Rakesh Minhas and several police, CRPF and BSF officers also attended the wreath laying ceremony.

On Monday afternoon, several individuals were taken in for questioning in connection with the busting of the hideout, located at an altitude of over 12,000 feet, officials said.

Security forces are trying to identify the overground workers (OGWs) who assisted the terrorists in procuring and transporting large quantities of rations, pulses, utensils, and other supplies, which were enough to provide sustenance for at least four persons during the winter months.

In a post on X on Monday, the army's White Knight Corps said Operation Trashi-I continues in Chatroo.

"The cordon has been further tightened with search operations expanded. Troops of the corps, along with Police and CRPF, remain deployed to dominate the area," the army said.

The official further noted that multiple teams of the army, police, and paramilitary forces, supported by drones and sniffer dogs, are combing the area despite challenging terrain marked by thick vegetation and steep slopes, limiting visibility and movement.

A group of two to three terrorists allegedly affiliated with the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) are believed to be trapped in the area, officials said.

Operations have been intensified across the Jammu region in the run-up to Republic Day to ensure peaceful celebrations, amid intelligence inputs about desperate attempts by Pakistan-based handlers to push more terrorists into the region, officials mentioned.

Nitin Nabin

after the returning officer K Laxman made the announcement.

Addressing the gathering, Modi said when it comes to party matters, he is a worker and "honourable Nitin Nabin ji" is his boss.

Modi also flagged illegal immigration as a major threat to national security, asserting that such people must be identified and sent back to their respective countries.

After the formal announcement, Prime Minister Modi and other senior leaders escorted Nabin to his new office at the party headquarters, where he officially assumed charge as BJP's chief.

Rajnath Singh, Shah, Gadkari, Nadda and party general secretary B L Santhosh were present alongside Modi.

Nabin's wife, his two children and other close family members were also present on the occasion. Modi was seen giving sweets to Nabin in the party chief's office and helping him to his seat as senior leaders applauded.

In his 50-minute speech, Modi described Nabin as a "millennial" with youthful energy and vast experience in the organisation, and asserted that his qualities will prove to be of immense help for the party.

The prime minister repeatedly referred to Nabin as 'mananiya' (honourable) and listed out the achievements of his government over the last 11 years, which he described as giving an account of his work to the party president.

"I, too, as a party worker, was giving an account of my work to the new president. I have given an account of my work. He will now write my CR (confidential report). I am awaiting his guidance," Modi said, referring to the work of the BJP-led NDA government since he came to power in 2014.

"When it comes to party matters, mananiya (honourable) Nitin Nabin ji... I am a worker, and you are my boss," the prime minister said, adding, "Every word of his will give us a new direction. His guidance will be a priceless asset that will chart our future course of action."

In his address, Nabin asked the party leaders and workers to make an all-out effort to ensure its success in the upcoming assembly polls in five states to protect the "Sanatan traditions and faith" and the country from demographic changes. Polls are due to be held in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam and Puducherry.

He said discussions are happening on "demographic changes" in states ahead of the polls.

"We have seen how things have changed there due to demographic changes which is a challenge before us. But I am confident that with all strength, the BJP workers will provide a strong leadership in these five states with their struggle and hard work."

Nabin took on the DMK, Congress and other opposition parties in the INDIA bloc, while referring to the recent Karthigai Deepam row.

"Recently, we saw how attempts were made by the opposition parties to stop Karthigai Deepam (lighting of the traditional lamp in Tamil Nadu) and impeach the judge (of Madras High Court). The opposition parties also have a problem when we talk about Somnath(temple) and celebrating 'Sambhiman Parva'.

"There is a need to defeat such forces that try to obstruct our traditions, deny the existence of Ram Setu and oppose Karthigai Deepam. We have to make efforts to ensure that these kinds of forces do not find any place in Indian politics," he added.

The new BJP chief also exhorted people, especially youth, to enter politics to fulfil Prime Minister Modi's resolve of making India developed and assured party workers of due recognition of their work, saying the BJP's "watchtower" is strong enough to take note of everyone's efforts.

In his address, Modi also sought to draw Nabin's attention to his responsibilities as the BJP president and suggested that he must maintain proper coordination with the NDA partners.

"Nitinji is now everybody's president (in the party). His responsibilities are not limited to taking care of the BJP only. He has to take care of the responsibility of maintaining coordination with all friends in the NDA."

The prime minister also urged party workers to learn from the bad qualities of the Congress that had led to the decline of the main opposition party and not repeat the same mistakes.

He said in 1984, the Congress had won more than 400 seats in the Lok Sabha elections with more than 50 per cent of the votes. "But today, the Congress is yearning to cross the 100-seat mark," the prime minister said. Congress currently has 99 seats in the Lok Sabha.

In an apparent reference to the drive against illegal immigrants launched by the US, Modi said some wealthy and powerful nations, who consider themselves lords of the world, too, were identifying and deporting illegal immigrants, and nobody was questioning their actions.

Describing Nabin as a "young, energetic and talented karyakarta" of the BJP, Nadda said the comes with a vast organisational and administrative experience while working for the party in various capacities and serving as a minister in the NDA government in Bihar.

The low-profile and unassuming Nabin had resigned as the minister for law and justice, urban development and housing in the Bihar government after he was appointed working president of the BJP on December 14.

"This election shows that in the BJP, leadership rises from hard work and dedication, not from dynastic privilege," Laxman said, announcing the outcome of the elections.

The party also highlighted the diversity of its top leadership, saying the BJP Presidents have hailed from regions across India, giving it a truly national character and footprint.

Modi asserted that in the BJP, presidents change, but ideals do not change.

"Leadership changes, but the direction does not change."

State Police Can

PC Act, despite the fact that the accused was a central government employee.

"The high court has taken the correct view while saying that it is incorrect to say that it is only the CBI who could have instituted the prosecution," the top court said.

MACT Srinagar

An FIR under Sections 279, 337 and 304-A RPC was registered at Police Station Reasi.

The Tribunal rejected the contentions by the Insurance Company that Raj was travelling unauthorizedly in the offending vehicle and there was no insurance cover for covering the risk of occupants or passengers travelling in the offending vehicle. The insurance company had also claimed that it has not received any premium, from the owner of the offending vehicle, for covering the risk of the occupants of the persons of such type travelling as an occupant or passenger in the vehicle.

The Tribunal held that the accident occurred due to rash and negligent driving of the tractor-trolley and the deceased was travelling as owner of the goods, not as a gratuitous passenger.

The insurance company, the Tribunal said, failed to prove breach of policy conditions regarding driving licence, permit, or unauthorized occupancy.

Rejecting the insurer's objections, the Tribunal ruled that the insurance policy covered the risk involved and that the insurer was legally bound to indemnify the owner.

Ultimately, the Tribunal held petitioners—Raj's wife, minor daughter and three sons—entitled to a compensation of RS 32,54,000(Thirty-two lakh and fifty-four thousand) along with interest at the rate of 8% from the date of the institution of the claim petition i.e 04-05-2016 till its realization in full.

The Insurance Company has been asked to pay the entire amount alongwith interest within a period of 30 days failing which the award amount due shall be recoverable at the rate of 10% from the expiry of the time granted for paying the compensation.

India to Withdraw

to return to India, official sources said.

The mission and all posts in Bangladesh continue to remain open and operational, they said.

'In Search Of

not accidental, according to Dr Aadil Showket Bakhshi, Assistant Professor at Kashmir University's Media Education Research Centre.

"Online education has expanded reach and convenience," Bakhshi said. "But paid study spaces provide what digital platforms cannot: time discipline, focus, and the ability to plan preparation. These spaces are filling gaps that homes and institutions have not addressed."

He pointed out that similar ecosystems have existed elsewhere. "Places like Rajinder Nagar in Delhi or Kota in Rajasthan show how physical study environments become growth points for aspirants," he said. "Kashmir is now seeing a local version of that pattern."

"When we started, students did not even understand what a reading room was," said Shafat Ahmad Bhat, who runs seven such study spaces under the name Insight Library across Srinagar, Ganderbal and Handwara. "Now they actively seek zero-disturbance environments. Awareness has grown because students have seen results."

Nawaz, owner of reading rooms in Rajbagh, said shared living arrangements also play a role. "In hostels or rented rooms, three students may share one space with different schedules," he said. "A library gives them personal space without disturbance."

Students describe the shift as practical rather than aspirational. With limited campus library hours, unreliable power supply at home, crowded households and growing digital fatigue, paid study spaces have become a workaround rather than a luxury.

How much does silence cost?

Affordability remains a key concern. Monthly fees in Srinagar's study spaces typically range from around Rs 800 to Rs 2,500, depending on location, seating type, heating, power backup and 24×7 access.

Junaid said charges vary by season. "In winters, heating costs go up, so fees change," he said. Nawaz added that concessions are often offered. "If a student is from a weaker financial background, we provide relief," he said.

Still, students acknowledge the burden. One regular user said, "We are unemployed and depend on our parents. If fees were lower, it would reduce pressure."

Most reading rooms in Srinagar are mixed-gender spaces, though usage patterns differ. Operators say women students tend to use late-night hours less frequently, particularly in centres without full-time supervision.

To address concerns, many centres have CCTV cameras, caretakers on duty and strict rules on conduct and phone use. Discipline, operators say, is central to their appeal. "If someone disturbs others, they are warned," Junaid said. "Students themselves help enforce silence."

While safety is not the primary driver of demand, it remains a factor shaping how and when students use these spaces.

For academics, the trend raises larger questions about public infrastructure. Dr Bakhshi warned that growing dependence on paid study spaces reflects institutional shortcomings.

"When students have to pay for silence and electricity, it raises equity concerns," he said. "Learning environments should ideally be public goods."

Operators agree in part. "If the government built more public libraries or supported such spaces, students would not have to pay as much," Nawaz said.

Until that happens, Srinagar's reading rooms continue to fill up night after night, quietly reshaping how education happens in the city, one paid hour of silence at a time.

6th Khelo India Winter Games Commence in Leh

Press Trust Of India

LEH- Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta on Tuesday declared open the 6th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games 2026 at the state-of-the-art NDS ice hockey stadium here, marking another milestone in Ladakh's journey as India's emerging hub for winter sports.

The Games are being held over seven days and will conclude on January 26, coinciding with the celebration of Republic Day.

Teams from 19 states comprising 1,060 participants including athletes, technical officials, support staff, and volunteers, along with the Indian Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, are participating in the Games, an official spokesman said.

He said the competitions include ice hockey, speed skating and, for the first time, figure skating.

Addressing the inaugural session, the Lt Governor said hosting the Games for the third consecutive year reflects the confidence reposed by the country in Ladakh's capability, commitment and preparedness to organise major sporting events in challenging high-altitude conditions.

He said the Games are playing a crucial role in promoting winter sports, nurturing young talent, and strengthening the sporting ecosystem in the region.

Highlighting the significance of the inclusion of figure skating, Gupta said it marks an important step in the evolution of winter sports in India.

"Plans are underway to include additional disciplines such as curling in future editions to further broaden the scope of winter sports in the country," he said.

The Lt Governor also underlined the importance of world-class infrastructure for the development of sports, stating that key venues including the NDS Ice Hockey Rink, Gupuk

Pond and the Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre Rink have been fully prepared for the Games.

He referred to the 24×7 Ice Hockey Rink worth Rs 53.58 crore at NDS Stadium, Leh as a landmark achievement and said construction of another modern Ice Hockey Rink in Kargil is progressing, which will further strengthen winter sports infrastructure in the union territory.

"Where ice hockey and skating were once limited to 2-3 winter months, athletes can now practice year-round, significantly enhancing their skills and performance," he emphasised.

Gupta also highlighted Ladakh's recently launched comprehensive sports policy, positioning the UT as a winter sports powerhouse with talent identification at school level, inclusive environment for women and differently-abled athletes and four percent job reservation for outstanding sportspersons.

Guaranteed scholarships, up to Rs 100 crore cash awards, excellence centres, advanced training facilities, coach incentives, sports-education integration, and sports tourism promotion are some other features of the policy, he said.

He said the policy will provide structured opportunities for youth to pursue sports professionally.

The Lt Governor highlighted the relationship between sports and tourism in Ladakh, citing successful events like climate cup football, Ladakh marathon, and Khelo India Winter Games.

"These mega events create employment, showcase Ladakh globally, and inspire youth to pursue winter sports professionally," he said.

The Lt Governor said under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has witnessed a transformative shift in its sports ecosystem.

"The inclusion of winter sports in the national sports framework and the organisation of international-level events in remote and high-altitude regions like Ladakh reflect the Prime Minister's inclusive and forward-looking vision," he said.

He said the continued encouragement and support of the prime minister have provided new opportunities and confidence to the youth of Ladakh.

PCB Standing by Bangladesh on T20 World Cup Row with ICC

Trans Asia News

NEW DELHI: With the ICC Men's T20 World Cup just weeks away, uncertainty has emerged over Pakistan's participation after reports claimed the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has paused its tournament preparations amid Bangladesh's standoff with the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has been given January 21 as the deadline to confirm participation in the 20-team event, scheduled to be played in India and Sri Lanka from February 7 to March 8. Bangladesh has reportedly insisted it does not want to play its matches in India, citing security concerns, but the ICC has so far not agreed to the demand. The ICC has warned that failure to confirm participation by the deadline could result in Bangladesh being replaced by the next-best-ranked team.

Pakistani media reports said PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi has communicated Pakistan's support to BCB officials, and asked the national team and support staff to slow down World Cup-related planning until the situation becomes clearer. The developments follow high-level discussions between Pakistan and Bangladesh, with Islamabad indicating it may review its own participation if Bangladesh's request is not addressed.

Former Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Kamran Akmal weighed in on the issue, saying the PCB would not be able to withdraw from the World Cup "even if they wanted to," pointing to the consequences of pulling out of an ICC tournament.

Behind the scenes, the PCB has reportedly briefed the Pakistani government on the complications of a potential withdrawal. Officials have acknowledged that opting out would require formal government advice and strong justification, failing which Pakistan could face financial penalties, including a possible fine of up to $2 million for violating ICC participation agreements.

BCCI Bags Rs 270 Cr AI Sponsorship Deal for IPL

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The BCCI has secured a lucrative Rs 270 crore sponsorship deal from Google's AI platform Gemini ahead of the 2026 Indian Premier League (IPL).

Gemini's rival ChatGPT is one of the sponsors of ongoing Women's Premier League.

"The deal is for three years and reinforces IPL's global appeal," a BCCI official told PTI.

The BCCI had to look for a new jersey sponsor last year when the Indian government banned real money gaming platforms like Dream11. Eventually, Apollo Tyres replaced Dream11 as the jersey sponsor,

securing the rights for Rs 579 crore.

Tata Group holds the title sponsorship rights for the IPL, the world's biggest T20 league.

The latest sponsorship involving Gemini indicates the growing interest of AI platforms in Indian cricket.

Back in November when the ChatGPT's association with WPL was announced, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia had spoken about the significance of the partnership.

"From global leaders in AI, manufacturing and beverages to trusted Indian consumer brands, this partnership mix will play a critical role in shaping the fan experience and supporting the growth of women's cricket," he had said.

Assam All Set to Host Santosh Trophy for 7th Time

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The 79th National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy is all set for kick off from Wednesday with Assam hosting it for the seventh time in its chequered history.

The land of the Brahmaputra and the white rhinos is leading the path in spreading the game to even the remotest areas. It hosted it in Nowgong for the first time in 1959-60 and then again in 1969-70.

In between, four editions were organised efficiently in Guwahati. Now again, the football fraternity will have the opportunity of witnessing some of the finest aspirants of the country in remote Dhakuakhana near Lakhimpur and Dhemaji, on the northern banks of the great Brahmaputra, and Silapathar.

The rock bed of Indian football witnessed all the state teams being divided into nine groups for the qualifying rounds, with the group winners qualifying to play in the final rounds.

Assam, as hosts and last season's finalists, West Bengal and Kerala, were seeded directly into the final round groups as they were exempted from playing the initial group stage fixtures.

The 12 teams have been divided into two groups of six teams each.

Group A consists of holders West Bengal, hosts Assam, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu, while Group B has Railways, Services, last season's runners-up Kerala, Punjab, Meghalaya and Odisha.

The top four teams will advance to the knock-out quarter-final rounds to be held on February 2 and 3. The two semi-finals are billed for February 5, with the grand final set for February 8.

BCCI to 'Simplify' Central Contracts by Removing A+ Category

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The BCCI is set to streamline the players' central contracts by doing away with the A+ category introduced back in 2018.

As per the existing policy, a cricketer in A+ category is paid Rs 7 crore annually, Rs 5 crore in A, Rs 3 crore in B and Rs 1 crore in C.

In the yet to be announced retainers for 2025-26, players will only be bracketed in A, B and C category.

Only four players -- Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja -- were placed in the highest A+ category in the previous cycle.

Out of four, only Jasprit Bumrah remains an all format player. Kohli and Rohit play only the ODI format while Jadeja remains part of the Test and ODI set up having retired from the shortest format. No paycut for Bumrah and other A contract holders

The central contracts will be ratified at the next Apex Council meeting. However, a BCCI official told PTI there would be no pay cut for someone like Bumrah who remains the leader of the pace attack in all formats despite missing games here and there due to workload management.

Shubman Gill, who leads India in Tests and ODIs, too will feature in the A category.

Considering that superstars Rohit and Kohli are one format players, they are likely to be placed in B category.

"This is being done to simplify the contract structure. There are not many players who are part of all formats. Someone like Bumrah, who remains one of the few all format players, will continue to be placed in the highest category and there would be no paycut," the official said.

With players in the A category likely to be paid Rs 7 crore, there could be a rejig in the payment structure in the B category.

Besides Bumrah, some of the other players who remain active in all formats include wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav, all-rounders Axar Patel and Washington Sundar. Axar and Kuldeep were in B category in the previous cycle while Washington was in C.

The set to be removed A+ category was introduced in 2018 when the Supreme Court appointed Committee of Administrators governed the BCCI.

Ishan Will Bat at No. 3, Deserves Game Time Before WC: Suryakumar

Press Trust of India

NAGPUR: Ishan Kishan will play ahead of Shreyas Iyer in the series against New Zealand as he is a part of India's T20 World Cup squad and a like-for-like replacement for an injured Tilak Varma being a left-hander, skipper Suryakumar Yadav said on Tuesday.

Tilak, an automatic choice at number three has undergone an abdominal surgery and is ruled out of the first three games, starting here on Wednesday. This has allowed Iyer to make a comeback to the national squad for the first three games.

However, the skipper made it amply clear that Iyer is being looked at as a No. 5.

"Ishan will bat at number 3 because he is a part of our T20 World Cup team and he was picked in the squad first so it's our responsibility to give him a chance," he said in the pre-match press conference.

"He hasn't played for India for past one and half year and in the mean time consistently performed in domestic cricket," the Indian skipper did not leave any room for guess work.

"Since he (Ishan) has been picked for World T20, he deserves to play ahead (of Shreyas). Had it been a question of batting slots Nos 4 or 5, it would have been a different question altogether. Unfortunately, Tilak isn't there so Ishan is

our best bet," he added.

The T20 World Cup starts February 7 and willb e cohosted by India and Sri Lanka.

When asked if he himself has any chance of batting at No.3 where he got a lot of success, the skipper indicated that he would like to be flexible.

"I have batted at both positions for India. My stats at No. 4 are sightly better although they are good at No. 3 also. But then we are flexible with that," he said.

"We will see and if the situation demands that we have to send a right-hander (in case right hander Sanju Samson gets out), then, I will go in, otherwise Tilak (now injured) has been doing really well at number three."

With a strike rate of 113 and an average of less than 15 in 2025, Suryakumar has endured a prolonged rough patch but he intends to change nothing in his batting that has so far given him success.

"I've been out of runs. But I can't change my identity. I have decided to keep doing what I have been doing in the last three or four years so that has given me a lot of success.

"If the performance comes, I'll take it, if it doesn't, it's back to the drawing board. I'm still batting in the nets the way I always have," said Suryakumar.

While most questions predictably were about his form, the skipper very diplomatically spoke about how individual form doesn't matter in the bigger context of the team.

"Had I been playing a single (individual) sport like TT or tennis, I would have worried about my form. But this is team sport and my first responsibility is to ensure that my team does well.

"If team wins, I am happy and if I can contribute in team's success then fine and if not, doesn't matter as it can happen. But I have to look at 14 other players also and there is no place for looking at personal milestones."

Top 5 Matte **Black Bikes** That Turn Heads in Srinagar

Mohammad Mudassir

Srinagar: In a world where style and performance go hand in hand, matte black motorcycles have become a cult favourite , especially among young riders across India. From muscular cruisers to performance tourers and modern roadsters, here's a look at the top 5 bikes that stand out in their matte black colour variants, why they matter for riders in Kashmir, and what they offer in terms of performance, price, and everyday appeal.

Indian Scout Bobber — Thunder Black Smoke

The Indian Scout Bobber in Thunder Black Smoke makes an imposing visual statement with its minimalist bobber design and matte finish that amplifies its aggressive stance. Powered by an 1133 cc liquid-cooled V-twin engine, the Scout Bobber delivers strong mid-range torque and a distinctive cruiser feel which is ideal for long rides as well as relaxed cruising across Kashmir's scenic roads. Its rugged chassis and classic cruiser ergonomics appeal to riders who value both heritage and performance. The bike's ex-showroom price for this variant in India is around 13.99 lakh, with on-road figures crossing the 19–20 lakh mark in major cities. ARAI-claimed mileage figures sit near 25 kmpl, which is impressive for a cruiser of this size.

Matte black not only enhances its visual appeal but adds a timeless quality that resonates with riders who prefer a low-key yet powerful look on Srinagar's busy boulevards and open highways alike.

Royal Enfield Classic 350 — Stealth Black

The Royal Enfield Classic 350 has long been a beloved choice for riders seeking a blend of retro charisma and everyday practicality. The Stealth Black variant turns heads with its understated matte finish and classic cruiser proportions. Powered by a 349 cc air- and oil-cooled engine delivering about 20.21 PS power and 27 Nm torque, this bike balances relaxed touring with city-friendly handling. With an ARAI mileage around 40+ kmpl and a fuel tank of 13 litres, it's suited both for daily commutes and longer journeys. The Classic 350 typically retails around 1.82 – 2.12 lakh ex-showroom in India, with on-road prices varying slightly by city.

In Srinagar, where scenic rides are part of the lifestyle, the Classic 350 Stealth Black blends timeless style with reliable performance which has been a favourite for many local commuting riders and touring enthusiasts alike.

Harley-Davidson X440 — Matte Black Variant

The Harley-Davidson X440 represents a bold entry from the iconic American brand into a more accessible segment for young riders in India. While Harley's heritage was once tied to huge V-twins, the X440 offers a 440 cc engine with a 6-speed gearbox, traction control, dual-channel ABS, and a chassis built for both city use and extended cruising. In its Matte Black finish, the X440 delivers presence and style that few bikes at its price can match. The motorcycle commands a price roughly between 2.40 – 2.80 lakh (ex-showroom) in India, with on-road figures typically touching around 2.7 – 3.0 lakh in major cities.

For the youth of Srinagar who want a bike with character, heritage cues, and modern comfort, the X440's matte black variant offers a strong blend of attitude and day-to-day usability.

Jawa 42 FJ — Deep Black Matte Black Clad

The Jawa 42 FJ in Deep Black Matte Black Clad continues Jawa's revival in the Indian biking scene with a stylish retro-modern design wrapped in matte black tones. Based on a reliable 334 cc engine, it delivers roughly 27–30 PS power, making it sprightly for both city and highway use. The on-road price for the 42 FJ generally sits around 2.45 – 2.53 lakh in major Indian cities.

For riders in Kashmir looking for "modern classic" style with a unique identity, the Jawa 42 FJ's matte black finish offers just the right balance of vintage charm and daily practicality.

Bajaj Dominar 400 — Charcoal Black

The Bajaj Dominar 400 combines the practicality of a sports tourer with a muscular road presence. In Charcoal Black, the Dominar's bold lines, LED lighting, and strong ergonomics contribute to a bike that is both imposing and refined. Powered by a 373.3 cc liquid-cooled engine delivering about 40 PS and 35 Nm, it's designed for all-around touring and long-distance comfort. Its ex-showroom price starts around 2.40 lakh in Delhi, with typical on-road prices around 2.6 – 2.8 lakh, making it a strong competitor in the premium mid-range segment.

For Kashmir's varied terrain, from city streets to high-altitude highways — the Dominar 400's robust performance and matte black aesthetics make it a compelling choice for riders who seek power, comfort, and style in one package.

Why Matte Black Is Trending Among Riders

Across models, the matte black palette has become more than just a colour choice, it's a style statement that reflects individuality, minimalism, and attitude. For the youth in Srinagar, matte black bikes offer a blend of style and substance, look sharper under city lights, and often feel more personalized even when ridden stock.

Whether it's the cruising elegance of the Classic 350, the touring capability of the Dominar 400, or the cruiser presence of the Indian Scout Bobber, these bikes prove that form and function can ride together making matte black more than a trend, but a lifestyle choice.

Trump Ties His Stance on Greenland to Not Getting Nobel Peace Prize

Agencies

Nuuk- US President Donald Trump linked his aggressive stance on Greenland to last year's decision not to award him the Nobel Peace Prize, telling Norway's prime minister that he no longer felt "an obligation to think purely of Peace," in a text message released Monday.

Trump's message to Jonas Gahr Støre appears to ratchet up a standoff between Washington and its closest allies over his threats to take over Greenland, a self-governing territory of NATO member Denmark.

On Saturday, Trump announced a 10 per cent import tax starting in February on goods from eight nations that have rallied around Denmark and Greenland, including Norway.

Those countries issued a forceful rebuke.

Many longtime allies of the US remained resolute that Greenland was not for sale but encouraged Washington to discuss solutions. In a statement on social media, the European Union's foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said the bloc had "no interest to pick a fight" but would "hold our ground."

The White House has not ruled taking control of the strategic Arctic island by force. Asked whether Trump could invade Greenland, Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen said Monday that "you can't leave anything out until the president himself has decided to leave anything out."

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer also sought to de-escalate tensions Monday. "I think this can be resolved and should be resolved through calm discussion," he said, adding that he did not believe military action would occur.

In a sign of how tensions have increased in recent days, thousands of Greenlanders marched over the weekend in protest of any effort to take over their island. Greenland Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen said in a Facebook post Monday that the tariff threats would not change their stance.

"We will not be pressured," he wrote.

Meanwhile, Naaja Nathanielsen, Greenland's minister for business, minerals, energy, justice and equality, told The Associated Press that she was moved by the quick response of allies to the tariff threat and said it showed that countries realise "this is about more than Greenland."

"I think a lot of countries are afraid that if they let Greenland go, what

would be next?"

Trump cites Nobel as escalation in text to Norwegian leader

Trump's Sunday message to Gahr Støre, released by the Norwegian government, read in part, "Considering your Country decided not to give me the Nobel Peace Prize for having stopped 8 Wars PLUS, I no longer feel an obligation to think purely of Peace."

It concluded, "The World is not secure unless we have Complete and Total Control of Greenland."

The White House confirmed the authenticity of the message, with White House deputy press secretary Anna Kelly saying that Trump "is confident Greenlanders would be better served if protected by the United States from modern threats in the Arctic region."

The Norwegian leader said Trump's message was a reply to an earlier missive sent on behalf of himself and Finnish President Alexander Stubb, in which they conveyed their opposition to the tariff announcement, pointed to a need to de-escalate, and proposed a telephone conversation among the three leaders.

"Norway's position on Greenland is clear. Greenland is a part of the Kingdom of Denmark, and Norway fully supports the Kingdom of Denmark on this matter," the Norwegian leader said in a statement.

"As regards the Nobel Peace Prize, I have clearly explained, including to President Trump what is well known, the prize is awarded by an independent Nobel Committee and not the Norwegian Government."

The Norwegian Nobel Committee is an independent body whose five members are appointed by the Norwegian Parliament.

Trump has openly coveted the peace prize, which the committee awarded to Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado last year. Last week, Machado presented her Nobel medal to Trump, who said he planned to keep it, though the committee said the prize can't be revoked, transferred or shared with others.

Speaking Monday night to reporters before boarding Air Force One on his way back from Florida to Washington, Trump said he didn't "care about the Nobel prize."

"A very fine woman felt that I deserved it and really wanted me to have the Nobel prize. And I appreciate that. If anybody thinks that Norway doesn't control the Nobel prize, they're just kidding. ... And I don't care what Norway says. But I really don't care about that. What I care about is saving lives," he said.

Trump says he will use tariffs as a bargaining chip

In his latest threat of tariffs, Trump indicated the import taxes would be retaliation for last week's deployment of symbolic numbers of troops from the European countries to Greenland — though he also suggested that he was using the tariffs as leverage to negotiate with Denmark.

European governments said that the troops travelled to the island to assess Arctic security, part of a response to Trump's own concerns about interference from Russia and China.

The move by some European countries to deploy troops may have given the impression that an armada of ships was sailing to Greenland, when the reality was that European nations said they would send not more than a few dozen troops collectively, a senior European military official told The Associated Press speaking on condition of anonymity in order to talk publicly.

Trump threatened eight European countries with tariffs Sunday after they announced small numbers of troop deployments to the Arctic island – including Denmark, which Greenland is part of.

The European move was aimed at taking action on Trump's concerns, the senior official told AP.

In a statement on social media, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte said he had discussed how important the region was for the "collective security" of the security alliance in a Monday meeting with the foreign ministers of Denmark and Greenland.

Six of the eight countries targeted are part of the 27-member European Union, which operates as a single economic zone in terms of trade. European Council President António Costa said Sunday that the bloc's leaders expressed "readiness to defend ourselves against any form of coercion." He announced a summit for Thursday evening. (AP)